

**City of Auburn
City Council Meeting
September 21, 2026**

Mayor Harmon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Student Representatives Edwards and Robinson were present. Councilor Platz was absent.

I. Consent Items

- 1) ORDER 78-09212026– Appointing members to City Boards & Committees, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.
- 2) ORDER 79-09212026 – Approving the renewal of an Auto Graveyard/Junkyard permit for Randy’s Auto, 899 Broad St.
- 3) ORDER 80-09212026 - Approving the renewal of an Auto Graveyard/Junkyard permit for M&P Auto, Inc., 227 Merrow Rd.
- 4) ORDER 81-09212026 - Approving the renewal of an Auto Graveyard/Junkyard permit for Prolerized New England Company d/b/a Radius Recycling, LLC., 522 Washington St. North.
- 5) ORDER 82-09212026 – Nominating City Manager Phil Crowell to be appointed the Androscoggin County Budget Committee (District 5) for an unexpired term ending 2028.

Councilor Gerry moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Walker. Motion passed 6-0.

II. Minutes – September 8, 2026, Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Walker moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 5-0 (Cowan abstained).

III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions

- Littlefield Dam Update with Conservation Working Group – Presentation

Eric Cousens, Public Services Director, presented an update on the Littlefield Dam project.

- Memo: Denial of Auto Graveyard/Junkyard license for 79 & 80 Hotel Rd.

IV. Open Session

Quentin Chapman, Eastman Ln

V. Unfinished Business

VI. New Business

1) ORDER 83-09212026 – Accepting the 2026 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistant Grant (JAG) for the Auburn Police Department. Passage requires majority vote.

Councilor Walker moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Cowan.

There was no public comment.

Motion passed 6-0.

2) ORDINANCE 15-09082026 – Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) Ordinance. Proposed by initiative petition filed July 30, 2026. First reading. ROLL CALL VOTE. Passage requires majority vote.

Councilor Gerry moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Randall.

Mayor Harmon opened this item for public comment. There was no comment.

Mr. Stockford, City's legal counsel, presented a memorandum to the Council regarding the impacts of the proposed ordinance and presented the synopsis of this memo.

Motion failed 1-5 (Cowan, Duvall, Butler, Walker, Gerry) on a roll call vote.

3) ORDINANCE 16-09082026 – Amending Chapter 60, "Zoning", of the City's Code of Ordinances regarding eliminating the number of people employed in sawmills within the Agriculture and Resource Protection zoning district. First reading/public hearing. ROLL CALL VOTE.

Councilor Walker moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Duvall.

Mayor Harmon opened this item for public comment.

Steven Beale, Johnson Rd, spoke on this item

Motion passed 6-0 on a roll call vote.

4) ORDER 84-09212026 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Auburn and the Maine State Employees Association – Service Employees International Union Local 1989 covering 07/01/2026 to 06/30/2029. Passage requires majority vote.

Councilor Walker moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Cowan.

Mayor Harmon opened this item for public comment. There was no comment.

Motion passed 6-0.

5) ORDER 85-09212026 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Auburn and the Teamsters Local 340 for Auburn Public Works covering 07/01/2026 to 06/30/2029. Passage requires majority vote.

Councilor Walker moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Duvall.

Mayor Harmon opened this item for public comment. There was no comment.

Motion passed 6-0.

VII. Reports

a. Mayor's Report – Provided an update on the Comprehensive Plan Committee project timeline, public hearing will be held on October 14. Thanked Chief Chase for coordinating the 9/11 Remembrance event. Thanked city staff for organizing the Blues & Brews festival. Attended the MEREDA event (real estate & developers) concerning the city's housing goals; attended the Black Poster Project held in Lewiston memorializing those who have died from substance abuse.

b. City Councilors' Reports – Councilor Butler noted that the Womens Literary Union of Androscoggin County is seeking members; Councilor Walker reminded the public of an upcoming Neighborhood Watch meeting. Councilor Cowan noted the annual Library meeting is being held this week.

c. Student Representative Report – Representative Edwards provided a ELHS sports update and fundraisers to support classes. Representative Robinson provided an update on tutoring and recognized Mr. Little, founder of Edward Little High School, who passed away on September 21.

d. City Manager Report – Auburn Hall will be closed during staff recognition luncheon on Wednesday 9/23 from 11am-1pm.

VIII. Open Session

None.

IX. Executive Session

X. Adjournment

Councilor Walker moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Randall. Motion passed 6-0. Council adjourned 8:21pm.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Emily F. Carrington, City Clerk