

Auburn City Council Meeting
Agenda
August 17, 2026
Auburn Hall, Council Chambers

6:00 PM Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call – Roll.call.votes.will.begin.with.Councilor.Randall

Present: Councilor Randall, Councilor Cowan, Councilor Duvall, Councilor Butler, Councilor Walker, Councilor Platz, Councilor Gerry, Student Representative Edwards, Student Representative Robinson, Mayor Harmon, City Manager Crowell, Deputy City Manager Denis D'Auteuil, Finance Officer Kelsey Earle and Deputy City Clerk Jessica Grover

Mayor Harmon called the meeting to order at 6PM

I. **Consent Items**

- 1) **Order 71-08172026*** - Castin the City of Auburn's ballot for the 2027 Maine Municipal Association's Vice-President and Executive Committee.

Councilor Walker motioned to approve, and Councilor Duvall seconded.
7-0 order approved.

II. **Minutes** – August 3, 2026, Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Walker motioned to approve, and Councilor Platz seconded.
7-0 minutes approved.

III. **Communications, Presentations and Recognitions**

- Hydropower Relicensing Update: Lewiston Falls – Information is in the packet. If there is any feedback, contact Mayor Harmon.
- Certificate of Sufficiency – Initiative Petition filed July 30, 2026 – The City Clerk has certified the petition, and the council would consider whether to pass the proposed ordinance by council vote or send it to a city-wide vote. If it went to a city-wide vote it would be a special election date to be determined.

IV. **Open Session** – Quentin Chapman, 51 Eastman Lane spoke regarding the needle exchange program and is not in favor of the program.

V. **Unfinished Business**

1) **ORDINANCE 14-08032026** – Amending the City's Code of Ordinance to adopt a Mobile Home Park Rent Stabilization Ordinance. Second reading/public hearing. ROLL CALL VOTE

Julie Smith from the Manufactured Housing Association of Maine spoke and urged the councilors to reject the ordinance.

Councilor Walker disagreed with the ordinance and indicated his decision to vote no.

Councilor Randall motioned to approve, and Councilor Cowan seconded.

Councilor Randall YES

Councilor Cowan YES

Councilor Duvall YES

Councilor Butler YES

Councilor Walker NO

Councilor Platz YES

Councilor Gerry YES

Ordinance 14-08032026 is approved 6-1 (Walker).

VI. **New Business**

1) **ORDER 72-08172026** – Appropriating funds for the Home for Good Project.

Mayor Harmon: \$25,000 being requested as a donation, \$15,000 has been pledged through Kelsey Earle, Finance Officer, and they would be asking Lewiston to donate \$25,000 since its reach is regional. They were also asking for \$100,000 to be approved to cover the upfront costs to furnish the housing which would be returned to the city as money was raised.

John Cleveland 183 Davis Avenue spoke in support of the order and felt it was a worthy and meaningful way to support the homeless in the community.

Councilor Platz was supportive of the order but asked about plans to fund the project going forward. Mayor Harmon did not expect the funding requests to be ongoing, and plans and partnerships were in place for future funding. Councilor

Gerry spoke in favor of the order and that the project was needed and worthwhile.

Councilor Gerry motioned to approve, and Councilor Cowan seconded. 7-0 order was approved.

VII. Reports

- a. Mayor's Report: He commended all staff on the success of National Night Out. Maine Municipal Association – the policy committee has started prework on possible items for the upcoming state legislative session. Recommended the book When Ghosts were Champions – Auburn history and football.
- b. City Councilor's Reports: Councilor Gerry asked if the Ordinance 14-14-08032026 regarding mobile home park rent stabilization complied with state statute. Mayor Harmon responded that it did not supersede state statute but complied with it. Councilor Cowan highlighted the upcoming Auburn Homeless Committee meeting at 121 Mill Street on 08/18/2026. Councilor Duvall let the public know that the comprehensive plan was moving forward. Councilor Walker: Age Friendly Committee put on a lobster feed that 30 people attended cost \$900 but raised \$1100. Councilor Platz: 1) progress has been made on the Edward Little Greenhouse 2) the HVAC system for East Auburn has been installed and was under budget and 3) he thanked the Edward Little HS class of 1976 for donating the new kiosks at the school paying homage to its history.
- c. City Manager Report – Parking and Safety Committee would be chaired by Councilor Butler. Minot Avenue fire station site work was underway, and Engine 2 was on track for the October opening. Lewiston Auburn 911 renovations were also underway at 60 Court Street.
- d. Student Representative Report - Student Rep Edwards: School would be starting 08/26/26 with Freshman and the teachers would be back on Monday.
- e. Quarterly Finance Report – This was the final report for FY26, and the year would be closed in September for auditing in November. FY25 draft audit was with the auditors. Revenues and expenditures were very similar between FY25 and FY26. Ingersoll and Norway Savings Bank Arena had made gains. Councilor Platz asked if this was normal and yes, it was but there had been deficits in the past. Councilor Cowan appreciated the format and summary of the report.

Councilor Walker motioned to accept the quarterly finance report and Councilor Cowan seconded. 7-0 report was accepted.

- VIII. **Open Session** – no one spoke
- IX. **Executive Session** – None
- X. **Adjournment** – Councilor Cowan motioned to adjourn, and Councilor Randall seconded. 7-0 meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Jessicca Grover, Deputy City Clerk