

IN COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 18, 2025, VOL 38 PAGE 41

Mayor Harmon called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of Auburn Hall and led the assembly in the salute to the flag. All Councilors were present. Student Representatives were absent.

I. Consent Items

- 1) ORDER 70-08182025* – Appointing Jennifer Eugley to the Homelessness Committee, representing an organization providing respite services in the city, for a term that expires 08/31/2028.
- 2) ORDER 71-08182025* – Appointing Rebecca Austin to the Homelessness Committee, representing an organization providing shelter services in the city, for a term that expires 08/31/2028.
- 3) ORDER 72-08182025* – Appointing Dawn Comeau to the Homelessness Committee, representing an organization providing housing services in the city, for a term that expires 08/31/2028.
- 4) ORDER 73-08182025* – Appointing Thomas Lee Hibbert to the Homelessness Committee, representing an organization providing addiction services in the city, for a term that expires 08/31/2028.
- 5) ORDER 74-08182025* - Appointing Angela Blier to the Homelessness Committee, representing an organization providing mental health services in the city, for a term that expires 08/31/2027.
- 6) ORDER 75-08182025* - Appointing Rev. George Sabin Sheats to the Homelessness Committee, representing an organization providing veteran services in the city, for a term that expires 08/31/2027.
- 7) ORDER 76-08182025* - Appointing Cecilia Natale to the Homelessness Committee, representing an organization providing health care services in the city, for a term that expires 08/31/2027.
- 8) ORDER 77-08182025* - Appointing David Bilodeau to the Homelessness Committee, as a resident member, for a term that expires 08/31/2026.
- 9) ORDER 78-08182025* - Appointing Bill Lowenstein to the Homelessness Committee, as a resident member, for a term that expires 08/31/2026.
- 10) ORDER 79-08182025* - Appointing Timothy Cowan to the Homelessness Committee as city councilor representative.
- 11) ORDER 80-08182025 – Casting Auburn’s ballot for the MMA Executive Committee (Vice President & three committee seats). Passage requires majority vote.

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Motion for passage by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Wesiner. Motion passed 7-0.

II. Minutes – August 4, 2025, Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Whiting stated that Charles Soule is a resident of Lewiston.

Councilor Cowan moved to approve the minutes as corrected; seconded by Councilor Walker, passed 7-0.

III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions

- Mayor Harmon recognized Volunteer of the Season, Kayla Thoits of the Recreation Department. Ms. Thoits was presented an award to recognize her contributions to the community.

IV. Open Session

None.

V. Unfinished Business

1) ORDINANCE 04-08042025 – Amending Chapter 14, “Business Licenses and Permits”, Sec. 14-658(e) to remove “Application and license fees”. Passed first reading August 4, 2025. Second reading/public hearing. ROLL CALL VOTE. Passage requires majority vote.

Councilor Walker moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Weisner. Mayor Harmon opened the item for public hearing. There was no comment.

Motion passed 7-0 on a roll call vote.

VI. New Business

1) ORDINANCE 05 -08182025 – Amending Chapter 12, “Housing”, to add Article V, “Vacant and Abandoned Buildings”. First reading. ROLL CALL VOTE. Passage requires majority vote.

Councilor Walker moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Cowan.

There was no comment on this item.

Councilor Gerry moved to amend ORDINANCE 05-08182025 with the suggested two non-substantive grammatical corrections as read by the Mayor. Seconded by Councilor Walker.

Motion to amend passed 7-0.

Motion passed 7-0 on roll call vote, as amended.

2) ORDINANCE 06-08182025 – Adopting a 180 day moratorium on needle exchange services in the City of Auburn effective August 1, 2025. First reading; may consider a vote to dispense the requirement of a second reading. ROLL CALL VOTE. Passage requires majority vote.

Mayor Harmon commented that there are currently no needle exchange services operating in the City nor are there any applications; this moratorium gives time for the City to develop regulations. To make effective upon passage of first reading, a motion would need to be made to waive the second reading.

Councilor Weisner moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Cowan.

This item was opened for comment. There was no comment on this item.

Councilor Whiting moved to dispense the requirement of second reading, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion requires unanimous vote of all Councilors present. Vote was 6-1 (Gerry). Motion fails. This reading will serve as first reading.

Motion passed 7-0 on a roll call vote.

VII. Reports

a. Mayor's Report – Thanked city staff who participated in National Night Out and the Blues, Brews and Cruise event held on August 16.

b. City Councilors' Reports – Councilor Cowan recognized the effort for National Night Out. Councilor Weisner recognized all involved for National Night Out; Blues & Brews event and congratulated all on a great balloon launch for this past Balloon Festival. Councilor Walker recognized the success of the Balloon Festival, thanked all who helped with the Age Friendly concessions booth. Councilor Platz gave a brief update on the School Department; announced Mark Thibideau as the new principal of Washburn Elementary.

c. Student Representative Report – None.

d. City Manager Report – Recognized all of the city staff who were involved with successful and well attended events at National Night Out, Blues, Brews & Cruise.

VIII. Open Session

Rick Nadeau, Eastman Lane – inquired about the process for purchasing city-owned property on Eastman Lane; the Mayor and City Manager responded.

IX. Executive Session pursuant to Title 1 Section 405 (6)(C) regarding an economic development matter. *No action to follow.* Councilor Walker moved to enter Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 7-0 at 7:23pm. Council declared out of Executive Session at 7:34pm.

X. Adjournment

Councilor Walker moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Wesiner. Motion passed 7-0. Council adjourned at 7:34pm.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Emily F. Carrington, City Clerk