

CITY OF AUBURN
CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
113 E. ELM STREET, AUBURN MI 48611
August 4th, 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Kilbourn called the Special Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: K. Charbonneau, J. Rahl, L. Kilbourn, L. Webb, G. Warner, J. Dzurka, R. Gwizdala.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bryna Mieske, David Haag and Steven VanTol, Steve Doyle, Virginia Doyle, Kellie Doyle, Tom Dauer, Ashley McGregor, Mark Owczarzak, Laura Owczarzak, Kim Blanchard, Amy Lusk, Dustin Box, Anthony Gunsell, Mike Parent, Ron Janowicz, Pat Robertson, Robin Devereaux-Nelson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

J. Rahl moved to approve the agenda for August 4th, 2021, with support from J. Dzurka. Yeas 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Signage/ Commissioners Concerns

The Special meeting was called to order regarding a no parking sign placed on Weber Street by the City staff/ administration, to eliminate parking in front of a mailbox. Commissioners Dzurka and Warner stated the Vehicle Code procedures were not followed along with the City Charter stating this should have come in front of the Commission for approval. Commissioner Dzurka asked who made the decision to place the no parking sign on Weber. Commissioner Gwizdala asked if the Commission could get the City Attorneys advice. The City Attorney stated it is a State and Federal Law that someone can not park in front of a mailbox, therefore, to seek Commission approval you would need to change an existing order with a traffic study. Since the Law already prohibited no parking, the sign is only emphasizing the State and Federal Law of no parking in front of a mailbox. DPW Director Ashlie House and City Administrator David Haag stated they had deemed it necessary for a temporary/permanent sign to be placed there, as a resident was not getting their mail properly. Commissioner Rahl stated going forward in a situation like this it should be communicated with the owner of the business, so they know what is going on. Commissioner Rahl also stated that there should be guidelines set to assure this is done properly next time.

J. Rahl/ L. Webb moved to explore protocols with David Haag and Ashlie House to avoid this happening again. Yeas 7, Nays 0. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Owczarzak admitted the situation was not handled well on either part; however, Mark and Laura would have appreciated if someone from the city could have notified them first of the sign and then worked on a solution to avoid it coming to this.

Steve Doyle stated he does not want any hard feelings with Mark or Laura he just wishes to get his mail properly.

Deputy Dustin Box went over his traffic study with the Commission.

Steve VanTol stated everyone is here to make the City of Auburn a better place, however, it seems recently that someone is trying to screw someone over constantly.

G. Warner stated with everything that is going on it seems the Commission is supposed to be for the residents and the businesses and a lot of this is not really for the residents.

R. Gwizdala apologized for what had happened and hopefully they can come up with some great solutions regarding this matter. Commissioner Gwizdala also stated he felt this meeting was a complete beat down of the city staff and when it comes to some of the other Commissioners, they should be completely ashamed of themselves. This meeting was not a great use of anybody’s time.

J. Rahl thanked everyone for attending the Special meeting and agreed with what Commissioner Gwizdala had to say. Commissioner Rahl stated he is thankful for everything Mark and Laura have done in and for the city and he hopes that they can come to something that makes the residents and city happy. Commissioner Rahl stated they need to investigate ways to protect the city staff from undo scrutiny and some Commissioners need to realize what their job is as a commissioner.

J. Dzurka would like to find ways to help the businesses in the city.

L. Webb stated that being in a leadership position and being a commissioner that he is very embarrassed on the Commissioner coming to this meeting and attacking the City Management and DPW.

Commissioner Webb stated he feels some of the Commissioners have their own personal agendas and their sticking to their own personal agendas and having meetings that should not be taking place.

Commissioner Webb also said the Commission needs to start working together because this is looking bad.

L. Kilbourn thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, Mayor Kilbourn also stated the Commission needs to have a better handle on everything.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Kilbourn adjourned the Special Meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Approval

Clerk_____

Recorded by Clerk

Bryna Mieske