



MAYOR

Richard E. Roquemore

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Michael E. Parks

CITY COUNCIL

Robert L. Vogel III

Taylor J. Sisk

Jamie L. Bradley

Joshua Rowan

**CITY OF AUBURN
MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL
January 9, 2025
6:00 PM
Council Chambers
1 Auburn Way
Auburn, GA 30011**

INVOCATION

PLEDGE

COUNCIL REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Statewide Homestead Exemption Opt Out

NEW BUSINESS

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Council Business Meeting Minutes- December 12, 2024
- b. Council Workshop Meeting Minutes- December 19, 2024
- c. Board Appointees Code of Conduct
- d. GEFA Loan Application Approval
- e. Furniture Surplus

CITIZEN COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Agenda subject to change prior to meeting



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PUBLIC HEARING

TO: Mayor and Council

FM: Jack Wilson
City Attorney

DATE: January 9, 2025

INTENT TO OPT OUT OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

The City Council City of Auburn intends to opt out of the statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption for the City of Auburn, Georgia. All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this matter to be held at City Hall, 1 Auburn Way, Auburn, Georgia 30011 on January 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Times and places of additional public hearings on this matter are at City Hall, 1 Auburn Way, Auburn, Georgia 30011 on January 23, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. and on February 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Press Release

City of Auburn

HB 581 Opt Out

January 1, 2025

The City Council City of Auburn intends to hold public hearings to consider opting out of the statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption for the City of Auburn, Georgia. All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this matter to be held at City Hall, 1 Auburn Way, Auburn, Georgia 30011 on January 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Times and places of additional public hearings on this matter are at City Hall, 1 Auburn Way, Auburn, Georgia 30011 on January 23, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. and on February 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Public comment is invited and encouraged.

The Statewide Floating Homestead Exemption outlined in HB 581 and codified in O.C.G.A. Sec. 48-5-44.2 is considered an adjusted base-year homestead exemption, because it allows the homestead's base-year value to increase annually up to the inflation rate determined by the State Revenue Commissioner.

The Legislation allows local governments to remove themselves from the statewide exemption before March 1, 2025. Every local government is affected by the exemption differently based on its tax digest mixture (commercial, industrial, office, residential, vacant, etc.) and the average longevity of homestead properties. The City of Auburn anticipates being particularly impacted because of the high percentage of stable residential properties in its tax digest. Opting out provides the City needed flexibility to meet demands, provide services, and balance its budget with stability. This summary is provided to satisfy the requirements of HB 581 (O.C.G.A. Sec. 48-5-44.2(i)).

328 (1) A constitutional amendment is ratified and becomes effective on January 1, 2025,
329 which authorizes the General Assembly to provide by general law for a homestead
330 exemption that shall not be applicable to certain political subdivisions, which elect to opt
331 out of the homestead exemption by a date certain; and

332 (2) The exemption granted by subsection (b) of this Code section shall not be
333 applicable for any county, consolidated government, municipality, or school district for
334 which the governing authority of such political subdivision adopts an opt-out
335 resolution in accordance with subsection (i) of this Code section.

336 (i) The governing authority of any county, consolidated government, municipality, or
337 school district may elect to opt out of the homestead exemption otherwise granted by
338 subsection (b) of this Code section with respect to such political subdivision through the
339 adoption of a resolution to do the same by March 1, 2025, after completing the
340 following steps:

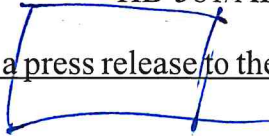
341 (1) The governing authority shall advertise its intent to do so and shall conduct at least
342 three public hearings thereon, at least one of which shall commence between the hours
343 of 6:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M., inclusive, on a business weekday. The governing authority
344 shall place an advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation serving the residents
345 of the political subdivision and post such advertisement on its website, which shall read
346 as follows:

347 'INTENT TO OPT OUT OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

348 The (name of governing authority) intends to opt out of the statewide adjusted base year
349 ad valorem homestead exemption for (name of the political subdivision).

350 All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this matter to be held at
351 (place of meeting) on (date and time).

352 Times and places of additional public hearings on this matter are at (place of
353 meeting) on (date and time).'



354 Simultaneously with this notice the governing authority shall provide a press release to the
355 local media.

356 (2) The advertisement required by paragraph (1) of this subsection shall appear at least
357 one week prior to each hearing, be prominently displayed, be not less than 30 square
358 inches, and not be placed in that section of the newspaper where legal notices appear and
359 shall be posted on the appropriate website at least one week prior to each hearing. In
360 addition to the advertisement specified under this paragraph, the levying or
361 recommending authority may include in the notice reasons or explanations for its
362 intention to opt out of the homestead exemption.

363 (3) No resolution to opt out of the homestead exemption shall become effective with
364 respect to a political subdivision unless the procedures and hearings required by this
365 subsection are completed and a copy of such resolution is filed with the Secretary of State
366 by March 1, 2025."

367 **PART III**
368 **SECTION 3-1.**

369 Said title is further amended in Code Section 48-8-6, relating to prohibition of political
370 subdivisions from imposing various taxes, ceiling on local sales and use taxes, and taxation
371 of mobile telecommunications, by revising subsection (a) as follows:

372 "48-8-6.

373 ~~(a) There shall not be imposed in any jurisdiction in this state or on any transaction in this~~
374 ~~state local sales taxes, local use taxes, or local sales and use taxes in excess of 2 percent.~~
375 ~~For purposes of this prohibition, the taxes affected are any sales tax, use tax, or sales and~~
376 ~~use tax which is levied in an area consisting of less than the entire state, however~~
377 ~~authorized, including such taxes authorized by or pursuant to constitutional amendment;~~



MAYOR
Rick E. Roquemore

CITY ADMINISTRATOR
Michael E. Parks

CITY COUNCIL
Robert L. Vogel III
Taylor J. Sisk
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**CITY OF AUBURN
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MEETING IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

December 12, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

1 Auburn Way

Auburn, GA 30011

Present: Mayor: **Richard Roquemore**
Council Member: **Robert L. Vogel III**
Council Member: **Taylor J. Sisk**
Council Member: **Jamie L. Bradley**
Council Member: **Joshua Rowan**

City Staff in Attendance: Michael Parks, Chief Hodge, Staci Waters, Brooke Haney, Iris Akridge

Also in Attendance: Jack Wilson

Mayor Roquemore called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Minister Chris Parkin gave the invocation.

Mayor Roquemore led the pledge.

Council Reports and Announcements

Mayor Roquemore asked for Council Reports and Announcements. **Council Member Taylor Sisk** gave a reminder that the next Council Meeting is December 19th, 2024. **Michael Parks** spoke about the success of the Hometown Connection meeting the City hosted.

NEW BUSINESS

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

Mayor Roquemore asked for any citizen comments for items on tonight's agenda. There were none.

Mayor Roquemore asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent agenda.

Council member Vogel asked for 1E Garage Enclosure Ordinance to be removed from the consent agenda.

Motion: Made by **Council Member Vogel** for Item 1E to be removed from the consent agenda.

Second: Made by **Council Member Bradley**

Mayor Roquemore asked for any discussion, there was none. Votes were taken with all members present voting yes.

Item 1: Consent Agenda

- a. Council Business Meeting Minutes- November 14, 2024

- b. Council Workshop Meeting Minutes- November 21, 2024
- c. City Event and Holidays for 2025
- d. Metro Water District- Water Efficiency Code Requirements
- f. Task Order 39 Extending the Engineer Services for raw water storage pond.
- g. Task Order 40 for Engineering Design Services for the raw water from Rock Creek and the raw water storage pond.

Mayor Roquemore asked for a motion to approve the remainder of the consent agenda.

Motion: Made by **Council Member Vogel** to approve the remainder of the consent agenda

Second: by **Council Member Bradley**

Mayor Roquemore asked for any discussion, there was none. Votes were taken with all members present voting yes.

Item that was removed from Consent Agenda for further Discussion

Item 1E.: Garage Enclosure Ordinance

Mayor Roquemore asked for a motion to approve the Ordinance regarding Garage Enclosures.

Motion: Made by **Council Member Rowan** on the Garage Enclosure Ordinance

Second: Made by **Council Member Sisk**

Mayor Roquemore asked for any discussion. **Council Member Vogel** discussed the Garage Enclosure Ordinance. Votes were taken with **Council Member Rowan** and **Council Member Sisk** voting Yes, **Council Member Vogel** and **Council Member Bradley** Voted No. **Mayor Roquemore** Voted Yes as the tie Breaker. The Ordinance was adopted by a 3-2 vote.

Item 2: LRA Seventh Street- Iris Akridge

Mayor Roquemore asked for a motion regarding LRA Seventh Street

Motion: Made by **Council Member Vogel** to approve staff's proposal for LRA Seventh Street as presented.

Second: Made by **Council Member Sisk**

Mayor Roquemore asked for any discussion, there was none. Votes were taken with all members present voting yes.

Item 3: Saddle Creek Court Projection Contract- Iris Akridge

Mayor Roquemore asked for a motion for the Saddle Creek Court Projection Contract

Motion: Made by **Council Member Vogel** to approve the Saddle Creek Court Projection Contract as presented by staff.

Second: Made by **Council Member Sisk**

Mayor Roquemore asked for any discussion, there was none. Votes were taken with all members present voting yes.

Mayor Roquemore asked for any citizen comments.

Rob Yoe, 1531 Wynfield Drive, Auburn, Ga 30011- Discussed the New Downtown Development

Mayor Roquemore asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for Potential Litigation, Pending Litigation, and Personnel Matters.

Motion: Made by **Council Member Rowan** to go into Executive Session for Potential Litigation, Pending Litigation, and Personnel Matters.

Second: By **Council Member Bradley**.

Mayor Roquemore asked for any discussion. There was none. Votes were taken with all members present voting yes.

After the Executive Session, the City Attorney reported that during Executive Session the Council met to discuss potential litigation, pending litigation, and personnel matters as allowed by the Open Meetings Act. There were no votes taken and no evidence received in the Executive Session. The original affidavit and resolution have been signed and delivered to the staff to be included within the minutes of this meeting.

Mayor Roquemore Adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Read and approved this _____ Day of January 2025

Attest:

Mayor Richard E. Roquemore



MAYOR

Rick E. Roquemore

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Michael Parks

CITY COUNCIL

Robert L. Vogel III

Taylor J. Sisk

Jamie L. Bradley

Joshua Rowan

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

DECEMBER 19, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

1 Auburn Way

Auburn, GA 30011

Present: Mayor:

Richard Roquemore

Council Member:

Robert L. Vogel. III

Council Member:

Taylor J. Sisk

Council Member:

Jamie L. Bradley

Member Absent:

Joshua Rowan

City Staff in Attendance: Michael Parks, Chief Hodge, Staci Waters, Brooke Haney

Also in Attendance: Jack Wilson

Mayor Roquemore called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

WORKSHOP ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Item 1: Council Reports and Announcements

Mayor Roquemore asked for Council Reports and Announcements.

None were given.

Item 2: Amend City of Auburn Charter Section 5.13

Jack Wilson Presented

-Item will be voted on in two consecutive meetings- February 20, 2025, and March 6, 2025.

Item 3: Board Appointees Code of Conduct

Jack Wilson Presented

-Placed on January 9, 2025, Council Business Agenda

Item 4: Generac Extended Warranty

Michael Parks Presented

-Placed on January 23, 2025, workshop for further discussion

Item 5: GEFA Loan Application Approval

Michael Parks Presented

-placed on January 9, 2025, Council Business Agenda

Item 6: Furniture Surplus

Michael Parks presented

-placed on January 9, 2025, Council Business Agenda

Item 7: Dog Park for Discussion Only

Michael Parks presented

Item 8: HB-581

Jack Wilson Presented

-Placed on January 9, 2025, for Public Hearing. Additional hearings will be held on January 23, 2025, and February 13, 2025.

VOTING ITEMS

Item 9: ARPA Resolution

Michael Parks Presented

Mayor Roquemore asked for a motion to approve the ARPA Resolution

Motion: Made by **Council Member Sisk** to approve the ARPA Resolution

Second: Made by Council **Member Bradley**

Mayor Roquemore asked for any discussion, there was none. Votes were taken with all members present voting yes.

Item 12: PTSD Benefit Plan for First Responders

Michael Parks Presented

Mayor Roquemore asked for a motion to approve the PTSD Benefit Plan for First Responders

Motion: Made by **Council Member Vogel** to approve the PTSD Benefit Plan for First Responders.

Second: Made by Council **Member Rowan**

Mayor Roquemore asked for any discussion, there was none. Votes were taken with all members present voting yes.

Mayor Roquemore asked if there were any citizen comments.

Ian Graham, 1622 Summit Ridge, Auburn, GA 30011

Spoke regarding Generac Extended Warranty

Bel Outwater, 305 Bradford Ct., Auburn, GA 30011

Spoke regarding Board Appointees Code of Conduct

James Matthews, 315 Wyngate, Auburn, GA 30011

Spoke regarding Board of Appointees Code of Conduct and Generac Extended Warranty

Respectfully submitted,

Read and approved this _____ Day of January 2025 Attest:

Mayor Richard E. Roquemore



MAYOR
Rick E. Roquemore

CITY ADMINISTRATOR
Michael E. Parks

CITY COUNCIL
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Jamie L. Bradley
Joshua Rowan

AGENDA ITEM: c

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Jack Wilson, City Attorney

DATE: January 9, 2025

PURPOSE: Board Appointees Code of Conduct

BACKGROUND: The City conducts its business through a number of boards and authorities in which citizens have been appointed to public service roles. There is currently no Code of Conduct for members of such boards and authorities to guide their conduct in representing the City. It is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the city to enact a Code of Conduct to guide the citizens who serve in appointed roles representing the city. The guidelines and list of the offenses can be found in the ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION: To approve Board Appointees Code of Conduct

FUNDING: N/A

ATTACHMENTS: See attached

ORDINANCE NO. 24-016
AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF AUBURN, GEORGIA
FOR THE CONDUCT OF MEMBERS OF APPOINTED BOARDS

WHEREAS, the City conducts its business through a number of boards and authorities in which citizens have been appointed to public service roles; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no Code of Conduct for members of such boards and authorities to guide their conduct in representing the City; and

WHEREAS, appointed board members represent the City and should adhere to ethical principles and standards of conduct, including honesty, integrity, fairness, and impartiality. They should avoid conflicts of interest and disclose any personal or financial interest that could reasonably be expected to influence their decision making ; and

WHEREAS, appointed board members should diligently prepare for meetings by reviewing agendas and meeting materials in advance. They should arrive on time and participate in discussions and deliberations; and

WHEREAS, board members should treat fellow members, applicants, staff and members of the public with respect and professionalism. They should listen attentively; consider diverse viewpoints; and engage in constructive dialogue during the meetings; and

WHEREAS, board members should base their recommendations and decisions on the merits of each case, without bias, prejudice, or arbitrary judgments and ensure that recommendations and decisions are fair, consistent, and supported by evidence; and

WHEREAS, board members should conduct their deliberations in an open and transparent manner, consistent with State law, and provide clear explanations for their decisions; and

WHEREAS, board members should respect the confidentiality of sensitive and privileged information, such as legal advice or other material protected by law. They should refrain from disclosing confidential information to unauthorized persons; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City to enact a Code of Conduct to guide the citizens who serve in appointed roles representing the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL ORDAINS AND RESOLVES that the following Code of Conduct shall apply to the conduct of members of City-appointed boards, commissions, agencies and authorities. Commission of any of the offenses listed below may subject the board member to disciplinary action up to and including removal. This Code of Conduct, although intended as a guideline for Board members, is not necessarily exhaustive, and the City retains the right to administer further action for other issues or offenses not specifically listed below:

1. Failure to attend meetings; tardiness.
2. Conviction of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude.
3. Inexcusable absence without leave.
4. Abuse or misuse of City property.
5. Willfully giving false information to City officials, City staff, or the public.
6. Discovery of a false statement in an application which had not been previously detected.
7. Acceptance of gratuities in conflict with City policy or State law.
8. Discourteous acts toward the public, citizens, staff, or other persons.
9. Drinking alcoholic beverages or use of illegal non-prescription drugs in such manner as to adversely affect attendance or performance.
10. Falsification or destruction of official records or documents or use of official position for personal benefit, profit, or advantage, or for other improper reasons.
11. Harassment of other Board members, City personnel or the public.
12. Insubordination or uncooperative attitude in the performance of official functions, which is defined as the refusal to obey any instruction or directive of an authorized official or demonstrating contempt or disrespect for a fellow board member, City official, citizen, or staff member whether in or out of his or her presence.
13. Conduct which endangers the member or another person.
14. Fighting or attempting bodily injury to others on City property except in clear cases of self-defense.
15. Violation of the standards summarized in the recitals above.

In the event any Court of competent jurisdiction determines that any portion of the foregoing amendment is invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise illegal, such rulings shall not impair the validity of the rest and remainder of this amendment.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

The City Administrator and City Clerk are further authorized to correct typographical errors and conflicting provisions in the text of the existing Code of Ordinances and to produce and publish a final codified version of the City Code with the amendments and revisions outlined herein.

This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its adoption by the Mayor and City Council.

SO ORDAINED this _____ day of January, 2025.

Mayor Richard E. Roquemore

Robert L. Vogel, III Council Member

Jamie L. Bradley Council Member

Taylor J. Sisk, Council Member

Joshua Rowan, Council Member

Attest:

Brooke Haney, City Clerk



MAYOR
Rick E. Roquemore

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AGENDA ITEM: d

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Michael Parks
City Administrator

DATE: January 9, 2025

PURPOSE: To approve the GEFA Loan Application for the Drinking Water Treatment Plant.

BACKGROUND: The City of Auburn applied for a loan from GEFA to construct part of the infrastructure from the RWSP to the Drinking Water Treatment Plant. The loan was approved by GEFA. The loan is for about \$4,000,000 and will construct raw water intake #2 on rock creek that discharges into the RWSP, portions of the 16 in raw water force main from the RWSP to the Drinking Water Treatment Plant. Some of this money may be applied to the tunnel, shaft, low water pumping station, and the transfer pumping station. Once bids are in an additional GEFA loan will be applied for to finish the project.

RECOMMENDATION: To approve as presented by staff.

FUNDING: N/A

ATTACHMENTS: N/A



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AGENDA ITEM: e

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Michael Parks
City Administrator

DATE: January 9, 2025

PURPOSE: To declare the furniture in the old city hall and police department buildings as surplus.

BACKGROUND: The furniture that was left behind needs to be removed from the old police station and city hall. Declaring the furniture as surplus will allow the objects to be removed and dispersed. Pieces of the existing furniture will be used in the new water treatment facility with the remainder being declared surplus.

RECOMMENDATION: To approve recognizing the furniture in the old city hall and police station as surplus material.

FUNDING: N/A

ATTACHMENTS: N/A