

Your Auburn News

January 2026

**Focused on Efficiency.
Committed to Our
Community.**





MAYOR
Rick E. Roquemore

CITY ADMINISTRATOR
Michael E. Parks

CITY COUNCIL
Taylor J. Sisk
Jamie L. Bradley
Joshua Rowan
Johnnathen Eggleston

January 5, 2026

Happy New Year,

As we begin the new year, the City of Auburn is pleased to share updates on several important projects and developments taking place throughout our community. These efforts reflect our continued commitment to infrastructure improvement, economic development, and enhancing the quality of life for our residents.

Downtown Auburn continues to experience positive momentum, with ongoing enhancements designed to improve accessibility, aesthetics, and long-term vitality. Progress at the water treatment facility remains a top priority, representing a critical investment in the city's infrastructure to ensure dependable and efficient service for years to come.

The City is also actively advancing multiple road projects aimed at improving traffic flow, enhancing safety, and addressing long-term transportation needs. Continued work at Ingles is underway and will contribute to increased convenience and economic activity within the community.

The Accounting Department continues to utilize the new software system to improve customer service. This system allows for online payments, digital billings, and this marks the first-year tax notices have been issued using this platform. City staff remain available to assist citizens as we work toward the January 31 tax payment deadline.

Finally, we are pleased to welcome Jonathen Eggleston as Auburn's newest councilmember and look forward to his service and leadership.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement as we work together to move Auburn forward.

Sincerely,



Rick Roquemore
City of Auburn

Table of Contents

City Hall & Administration	3
IT Cost Savings & Finance Improvements	3–4
Public Safety – Auburn Police Department	5–6
Public Works & Infrastructure Projects	7–8
City Council Spotlight & January Meeting	9–10



Your City Hall News

January 2026

IT Cost Savings

New VOIP and MSP

Over the past year, Auburn City Hall has focused on improving internal processes, modernizing technology, and finding responsible ways to reduce costs—all while maintaining high-quality service for residents. These efforts reflect the City's commitment to efficiency, transparency, and wise use of taxpayer dollars.

Major IT Savings Through Smarter Operations

A little over a year ago, the City of Auburn made the decision to move away from its previous Managed Services IT Provider. This change has resulted in savings of nearly **\$6,000 per month**, allowing those funds to be redirected toward critical City needs. The transition also gave the City greater control over its technology systems, enabling more responsive and cost-effective IT management.

New VOIP System Reduces Costs and Improves Communication

Last month, Auburn City Hall completed a transition to a new VOIP phone provider. This upgrade is already saving the City **\$1,100 each month**, while providing a more modern, reliable communication system for staff and residents. The new system also positions the City for future enhancements as communication needs continue to evolve.

“Looking forward to the ability to ask questions of customer service without having to be talking on the phone during my busy day”- Jamie M.



WHAT THESE SAVINGS MEAN...

Saving over **\$100,000 per year** strengthens Auburn's budget by reducing operating costs and easing pressure on the general fund. These ongoing savings allow the City to reinvest in essential services, manage rising expenses, and plan responsibly—without increasing taxes—ensuring more taxpayer dollars directly benefit the community.

IT Cost Savings Continued...



Finance Process Improvements Benefit Residents and Staff

Improvements to the City's financial systems have made paying bills easier and more convenient for residents. At the same time, these updates have reduced administrative workload for City Hall staff, improving efficiency and helping lower operational costs. These process improvements play a key role in keeping City Hall running smoothly while protecting taxpayer resources.

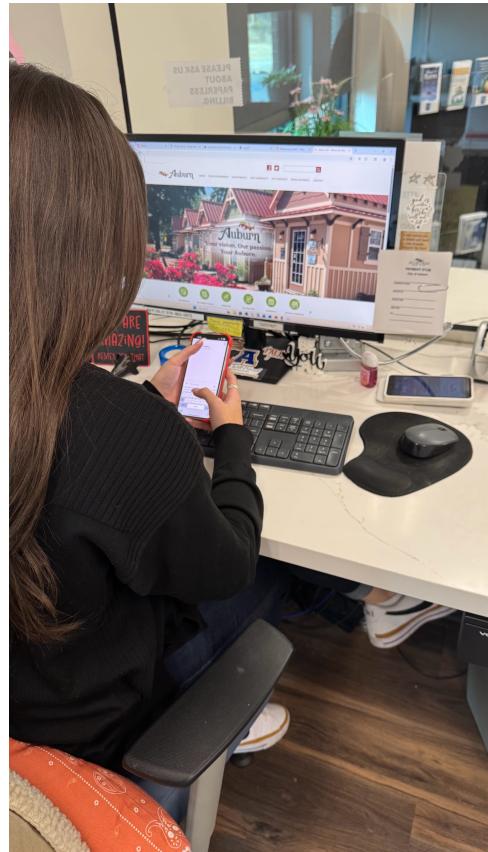
What's Coming in January and Beyond

The City's focus on improvement continues into January and throughout the year. One upcoming enhancement will allow Customer Service staff to respond to resident questions via **text message**. This option recognizes that not everyone can call City Hall during business hours and provides a more flexible, convenient way to communicate.

In addition, the IT Department will be adjusting its Managed Service IT Provider contract in January, generating an **additional \$1,500 in monthly savings**. This change builds on earlier cost reductions and strengthens the City's long-term financial position.

A Commitment to Smart, Responsible Government

Together, these improvements demonstrate Auburn City Hall's commitment to thoughtful modernization, cost control, and citizen-focused service. By continuously reviewing operations and embracing practical solutions, the City is ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used efficiently while making City services more accessible and responsive for the community.



Text with Customer Service Coming Soon



**“Focused on efficiency,
committed to our community.”**

Your Police Department News

January 2026



New Year, New Officers

Auburn PD Welcomes Two New Officers in January 2026

The City of Auburn Police Department is pleased to announce the addition of two new team members beginning in January 2026, further strengthening the department's commitment to public safety, professionalism, and community service.

Police Recruit Abigail Thompson will begin her law enforcement journey by entering the Police Academy in Athens, Georgia, on **January 5, 2026**. As a recruit, Thompson will undergo an intensive and comprehensive training program designed to prepare her for the responsibilities of modern policing. Academy training includes classroom instruction, scenario-based exercises, and physical training focused on Georgia law, ethics, de-escalation techniques, defensive tactics, firearms proficiency, emergency response, and community-oriented policing principles. Upon successful completion of the academy, Recruit Thompson will return to Auburn for field training, where she will work alongside experienced officers to apply her training in real-world situations while continuing to develop her skills and confidence as a law enforcement professional.

At the same time, the Auburn Police Department is proud to welcome **Don Black**, who will be joining the department as **Training Coordinator**. Officer Black brings a unique and highly valuable perspective, having served as a training officer with the police academy while also retiring after a long and distinguished career with the **Gwinnett County Sheriff's Department**. His background provides Auburn with direct insight into current academy standards and best practices, ensuring seamless continuity between academy instruction and on-the-job training.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU...

This addition means Auburn citizens will benefit from a highly trained new officer and enhanced department-wide training standards, ensuring continued professionalism, preparedness, and a strong commitment to public safety and community trust.

"It's reassuring to see Auburn PD bringing in well-trained officers and experienced trainers. That kind of investment shows a real commitment to safety and professionalism." - Benjamin



New Officers Continued...

As Training Coordinator, Officer Black will be responsible for overseeing recruit training, coordinating field training programs, maintaining departmental training standards, and ensuring all sworn personnel meet ongoing certification and professional development requirements. His role will also support continuous improvement within the department by aligning Auburn's training practices with evolving state requirements and industry best practices.

The addition of Recruit Thompson and Training Coordinator Black reflects Auburn Police Department's proactive approach to investing in its personnel and maintaining a high standard of service for the community. The City of Auburn welcomes both individuals and looks forward to the positive impact they will have on the department and the citizens they serve.



**Prepared Officers.
Protected Community.**

Your Public Works News



January 2026

Auburn Public Works Advancing Key Infrastructure Projects

Progress for Your City

The City of Auburn Public Works Department continues to make steady progress on several essential infrastructure projects designed to improve service reliability, public safety, and long-term system performance for residents.

Water Service Line Replacement

Public Works crews are actively replacing aging water service lines throughout the city. These upgrades are intended to improve water quality, reduce the risk of leaks, and ensure more reliable service for homes and businesses.

Kilcrease Pump Station Testing and Startup

Testing and startup activities are underway at the Kilcrease Pump Station. Once fully operational, this facility will enhance water system capacity and support consistent water pressure and service across the area.

Storm Drain Replacement – Cabots Drive

Storm drainage improvements are in progress on Cabots Drive, where outdated storm drain infrastructure is being replaced. This work will improve stormwater flow and help reduce localized flooding during heavy rain events.

“Seeing these improvements happening around town gives me confidence in Auburn’s future. Reliable water, better drainage, and safer streets may not always be flashy, but they make a real difference in our day-to-day lives.”- Candy B.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU...

These Public Works projects represent a direct investment in the quality of life for Auburn residents—providing more reliable water service, safer and smoother roads, improved stormwater drainage, and infrastructure that supports a stronger, more resilient community both today and into the future.



Infrastructure Continued...



Johns Bluff Cul-de-Sac Repair (Hotbox)

Public Works is completing pavement repairs at the Johns Bluff cul-de-sac using hotbox asphalt technology. This method allows for durable, high-quality repairs that extend the life of the roadway while minimizing disruption to residents.

The City of Auburn appreciates the community's patience during these projects and remains committed to maintaining and improving the infrastructure that supports daily life in Auburn. Residents are encouraged to follow city communications for updates as work continues.



Hot Box Asphalt Trailer

**Reliable Water. Safer Streets.
A Stronger Auburn.**



January 2026



City Council Spotlight: Leadership and Priorities for Auburn

Meet Your City Council

The City of Auburn City Council continues to provide steady, community-focused leadership as it begins the new year. Representing a blend of experience and fresh perspective, the Council works collaboratively with the Mayor and City staff to guide policy, oversee city operations, and plan for Auburn's continued growth.

Meet Your City Council

- **Josh Rowan**
Council Member Rowan brings a practical, forward-looking approach to Council discussions. He is particularly engaged in issues related to infrastructure planning, fiscal responsibility, and ensuring that long-term city investments align with Auburn's growth.
- **Jamie Bradley**
Council Member Bradley focuses on community quality of life and transparent governance. Her work emphasizes thoughtful review of city initiatives and maintaining open communication between residents and City Hall.
- **TJ Sisk**
Council Member Sisk is known for his attention to operational details and public safety considerations. He plays an active role in reviewing agenda items to ensure policies and projects are implemented efficiently and responsibly

"It's reassuring to see a City Council that blends experience with new energy. You can tell they're focused on making smart decisions, listening to residents, and keeping Auburn moving in the right direction." - Cam W.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU...

Auburn's newly seated City Council represents a strong balance of experience and new perspective. With returning members **Josh Rowan**, **Jamie Bradley**, and **TJ Sisk** continuing their work, the City benefits from steady leadership and institutional knowledge. The addition of **Johnathon Eggleston** brings fresh ideas and renewed energy to Council discussions.



City Council Continued...

- **Johnnathen Eggleston (Newly Elected)**

Newly elected Council Member Eggleston joins the Council with a strong interest in civic engagement and the future direction of Auburn. His addition brings a fresh perspective as the Council addresses upcoming initiatives and long-range planning.

January 8, 2026: First Council Business Meeting of the Year

The Council's first official meeting of the year will take place on **January 8, 2026, at 6:00 PM** at Auburn City Hall, located at **1 Auburn Way**. This meeting sets the tone for the year ahead and includes several important ceremonial and business items:

- **Invocation and Pledge**
- **Ceremonial Matters**
 - Oath of Office for Council Members
- **Council Reports and Announcements**
- **Citizen Comments on Agenda Items**

New Business will include approval of the Consent Agenda, covering:

- Council Business Meeting Minutes from December 11, 2025
- Council Workshop Meeting Minutes from December 18, 2025
- Selection of a Municipal Building Architect
- Mount Moriah Road project (2026 LMIG)

Voting Items scheduled for consideration:

- Appointment and oath of the Mayor Pro Tempore
- Resolution for a Charter Amendment

The meeting will also provide time for **Citizen Comments**, reinforcing the City's commitment to public participation and open government, before adjournment.

**Experience. Fresh Perspective.
Working Together for Auburn.**



MAYOR
Richard E. Roquemore

CITY ADMINISTRATOR
Michael E. Parks

CITY COUNCIL
Robert L. Vogel III
Taylor J. Sisk
Jamie L. Bradley
Joshua Rowan

December 2, 2025

Hello Friends, Neighbors and Citizens in the Rock Creek Watershed.

You have the privilege and responsibility of living in a drinking water supply watershed. The City of Auburn saw the need to provide long term reliable water supply for this community some years ago. The City decided to withdraw water from Rock Creek, provide long term water storage pond, and build a drinking water plant. The City purchased an exhausted granite rock quarry located within the city limits for long term water storage. The city also received a permit from the state of Georgia to withdraw water from Rock Creek and built a new drinking water treatment plant.

The water in Rock Creek comes from the Rock Creek Watershed. Many of the older roads in the area are built along ridges and are therefore along the drainage-divide between watersheds. The Rock Creek watershed is approximately bounded by these roads: Fence Road, Union Grove Church Road, Harmoney Church Road, Parks Mill Road, County Line-Auburn Road, Atlanta Highway, Hill's Shop Road, and Auburn Road. A large map of the Rock Creek Watershed hangs on the wall within the City Offices in the New City Hall.

The State of Georgia passed the law in 1989 that protects the stream water quality in water supply watersheds. This law provides criteria for the development and redevelopment of land within water supply watersheds. The City adopted this same language as a local City ordinance this year. Since the City will begin withdrawing water from Rock Creek and making drinking water with it during the next few months the City Council wants you to be aware of the Georgia State Law: [OCGA 12-2-8](#) Georgia Planning Act of 1989, Subject 391-3-16 RULES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING CRITERIA, [Rule 391-3-16-.01 Criteria for Water Supply Watersheds](#). These rules and regulations are available for download from Georgia Secretary of States official web site.

The following is a summary of the land use criteria promulgated under these laws and rules. The Rock Creek watershed up stream of Auburn's water intake is less than 5.6 square miles and thus qualifies as a small water supply watershed. A 100ft wide buffer shall be maintained on each side of the water supply stream bank. No impervious surface may be constructed

within 150 feet of the stream bank. No septic tank or drain field may be installed within 150 feet of the stream bank. Impervious surfaces such as roads, parking lots, houses, or outbuildings shall be less than 25% of the total property area.

For additional information call City Hall at 770-923-4002 or visit web site:
<https://www.cityofauburn-ga.org>.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Parks
City Administrator