

CITY OF OLNEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 14, 2016

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The March 14, 2016, meeting of the Olney City Council was called to order by at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Olney City Hall located at 300 S. Whittle Avenue, Olney, Illinois, with Mayor Ray Vaughn presiding.

AGENDA #2 “PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG-PRAYER” Council members and visitors joined in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Ron Weber led the group in prayer.

AGENDA #3 “ROLL CALL” The following Council members were present: Les Harrison, Belinda Henton, Bob Ferguson, and Ray Vaughn. John McLaughlin was absent. Also present were City Manager Allen Barker, City Attorney Bart Zuber, City Clerk Kelsie Sterchi, City Treasurer Chuck Sanders, and Assistant City Treasurer Jane Guinn.

AGENDA #4 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

4-A “Approve Minutes of Council Meetings on February 22, 2016 and March 2, 2016”

4-B “Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable on March 15, 2016” Pooled Cash \$103,154.46, Manual Pooled Cash \$120,329.54, Fire Pension \$2,000.00, Police Pension \$2,000.00, IMRF \$30,663.47, MFT \$1,548.02, Tourism \$4,036.00, 175th Anniversary \$3,460.96, Christmas Light Display \$1,641.52, Utility Refunds \$1,198.92, Petty Cash \$24.74

4-C “Raffle License: Olney Elks”

4-D “Raffle License: East Fork Bassmasters”

4-E “Raffle License: Olney Central College (Culinary)”

4-F “Raffle License: O-town Strykerz”

4-G “Raffle License: First National Bank Relay for Life Team”

AGENDA #5 “REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM CONSENT AGENDA” No items were requested for removal from the consent agenda.

AGENDA #6 “CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA” Councilwoman Henton moved to approve the items on the consent agenda, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received to approve the consent agenda.

AGENDA #7 “CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA” No consideration was necessary since no items were removed from the consent agenda.

AGENDA #8 “PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, ETC.”

8-A “Request: Class B or Class V Liquor License for Yongxin Enterprise, Inc.” The Council was provided with a liquor license application from Lekraj Ahuja of Yongxin Enterprise, Inc. After reviewing the application, Mayor Vaughn asked the City Attorney what the requirements were for obtaining a liquor license.

Mr. Zuber replied that among other ineligibility listings, the ordinance stated that no liquor licenses could be granted to applicants who are not American citizens and/or not citizens of Olney.

Mr. Ahuja's application indicated that he was neither an American citizen, nor a citizen of Olney. Mr. Zuber noted that if Mr. Ahuja employed a manager or agent who was an American citizen and an Olney citizen, he would be eligible.

Mr. Ahuja stated that he could employ a manager from Olney. He would hire a total of about five to six employees for this business. Since the application stated that Mr. Ahuja would be managing the business himself, the City Attorney felt that Mr. Ahuja should re-submit his application if he was able to make the necessary changes.

Mayor Vaughn commented that he has generally been in opposition of granting Class V liquor licenses unless every person involved in the business was a local resident so that the amount of money leaving town from the gaming would be limited.

Mayor Vaughn also noted that the current ordinance read that no liquor licenses were currently available. Olney currently has three package liquor stores. He went on to say that this application was the third request for a Class B license that had been received in the past few months, and the Council had yet to determine what criteria or guidelines should be in place to determine if granting additional licenses would be appropriate.

Councilman Ferguson and Councilwoman Henton felt that three package liquor stores in town was plenty. Councilwoman Henton added that she felt there was enough available gambling, as well.

Councilman Harrison was also not a proponent of additional gaming locations, but had no objections on granting a license for package liquor. He felt that the Council should allow people the opportunity to start businesses with their support.

Mr. Ahuja would be purchasing the old Jumpin' Jimmy's location at 1301 S. West Street. He also ran liquor businesses in Flora and Sesser, Illinois.

The Council decided that Mr. Ahuja should re-submit his updated application at the March 28, 2016, City Council meeting.

8-B "Amendment to Agreement for Sale of Water with Watergate Subdivision" This item was tabled until the March 28, 2016, City Council meeting.

8-C "Discussion: Swimming Pool and Summer Recreation Fees" The Council was provided with a listing of pool and summer recreation fees. Mr. Barker asked the Council if they

wished to make any changes to the current pricing at the Musgrove Aquatic Center. The Council did not.

Councilman Harrison moved to not make any changes to the swimming pool and summer recreation fees, seconded by Councilwoman Henton. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-D “Discussion: Free Swim Days at Musgrove Aquatic Center” Mr. Barker told the Council that pursuant to an agreement with the Carrie Winter Trust, the Council should provide two free swim days each year at the Musgrove Aquatic Center. In past years, the dates for these swim days had been given for the ERFAE Duck Race and July 4th. In November of 2015, the Council approved a free swim day on July 24, 2016, in conjunction with the 175th anniversary celebration.

Councilman Ferguson suggested to keep only two free swim days for the 2016 year. He suggested removing the July 4th date for 2016. The Council agreed.

Mayor Vaughn moved to designate the two free swim days per the Carrie Winters Trust requirements as June 18, 2016, for the ERFAE Duck Race, and July 24, 2016, as part of the 175th anniversary celebration, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-E “Resolution: Amend 2015/2016 Budget in the Water Distribution Department for Professional Services Related to the W. Elm Street Watermain Replacement Project” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to amend the 2015/2016 budget in the Professional Services line item. The amendment would increase the budget by \$30,000.00.

Mr. Barker explained that the City had not been selected for funding by the DCEO on its W. Elm Street watermain replacement project. On July 13, 2015, the City entered into an agreement with Charleston Engineering for engineering services for the grant application.

City Engineer Charleston was not at this evening’s meeting, but Mayor Vaughn had a few questions for him. The topic was then tabled until the March 28, 2016, City Council meeting.

8-F “Resolution: Authorize Expenditure for Consulting Services for the W. Elm Street Watermain Replacement” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to authorize the expenditure of \$30,000.00 to Charleston Engineering for consulting services relating to the W. Elm Street watermain replacement, a copy of the invoice from Charleston Engineering, a copy of 2015-R-41, and a copy of the professional service/consultant agreement made between the City and Charleston Engineering.

This topic was tabled until the March 28, 2016, City Council meeting.

8-G “Ordinance: Sale of Personal Property on GovDeals.com-Fire Cracker Brush Pump from Fire Department” Mayor Vaughn wished to vote on item 8-G, 8-H, and 8-I in one vote. Mayor Vaughn moved to approve 2016-08, 2016-09, and 2016-10, seconded by Councilwoman Henton. Councilmen Harrison, Ferguson, Councilwoman Henton, and Mayor Vaughn voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

8-H “Ordinance: Sale of Personal Property on GovDeals.com-Various Items from the Sewer Plant” 2016-09

8-I “Ordinance: Sale of Personal Property on GovDeals.com-Concrete Saw and Leaf Vacuum from Street Department” 2016-10

8-J “Request: Combine Sidewalks, Signs & Painting Department with Street Department” Mr. Barker told the Council that in fiscal year 2012/2013, the Sewer Department had assumed the responsibility of sidewalk construction/repair, traffic signs, and curb/street painting services. Since another supervisor was then responsible for those other duties having been performed by the Street Department, a new department was created for Sidewalks, Signs & Painting (Department 462).

As a result of recent personnel changes in the Sewer Department, the Street Department has once again assumed responsibility for these services. The City Manager requested that Department 462 once again be combined with the Street Department as it will make internal processes much easier.

Mayor Vaughn moved to approve combining the Sidewalks, Signs & Painting Department (Department 462) with the Street Department (Department 460), seconded by Councilwoman Henton. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-K “Resolution: Accept Quote for a 20KW Generator from Olney Quality Electric, Inc., and Waive Formal Bidding Procedures” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to accept a quote from Olney Quality Electric, Inc., for the purchase of a 20KW generator for City Hall and waive formal bidding procedures, and a copy of the estimate from Olney Quality Electric, Inc.

Mr. Barker explained that many electrical issues had been taking place at City Hall. Because of this, the City’s vulnerability in the case of an emergency was evaluated. In case of crisis, City Hall would need to serve as a command center. If electric lines are down, a way to provide electricity to the building would be necessary.

Olney Quality Electric, Inc. had supplied a quote for a 20KW, gas powered generator in the amount of \$7,587.00. In addition to that amount, Mr. Barker anticipated approximately

\$1,000.00 would be needed for the installation of a natural gas supply line. The generator would also start itself once per week to ensure working order.

Councilman Ferguson asked if there was any reason the City did not go out for bids on the generator. Mr. Barker replied that other quotes had been received, but he felt as if this particular quote was the best fit for the City.

Mayor Vaughn moved to approve 2016-R-15, seconded by Councilman Harrison. Councilmen Ferguson, Harrison, Mayor Vaughn, and Councilwoman Henton voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

8-L “Resolution: Amend the City of Olney Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2015/2016 in the City Hall Maintenance and Administrative Departments” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to amend the 2015/2016 budget in the City Hall Maintenance and Administrative Departments for the purchase of the 20KW generator.

The proposed resolution would take the Furnace & Air Conditioning line item down to \$6,825.00, would take the Contingencies line item down to \$31,276.00, and would create a line item for Back Up Generator-City Hall in the amount of \$8,587.00.

Mayor Vaughn moved to approve 2016-R-16, seconded by Councilman Harrison. Councilmen Ferguson, Harrison, Mayor Vaughn, and Councilwoman Henton voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

8-M “Appointment of Andrea McDowell and Bill Page to the City of Olney Tree Board & Re-Appointment of Bill Caulfield to the City of Olney Tree Board” Due to resignations, there were two vacancies on the Tree Board. Bill Caulfield’s term had also expired. Mayor Vaughn asked for the Council’s support on the proposed appointments and re-appointment.

Councilwoman Henton moved to have Mayor Vaughn appoint Andrea McDowell and Bill Page, and re-appoint Bill Caulfield to the Tree Board, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

AGENDA #9 “REPORTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS”

9-A “Status Report-City Manager” The Council was provided with a Status Report from the City Manager. Mr. Barker detailed that in regard to the W. Elm watermain replacement project, he had spoken with Sarah Mann at the Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission about whether or not the City should re-apply for the grant. She would be in touch after March 22, 2016, on whether or not it would be worthwhile for the City to re-apply.

Mr. Barker also reported that estimates for audible traffic signals at the intersection of Main and Fair Streets had been received. He hopes to have a quote on labor by the next City Council meeting.

The remodeling of the Community Building was still underway. Mr. Barker told the Council that the flooring had been completed, and plumbing and construction work were currently taking place. HVAC work would be taking place next, and kitchen work would be last.

At the County Board meeting held on March 10, 2016, the Board approved supporting the purchase of a new fire truck for the City. The truck would be through the City on a zero interest loan for a term of 20 years. The County would be contributing \$17,500.00 per year for the first 10 years of the loan.

Mayor Vaughn asked for a status update on the housing rehab work to be performed as a result of the Community Development Block Grant. Mr. Barker replied that the City's portion of the process was complete. The rest of the process would be managed by the Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Barker estimated that work would start around August of 2016. If contractors are interested in working on the project, they would need to contact the Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission.

City Treasurer Sanders updated the Council on Illinois Funds. He stated that in February, Illinois Funds had transitioned to a different bank, and the transition did not seem smooth. He will have some updated information by the next Council meeting.

Mayor Vaughn noted that the City seemed under budget in regard to spending. Mr. Sanders replied that the City had taken in more receipts than anticipated, and had also seen a lack of capital spending.

Mayor Vaughn wondered how the new Illinois budget would affect the City. Mr. Sanders told the Mayor that the only guidance he receives is detailed in the Illinois Municipal League's monthly publication. They provide such guidance on budget negotiations.

9-B "Recommendation for Naming of City Tree-Tree Board/Possible Ordinance-Tree Board" The Council was provided with a listing of Tree Board recommendations. Tree Board Chair Brandy McKinney was also present to help answer any questions.

Mrs. McKinney explained that the Tree Board wished to recommend naming an official City tree as part of the 175th anniversary. The Board wished to recommend the Hickory tree.

City Clerk Sterchi is also a member of the Tree Board. She asked the City Attorney if an ordinance would be necessary in the naming of an official City tree. Mr. Zuber replied that he did not feel it was required and could probably be taken care of in the form of a proclamation. Councilwoman Henton commented that if established by ordinance, it would be an easier record to reference.

Councilwoman Henton moved to accept the Hickory as the official City of Olney Tree to be established by ordinance, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Ordinance 2016-11 will be created.

9-C “Recommendation for Planting of Street Trees Along E. Main Street/Ordinance: Amend Section 12.08.070 (Street Tree Species to Be Planted) of the City of Olney Municipal Code-Tree Board” The Council was provided with a listing of Tree Board recommendations, and a proposed ordinance to amend Section 12.08.070 (Street Tree Species to Be Planted). The proposed ordinance would add the Crape Myrtle, Dogwood, and Redbud as approved small-size street trees, and the Hickory as an approved large-size.

Mrs. McKinney told the Council that the Tree Board also wished to begin a downtown beautification process that would include the planting of more street trees. For Spring of 2016, the Board wished to start with a planting of five trees along E. Main Street.

Mayor Vaughn recalled that multiple trees on City sidewalks had been taken down as they became a nuisance with birds. Mrs. McKinney replied that the Tree Board was interested in the planting of different trees than the Bradford Pear trees that had been planted in the sidewalks years ago. Mrs. Sterchi added that the proposed trees would not be planted in the sidewalks.

Councilwoman Henton wondered where the trees would be planted. Mrs. McKinney replied that the areas between the sidewalks and the curbs on grassy areas would be used. Mrs. Sterchi added that trees would be planted per City Code guidelines in regard to setbacks from concrete, curb, etc.

Councilwoman Henton noted the amount pledged and wondered why only five trees would be planted. Mrs. McKinney explained that the pledged amounts would be going towards the purchase of the trees themselves, accessories such as water bags, stakes, guards, and professional planting from a landscaper that would include a one-year guarantee. The Tree Board wished to start the process on the right foot.

Mayor Vaughn asked if the City had money set aside for such activity. Mr. Barker replied that \$1,000.00 was budgeted in the Tree Maintenance line item. Mrs. Sterchi had confirmed with Frank Bradley that he did not anticipate his department using those funds this fiscal year, so he was welcome to suggestions from the Tree Board.

Councilwoman Henton asked if any Hickory trees were going to be planted. Mrs. McKinney said that the E. Main Street beautification plan did not include Hickories. Mrs. Sterchi added that around Arbor Day, the Tree Board was planning on having some Hickories planted.

Mayor Vaughn moved to support the Tree Board's recommendation for the E. Main Street tree plantings as presented, and approve 2016-12, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

Mayor Vaughn thanked the Tree Board for the implementation and care of the trees that were planted at Musgrove Park in 2015. Mrs. McKinney added the Board's thanks to the City workers that helped with watering and care of the new trees.

AGENDA #10 "PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS"

10-A "Brian O'Neill" Brian O'Neill, 818 E. Main Street, told the Council that he thinks street trees should be placed in the 800 block of E. Main Street, the 900 block of E. Main Street, and the area near IGA.

Mr. O'Neill has also noticed that the pedestrian crossing signs had been removed and was now causing drivers to drive recklessly. He specified a well-known transit program in Olney of which he saw the driver using a cell phone and allowing a passenger to ride on the bus steps.

AGENDA #11 "2016/2017 BUDGET DISCUSSIONS"

11-A "Water Fund" The Council was provided with a preliminary budget sheet for the Water Fund as prepared by City Treasurer Sanders. Mr. Sanders also had a Powerpoint presentation prepared. Water Distribution Department Supervisor Tom Umfleet was present to help answer any questions.

The City Treasurer told the Council that the projected income for the 2015/2016 year was currently expected to be \$1,567,951.00. Calculating current usage amounts with the water rate increase set for May 1, 2016, the 2016/2017 income was anticipated to be \$2,407,450.00.

Mr. Sanders noted that the Debt Service/Capital Improvement line item income would also be increasing in the new fiscal year due to that increase from the current \$1.75 to \$2.75, effective May 1, 2016.

The W. Main Watermain Loan line item was also added in Revenue in the amount \$710,000.00.

Personnel at the Water Plant for 2015/2016 was expected to total \$455,850.00 with the projected personnel expenditure in 2016/2017 to be at \$448,600.00. The decrease would mainly be due to lower head count and also some retirements.

The Contractual Services for 2015/2016 looked to end at \$198,233.00 with \$203,278.00 expected for 2016/2017. Most of this increase would come from Finished Water Pumping and expected utility increases.

The Supplies total would see an increase of \$2,475.00 in the next year as lab testing costs would be increasing.

The Capital Outlay looked to be minor for next year. The Water Plant was proposing \$3,500.00 for a new boat and \$2,000.00 to replace some windows.

The total disbursements for the Water Plant for 2015/2016 were projected to be \$929,739.00 with anticipated disbursements in 2016/2017 totaling \$860,478.00.

Moving on to Water Distribution, Personnel for 2015/2016 was expected to total \$279,302.00 with the expected amount in 2016/2017 being \$328,500.00. Mr. Sanders felt that the increase would be due to wage increases and filling of full-time positions.

The Contractual Services for 2015/2016 are a projected \$82,386.00 with an expected expenditure in 2016/2017 of \$83,200.00.

Supplies were expected to increase by \$12,020.00 in the next fiscal year due to additional need for stone and sand, and also waterline repairs.

For Capital Outlay, the 2015/2016 budget expected to see \$188,127.00 spent with 2016/2017 showing an expected expenditure of \$1,203,000.00. An amount of \$390,000.00 is budgeted for the painting of the Washington Street water tower. At this time, \$350,000.00 is sitting in a designated bank account for this project and will be used towards this project.

The W. Main Street watermain loan proceeds are also listed in this section for disbursement at \$710,000.00.

There is also an anticipated project on Kitchell Avenue for the water line which may require \$75,000.00 from the Water Distribution Department. Mr. Barker explained that the City was looking to upgrade the area of Kitchell Avenue from W. Main Street to W. Chestnut Street. The street would be resurfaced with asphalt, but the City could not foresee what problems could arise relating to the water and sewer in that area. He guesstimated that budgeting \$75,000.00 in Water Distribution and \$75,000.00 in the General Fund for this project could suffice.

Councilwoman Henton asked when the proposed project was expected to take place. Mr. Barker estimated during the Fall of 2016. The Councilwoman wondered if the courthouse renovations would be completed by that point. Mr. Barker felt that the courthouse project should be complete by that time. If not, the Kitchell Avenue project would need to be postponed so the heavy construction equipment would not cause damages.

Mr. Barker also hoped to also resurface Kitchell Avenue from W. Chestnut Street to W. Cherry Street with oil and chip. MFT funds could be used in this section.

Mayor Vaughn asked if the Water Fund had spent all money budgeted. Mr. Sanders replied that not all funds had yet been spent. Mr. Barker did not feel all purchases could be accomplished by the end of this fiscal year.

Councilwoman Henton noted that in the Water Fund, the Five Year Plan had showed needing \$50,000.00 for an air scour system and \$25,000.00 for a low service pump. She wondered why those items were not listed in the 2016/2017 proposed budget. Mr. Sanders was unsure, but assumed that Water Plant Supervisor Frank Bradley felt those purchases could wait. An air stripper was shown to be needed in 2017/2018 in an amount of \$230,000.00 and a clear well for \$2,000,000.00 in 2018/2019.

Mayor Vaughn asked what the annual expenditure would be on the W. Elm Street watermain replacement loan. Mr. Sanders replied that currently, the City has been paying \$40,000.00 annually for a loan that will be paid off in May of 2017. At that time, the City will continue to take \$40,000.00 and use it towards the loan for the W. Elm Street watermain.

Mayor Vaughn told of how 2016 would be the third year of the implemented three year utility rate increase. From the numbers presented at this evening's meeting, he felt the City was holding its own, but not gaining any extra funds as the day-to-day expenses seem to continuously increase, and the City was unable to replace equipment as quickly as it was depreciating. The Mayor felt that the Council should be looking at another rate increase to keep ahead of the game.

Mr. Sanders thought it would be a good idea to analyze the accomplishments made over the past three years of increases, and look at a few other options to see if they would be appropriate.

11-B "Sewer Fund" The Council was provided with a preliminary budget sheet prepared by City Treasurer Sanders. Mr. Sanders also had a Powerpoint presentation prepared. Sewer Department Supervisor Jeff Lathrop was present to help answer any questions.

Mr. Sanders explained that the main source of revenue for the Sewer Fund was also utility income. For the 2015/2016 year, he projected at least \$848,000.00 to be received. Taking this year's consumption and using next year's rate increase, he felt that the utility income for 2016/2017 would be about \$875,000.00.

Mr. Sanders went on to explain that all proceeds on the N. Street lift station had been received. Proceeds would not be received in 2016/2017.

The projected total income for 2015/2016 looked to total at \$1,055,421.00 with 2016/2017 projected at \$1,028,025.00.

Personnel expenses were set to increase next year by about \$51,928.00. The increases would be a result of the department now being fully staffed, along with wage increases.

Contractual Services were projected to drop from \$326,792.00 in 2015/2016 to \$309,128.00 in 2016/2017 mainly because the City would no longer be contracting out for sludge hauling.

For Supplies, the expenditures were expected to increase by \$9,325.00. A majority of that increase would be for supplies relating to lab testing. The Sewer Department was working towards being able to do more testing in-house.

In Capital Outlay, the Sewer Department was looking at a large increase of \$615,336.00. A new screen grinder at approximately \$70,000.00 would be essential. The Department needs two, and one of the grinders is out of service.

The Department would also need a used tractor for sludge application (\$90,000.00) and a sludge hauling tank applicator (\$35,000.00) since the sludge hauling service would no longer be contracted.

The largest line item in Capital Outlay was for Whittle Avenue Industrial Park Sewer Extension in the amount of \$205,000.00. This extension is in relation to the development of the new industrial park off of Whittle Avenue.

The Debt Service section would increase by \$4,776.00 as it reflects the new loan on the N. Street lift station. Debt Service also includes a zero interest loan that will be paid off in December of 2030 and a low interest loan at 1.995% that will be paid off in February of 2035.

11-C "Tourism Fund" The Council was provided with a preliminary budget sheet prepared by City Treasurer Sanders. Mr. Sanders also had a Powerpoint presentation prepared. City Clerk Sterchi was available to answer any questions.

Mr. Sanders began by stating that for 2016/2017, an amount of \$48,500.00 in revenue was expected from hotel/motel tax and earned interest. He also added that there was \$74,000.00 available Tourism Funds currently at the bank. The amount did not include any amounts from the 175th anniversary fund.

Mr. Sanders asked Mrs. Sterchi if she had any comments on what made up the totals in the Tourism line items. Mrs. Sterchi replied that the Tourism Convention Bureau and Tourism Promotion line items increased substantially because expected revenue would be available to spend. If Tourism monies are not spent each year, the left over funds do not roll over into the General Fund to be used on other projects. Instead, the funds would sit in a bank account.

Included in the Tourism Fund information was information related to the 175th anniversary funds. While the funds belonged to the Dodransbicentennial Commission, the funds were being processed and disbursed through the City's accounting system.

Councilwoman Henton had a question on the Sewer Fund. Since it was not anticipated that the budgeted \$70,000.00 for the Garage Extension would be spent this fiscal year, she wondered if the funds could go ahead and be used on something else such as the screening grinder that was in the proposed 2016/2017 budget. Mr. Lathrop thought he might be able to purchase the screening grinder this year, if the Council supported the decision. Councilman Ferguson added that he felt the dump truck for Water Distribution should also be purchased this fiscal year.

AGENDA #12 “CLOSED SESSION; SALE PRICE OF REAL PROPERTY; ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY; AND APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND PERFORMANCE OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES” Councilman Harrison moved to adjourn to closed session to discuss sale price of real property; acquisition of real property; and appointment, employment and performance of specific employees, seconded by Mayor Vaughn. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

Councilmen Harrison, Ferguson, Councilwoman Henton, Mayor Vaughn, City Manager Barker, City Treasurer Chuck Sanders, City Attorney Zuber, and City Clerk Sterchi left the Council Chambers at 8:23 p.m.

AGENDA #13 “RECONVENE OPEN SESSION” Upon return of those who were in closed session to the Council Chambers, Councilwoman Henton moved to enter back into open session, seconded by Mayor Vaughn. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Open session resumed at 9:02 p.m.

Councilwoman Henton commented that the Parks & Recreation Board had placed a dog park in their Comprehensive Plan for the City. There was a contest as part of a grant program that would be coming up in May. If the grant was awarded, the City could receive \$100,000.00 to use towards the placement of a dog park. This would mean there would be no expense to the City, and any excess would go to the closest dog shelter. Even as a runner up, the City could receive \$25,000.00 of funds to be used for a dog park. Noting the Tree Board’s recent internet survey, she wondered if the City could conduct an online poll to evaluate interest.

Councilman Ferguson asked what area the dog park could be placed. The Councilwoman felt that an area south of Millers Grove would be appropriate. This was also the location that Councilman Ferguson had wished to eventually place rental cottages.

The Councilwoman went on to say that if the City wants to participate in the grant contest, the Council would need to take formal action on designating a piece of land for the park.

Mayor Vaughn noted some concerns he had on inappropriate use of some dog parks. The Mayor suggested asking how other towns would rate the success of their dog parks. He was also not sold on the proposed location.

Councilwoman Henton felt that the area south of Millers Grove would be very appropriate because it has a sidewalk, parking, and the City already maintains the lot.

Mayor Vaughn then suggested that the Parks & Recreation Board research and give a formal presentation on a proposed dog park for the concerns of the City and the citizens. In addition, the Mayor felt that the Councilwoman could conduct an initial poll to evaluate interest.

It was again mentioned that if available, Council members should visit the Sewer Plant at their convenience to look at the area and need for the garage extension.

AGENDA #14 “ADJOURN” Councilman Harrison moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk