

CITY OF OLNEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2019

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The August 12, 2019, meeting of the Olney City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Olney City Hall located at 300 S. Whittle Avenue, Olney, Illinois, with Mayor Mark Lambird presiding.

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

AGENDA #3 “ROLL CALL” The following Council members were present: Greg Eyer, Morgan Fehrenbacher, Belinda Henton, John McLaughlin and Mark Lambird. Also present were City Manager Allen Barker, City Clerk Kelsie Sterchi, City Treasurer Jane Guinn, City Engineer Mike Bridges, and City Attorney Bart Zuber.

AGENDA #4 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

4-A “Approve Minutes of Council Meeting on July 22, 2019”

4-B “Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable August 13, 2019” Pooled Cash \$125,528.15, Manual Pooled Cash \$114,115.71, Utility Refunds \$2,531.21, Petty Cash \$143.52, Housing Rehab Grant \$5,120.52, MFT \$29,686.17, IMRF \$27,658.53, Tourism \$155.58

4-C “Approve City Council Travel Expense Report From July 24, 2019”

4-D “Appointments/Re-Appointments: Parks & Recreation Board, Police Pension Board, Plan Commission, and Board of Appeals”

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

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

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 “Discussion: Use of Golf Carts on Streets Inside City Limits” Steve Bryan was not present, so this item was not discussed.

8-B “Resolution: Authorization to Enter Into an Agreement with Credit Collection Partners to Collect Debt for Ordinance Violations Through the Court System” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to authorize execution of an agreement with Credit

Collection Partners (CCP) for debt collection on ordinance violations through the court system. The Council was also provided with a copy of the proposed agreement.

City Treasurer Guinn told the Council that she had met with Mr. Zuber and Circuit Clerk Zach Holder about the proposed agreement. Mr. Holder currently uses CCP for the County. He suggested that the City also enter into an agreement with CCP because it would save the City on time and attorney fees.

Once Mr. Zuber determined that an amount was uncollectable, he would then notify Mr. Holder who would then turn the account over to collections with CCP. CCP would then add a 30% fee to the uncollected balance for their costs. If direct payments were made to the City after the account was turned over to CCP, the City would be required to notify CCP and reimburse them for their costs.

Action on this item was taken under 8-C.

8-C “Resolution: Authorization to Enter Into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Illinois Office of the Comptroller Regarding Access to the Comptroller’s Local Debt Recovery Program” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would authorize entering into an intergovernmental agreement with the Illinois Office of the Comptroller regarding access to the Comptroller’s Local Debt Recovery Program. The Council was also provided with a copy of the proposed agreement.

Mrs. Guinn reported that the Local Debt Recovery Program could be used to collect outstanding debt for items such as mowing for weed and grass violations, fire calls, water/sewer work, water bills, and possibly demolitions. The State would add a fee on top of the amount due, and would deduct unpaid debts from payments such as individual tax refunds and lottery winnings.

Mrs. Guinn pointed out that before the City collected any money from this program, the individual would first have to be owed some money by the State. Additionally, liens could not exist or be placed on property of items being collected.

Mayor Lambird wondered how much debt was going uncollected. Mrs. Guinn replied that through the City, there was not a large amount. However, Mr. Holder believed there was quite a large amount of uncollected through his office. Mr. Zuber clarified the agreements would be more of a cost savings to the City rather than a great income generator.

Mr. Zuber then gave some examples of how the City could incur uncollected debt. Locally, the City was powerless in some of those circumstances. The CCP agreement would then allow for CCP to go after that debt past City limitations.

Mayor Lambird asked for clarification on whether or not a corporation (CCP) would be making money off of City of Olney fines. Mr. Zuber and Mrs. Guinn confirmed.

Mayor Lambird then asked if anyone locally could provide similar services. Mr. Zuber and Mrs. Guinn did not believe so.

Mayor Lambird stated he was not a huge fan of the proposals. He recalled in the past needing to pay an out of town company \$14.00 to access a Richland County public record.

From the audience, Dr. David Eckiss stated that he did not believe collection agencies to be “that great of a deal.” Mr. Zuber told Dr. Eckiss that CCP was the best in the game. CCP provided services to several other municipalities with success.

Councilman Eyer and Councilwoman Fehrenbacher liked the idea that the proposals would provide gain for the City at no cost.

Mayor Lambird asked when uncollected debt would be turned over. Mr. Zuber indicated it would most likely be at his discretion, but the City would try to collect the debt itself first.

From the audience, Bruno Biava indicated he had experience on the receiving end of collections. His understanding with traditional collections was that the owner of the debt would make every opportunity to resolve the debt. If enough time passed, the debt would be assigned to the collector, and the debtor could no longer pay the original owner. He recommended that if an individual tried to pay the City after the debt had been turned over to CCP, that the City deny acceptance of the payment.

Councilwoman Henton moved to approve Resolution 2019-R-58, entering into an agreement with CCP, seconded by Councilman Eyer. Councilmen Eyer, McLaughlin, Councilwomen Henton, and Fehrenbacher voted yes. Mayor Lambird voted no. The motion carried.

Councilwoman Henton moved to approve Resolution 2019-R-59, entering into an intergovernmental agreement with the Illinois Office of the Comptroller for the Local Debt Recovery Program, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. Councilwomen Henton, Fehrenbacher, Councilmen McLaughlin, Eyer, and Mayor Lambird voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

8-D “Resolution of Authorization: OSLAD Grant Program” The Council was provided with a proposed OSLAD Resolution of Authorization for the OSLAD Grant Program. The Council was also provided with a listing of cost estimates for the 2019 OSLAD grant application.

Mr. Barker explained that the proposed resolution would certify and acknowledge that the City had funds necessary to complete the projects for which OSLAD grant funds were being requested. Since the last meeting, the scope of the project had changed. Now, the grant funds were proposed to be utilized for the installation of a multi-use trail, restroom facilities, roofing on existing pavilions, and street improvements at the City Park. The grant would be a 50/50 matching grant. Mr. Barker planned on using in-kind City labor to provide a portion of the match requirement.

The project's total estimated cost was \$475,500.00. The City's portion, if granted, would be \$237,750.00. Mr. Barker anticipated that \$95,046.28.00 worth of City in-kind labor could be used to help offset the cost, as well. The in-kind work would drop the City's total payment to \$142,703.72.

Mr. Barker detailed that the proposed street improvements included asphalt work instead of oil and chip. If the Council wished to change the plans to oil and chip, that could reduce the road work amount by \$40,000.00. The street improvement would be on the northern entrance to the City Park.

Councilman McLaughlin thought the restroom estimate of \$125,000.00 seemed high compared to what he recalled with the Together We Play Park restrooms. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher disagreed. Mr. Barker added that a pre-fabricated restroom or one built from scratch both had cost estimates between \$100,000.00 and \$110,000.00. At either option, both plumbing and electrical work would also be needed.

Mr. Barker then added that even if the estimates came in too high, that was preferred for the grant application. If the project was approved, the City would not be able to go back and ask for more money.

Councilman Eyer moved to approve the Resolution of Authorization for the OSLAD Grant Program as presented.

Other members of the Council were uneasy with the dollar amount to be paid by the City when there were several other needs. Even so, Councilman Eyer felt that the City Park was not getting much attention anymore and that significant value was being added.

Mr. Barker cautioned that the Council would need to make a decision at this meeting whether or not to move forward with the OSLAD grant application. The application was due Friday, August 16, 2019.

Councilman McLaughlin was not in favor of the plans for asphalt on the street improvements. He and Councilwoman Fehrenbacher did not feel that a road in the City Park should be better than roads in front of peoples' homes.

Councilman Eyer asked Mr. Bridges if oil and chip would be sufficient for that area. Mr. Bridges confirmed.

Councilman Eyer amended his motion to approve the Resolution of Authorization for the OSLAD Grant Program, and to also amend the street improvement plans from asphalt to oil and chip.

From the audience, Dr. Eckiss asked if there would be room inside of the multi-use trail for picnic tables and benches. Mr. Barker indicated there would be room, but picnic tables were already located under the nearby pavilions. Additional picnic tables and benches were not included in the cost estimates for the grant, but could possibly be added in the future.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher asked about parking. Mr. Bridges indicated that parking was available and ADA complaint parking areas.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher then asked where the money for the project would come from, if approved. Councilman McLaughlin replied it would be planned for in the next fiscal year's budget.

Mayor Lambird felt that some of the City's portion could also be paid from the TIF.

Councilman McLaughlin seconded Councilman Eyer's motion. Councilmen McLaughlin, Eyer, Mayor Lambird, and Councilwomen Fehrenbacher and Henton voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

8-E "Resolution of Support: CDBG Grant Program" The Council was provided with a proposed resolution of support for the CDBG Grant Program. The grant application would be for the replacement of water lines in a certain area of Jasper and Lincoln Streets. These requests are typically funded without need of a local match.

Mr. Barker told the Council that estimates for the water lines replacements came in at about \$406,000.00. The CDBG grant, if approved, would have a maximum grant award of \$500,000.00. This grant application was due at the end of August.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve 2019-R-60, seconded by Councilwoman Henton.

Mayor Lambird asked if there had been a public hearing. Mr. Barker replied that the public hearing had taken place earlier in the day.

Mayor Lambird, Councilwomen Fehrenbacher, Henton, and Councilmen Eyer and McLaughlin voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

8-F "Ordinance: Establish the Salary of the Code Enforcement Officer" The Council was provided with a proposed ordinance that would establish the salary of the new Code Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Barker explained that Dallas Colwell had been hired to replace Mike Mitchell as Code Enforcement Officer. As such, his salary of \$62,000.00 would need to be adopted by ordinance. Mr. Colwell would begin working for the City on September 3, 2019.

AGENDA #9 "REPORTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS"

9-A "Status Report-City Manager" Mr. Barker had nothing additional.

9-B "RCDC Report" RCDC Executive Director Courtney Yockey told the Council that the new Richland County C.E.O. class had begun their program with 14 students.

9-C “Chamber of Commerce Report” Councilwoman Fehrenbacher told the Council that the Chamber’s Golf Outing was held the prior Friday and was well attended. The Chamber was also still planning for the next month’s Bicycle Classic.

9-D “Parks & Recreation Board Report” The Parks & Recreation Board had not yet met this month, so there was no report.

9-E “Tourism Board Report” Councilwoman Henton had distributed a press release, digital marketing report, and a report of economic impact of domestic travel on Illinois counties from 2017 to present from ILLINOISouth Tourism.

Councilwoman Henton attended her quarterly Tourism Board meeting on July 24, 2019. The Fall edition of the Tourism Times had been released, and work was taking place on the Holiday Tourism Times and 2020 Visitors Guide. The 2020 Visitors Guide would be more editorial than past editions.

ILLINOISouth had 22 counties in the tourism bureau, which was the largest in the entire state. Staff was still working hard on promotions, and had been working with Mrs. Sterchi on the upcoming Walldogs event.

The economic impact of domestic travel on Illinois counties showed Richland County moving in a positive direction.

Councilman McLaughlin also told the Council that the JEDS Board would be meeting the next day where the new budget would be approved. The new budget would have a 5% increase, mostly due to salaries and a new mobile alert system.

AGENDA #10 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS” No one from the public wished to speak.

AGENDA #11 “ADJOURN” With no further business to discuss, Councilman McLaughlin moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk