

CITY OF OLNEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2021

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The February 8, 2021, 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. Tim Loomis led the group in prayer.

AGENDA #3 “ROLL CALL” The following Council members were physically present: Mark Lambird, Morgan Fehrenbacher, and Greg Eyer. Also physically present were City Manager Allen Barker, City Treasurer Jane Guinn, and City Clerk Kelsie Sterchi. City Engineer Mike Bridges was absent. Several State of Illinois Executive Orders allowed for attendance to take place via video, audio, and/or telephonic means as the COVID-19 crisis continues. Attending by audio/video were Councilman John McLaughlin, Councilwoman Belinda Henton and City Attorney Bart Zuber.

AGENDA #4 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

4-A “Approve Minutes of Council Meeting on January 25, 2021”

4-B “Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable February 9, 2021” Pooled Cash \$152,516.03, Manual Pooled Cash \$263,894.59, Petty Cash \$263.25, Fire Pension \$9,633.00, Police Pension \$13,386.00, MFT \$3,846.37, IMRF \$33,185.79, Levied Insurance \$48,142.63, Workers Compensation \$5,392.00, Christmas Light Display \$2,953.57, Route 130 TIF \$6,061.45

4-C “Raffle License: Olney Memorial VFW Post #4226 (Daily)”

4-D “Raffle License: Olney Memorial VFW Post #4226 (Weekly)”

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 Fehrenbacher moved to approve the items on the consent agenda, seconded by Councilman Eyer. Councilmen McLaughlin, Eyer, Councilwomen Fehrenbacher, Henton, and Mayor Lambird voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

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

AGENDA #8 “PUBLIC HEARING: CLOSE OUT OF CDBG FUNDED DOWNSTATE SMALL BUSINESS STABILIZATION GRANT FOR HILL’S SOLUTIONS, INC.” Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and its detrimental impact on small business, the State invoked its option to adjust allocations to address specific needs to benefit Illinois’ non-entitlement communities in

case of unforeseen circumstances, as included in the Consolidated and Action Plans. This allocation, along with unspent and recaptured funds from previous allocations, was made eligible in a total of \$20,000,000.00 for the Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program.

The City of Olney applied for the use of federal Downstate Small Business Stabilization Grant funds through the State of Illinois' Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Office of Community Development on behalf of Hill's Solutions, Inc.

The Small Business Stabilization Program's grant ceiling was \$25,000.00 per business, and was applied for to be used towards working capital for the benefit of Hill's Solutions, Inc., in which the City of Olney made application on its behalf. The intent of the grant program was for the urgent needs of the business due to the COVID-19 emergency. The grant funds could be used to assist private for-profit small retail and service businesses, or businesses considered non-essential by the Governor's Executive Order without the ability for employees to work remotely.

Funds were available to all eligible applicants meeting program component requirements until all funds allocated to this component had been distributed. All awards were predicated upon a demonstrated need for funds. This included a review of all sources and uses of funds, an analysis of the recipient's ability to comply with the terms of the program, and a determination that the CDBG participation was appropriate.

Mayor Lambird reminded those present that a \$25,000.00 grant had been awarded for Hill's Solutions, Inc. The City did not expend any of its own funds on the project and did not displace any persons on low-to-moderate income dwellings as a result of this project.

A copy of the application package would be maintained on file at City Hall for public inspection.

In order to close out this grant project for Hill's Solutions, Inc., Mayor Lambird asked if anyone present had any questions or comments. Seeing none, the public hearing ended at 7:04 p.m.

AGENDA #9 "PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, ETC."

9-A "Discussion/Possible Ordinance: Designation of Loading Zone or No Parking Zone Along the North Side of W. North Avenue Between Whittle Avenue & the Alley West of 531 S. Whittle Avenue" The Council was provided with a copy of an e-mail from Terry Stevens and a satellite image of the intersection of S. Whittle and W. North Avenues.

Mr. Stevens told the Council that he had purchased 531 S. Whittle Avenue and would be opening an arcade. An access door was located on the south side of the building where Mr. Stevens loaded and unloaded heavy items. More often than not, Mr. Stevens indicated that Crossfit attendees parked on the south side of this building, blocking the access door. He felt that since the attendees were going to an exercise class that it would not hurt to walk a few more steps to get there.

Mr. Stevens stated that instead of making a loading zone on the entire parking area south of his building, he would be agreeable to a loading zone located in the last space to the west of that area.

Councilman Eyer moved to approve Ordinance 2021-02 for a loading zone in the far west portion of the proposed parking area along the north side of W. North Avenue between Whittle Avenue and the alley west of 531 S. Whittle Avenue, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher.

Councilman McLaughlin asked who owned the parking area in question. City Clerk Sterchi replied that it was owned by the City.

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

Mr. Zuber would create Ordinance 2021-02.

9-B “Resolution: Accept Bid for a New Sewage Grinder for the Olney Sewage Treatment Plant” This item was tabled.

9-C “Ordinance: Amend Sections 13.04.050 (Installation) and 13.04.070 (Service Lines) of Chapter 13.04 (Water Service System) of the City of Olney Municipal Code” The Council was provided with a proposed ordinance that would amend Sections 13.04.050 (Installation) and 13.04.070 (Service Lines) of Chapter 13.04 (Water Service System) of the City of Olney Municipal Code.

Mr. Barker explained that the amendment to Section 13.04.050 would allow service lines from the water main to the premises to be approved material rather than just copper. The amendment to Section 13.04.070 would provide for service lines connecting the water main and water meter to be other approved material with a tracer wire rather than just copper. Other materials were available on the market that would provide the same quality as copper at a much lesser cost.

Councilman Eyer moved to approve Ordinance 2021-03, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. Councilwomen Henton, Fehrenbacher, Councilmen McLaughlin, Eyer, and Mayor Lambird voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

9-D “Request: Wabash Valley College Exception for a Fishing Tournament on East Fork Lake” The Council was provided with a letter from Todd Gill, Wabash Valley College (WVC) Bass Coach.

Mrs. Sterchi told the Council that WVC was hoping to host a fundraising tournament on East Fork Lake on June 19, 2021. In order to hold a successful fundraising event for the team, Mr. Gill requested an exception on the number of boats that could be involved. Currently, no more than 30 boats were allowed to be on the water for tournaments. Mr. Gill was requesting a 40-boat tournament.

Mrs. Sterchi had been in touch with DNR on their opinion regarding the request. As long as this tournament was the only tournament on the water that day, DNR was not opposed to the request.

In the event that the Council would not grant this particular request, Mr. Gill had also offered other options that could help make the tournament successful, but it was Mrs. Sterchi's recommendation to authorize the originally requested exception for 40 boats on June 19, 2021.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher moved to allow a 40-boat tournament for Wabash Valley College on East Fork Lake on June 19, 2021, seconded by Councilman Eyer. Councilmen McLaughlin, Eyer, Mayor Lambird, Councilwomen Fehrenbacher, and Henton voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

9-E "Discussion/Possible Action: Licensing Fees for Video Gaming and/or Coin-Operated Amusement Devices and Juke Boxes" Mayor Lambird recalled that several businesses had been closed or open with restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He wanted the Council to consider options that may be appropriate to help these businesses such as pro-rating machine licensing.

Councilwoman Henton asked Mrs. Sterchi if she could compile a list of establishments that had any type of game machine along with how many machines they had. Mrs. Sterchi replied that she could do so. The Councilwoman felt that would help to see who and what would need help, if any.

9-F "Resolution: Amend Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget for Fire Department Turnout Gear & Masks" The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would amend the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget for Fire Department turnout gear and masks.

Interim Fire Chief Holmes had requested to purchase 2 turnout gear sets (\$4,000.00) and 12 masks (\$4,200.00). The turnout gear sets would be for the full-time firefighters, and the masks were needed to prevent the paid-on-call firefighters from sharing masks during the pandemic.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher moved to approve 2021-R-09, seconded by Councilman Eyer. Mayor Lambird, Councilmen Eyer, McLaughlin, Councilwomen Fehrenbacher, and Henton voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

9-G "Resolution: Amend Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget for the Route 130 Sidewalk Project" The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would amend the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget for the Route 130 Sidewalk Project.

Mrs. Guinn stated that the City was in receipt of a preliminary engineering invoice for the Route 130 Sidewalk Project. The invoice would be paid by the City and then a request would be submitted to the State for reimbursement of 90% of the cost. A budget amendment would be needed in the General Fund to account for this income and expense. The proposed resolution would transfer money from the Route 130 TIF account to the General account to pay for the City's share.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher moved to approve 2021-R-10, seconded by Councilman Eyer. Councilwomen Fehrenbacher, Henton, Councilmen McLaughlin, Eyer, and Mayor Lambird voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

9-H “Resolution: Accept State Bid for a 2021 Ford Police Interceptor Utility AWD for the Police Department & Waive Formal Bidding Procedures” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would accept a State Bid for a 2021 Ford Police Interceptor Utility AWD for the Police Department and waive formal bidding procedures. The Council was also provided with copies of the State bid.

Mr. Barker reminded the Council that at the last meeting, the Council approved moving forward with the purchase of a new SUV for the Police Department. The proposed resolution would accept the State bid from Morrow Brothers Ford in Greenfield, Illinois, in the amount of \$44,870.00 and waive bidding.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher asked if another squad would be purchased in the next fiscal year. Mr. Barker was with the understanding another squad would not be purchased next fiscal year.

Councilman Eyer moved to approve 2021-R-11, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. Councilwomen Henton, Fehrenbacher, Councilmen McLaughlin, Eyer, and Mayor Lambird voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

AGENDA #10 “REPORTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS”

10-A “Status Report-City Manager” Mr. Barker had nothing to add.

10-B “RCDC Report” RCDC Executive Director Lauren McClain had nothing new to report.

10-C “Chamber of Commerce Report” Councilwoman Fehrenbacher reported that a Walldogs meeting had been held at the Chamber earlier in the day. The project would be moving forward but with a different scope. She asked if Mrs. Sterchi wished to add anything.

Mrs. Sterchi indicated that plans were being made so that two to three murals could be completed during a set amount of months. Some fun, virtual activities could also be incorporated. The new scope of the project would allow for it to move forward in a safe manner among the pandemic.

Lastly, Councilwoman Fehrenbacher stated that the Chamber would have its monthly meeting later in the week.

10-D “Parks & Recreation Board Report” There was no report.

10-E “Tourism Board Report” Councilwoman Henton told the Council that she had attended the quarterly meeting on Wednesday. Work was also continuing on the 2021 Visitors Guide, and Mrs. Sterchi had been working on a new tear-off map that should be available soon.

AGENDA #11 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS” No one from the public wished to speak.

AGENDA #12 “CLOSED SESSION: SALE OR LEASE PRICE OF REAL PROPERTY; ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY; APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, AND PERFORMANCE OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES” Councilwoman Fehrenbacher moved to adjourn to closed session to discuss sale or lease price of real property; acquisition of real property; appointment, employment, compensation, and performance of specific employees, seconded by Councilman Eyer. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 7:19 p.m.

AGENDA #13 “RECONVENE OPEN SESSION” Councilman Eyer moved to enter back into open session, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. Councilwomen Henton, Fehrenbacher, Councilmen McLaughlin, Eyer, and Mayor Lambird voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried. Open session resumed at 8:05 p.m.

Mr. Barker distributed a listing of capital projects for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The list showed proposed projects, completed projects, projects in progress, projects that would carry over into the next fiscal year, and projects proposed to be completed yet this fiscal year. Mr. Barker pointed out that an amount of \$35,000.00 was still available in Contingencies that could be used for any purpose.

Mr. Barker briefly went through some of the proposed capital projects. He noted that regarding pickup trucks, Eagleson’s had informed him that they would not be able to order any more until June.

In speaking with Street Department Supervisor Tyler Kocher, Mr. Barker reported that Mr. Kocher would prefer to purchase two used dump trucks this year instead of a backhoe. The backhoe could be placed in the next year’s budget.

Mrs. Guinn pointed out that \$134,000.00 had been set aside for equipment purchases from the close out of the revolving loan fund.

Mr. Barker also proposed that some street projects could also be completed. Councilman McLaughlin expressed his favor of getting some street projects completed. He understood the need for equipment, but felt that too many infrastructure projects kept getting pushed off.

Mr. Barker understood, but clarified that the capital equipment could be purchased in addition to completing some street projects. Mr. Barker felt there were adequate funds to accomplish both.

Mayor Lambird asked how much return was being received in City accounts. Mrs. Guinn replied that one CD was earning 1.75%, but would be maturing at the end of the month. Past that, funds were available in a savings account that was earning 0.25% and some other accounts were earning 0.9%. Funds from the State were earning 0.072%.

Mrs. Guinn reminded the Council that the \$134,000.00 from the closed revolving loan fund was included in this year's budget to help balance it for the purchase of a backhoe. She also stated that enough funds were available in the MFT account that perhaps two street projects could be completed.

Councilman Eyer wished to move forward with the Silver Street Project. He was also aware that the backhoe was quite old, but was unsure if the dump trucks were in really bad shape or if they were just old. Mr. Barker indicated that the older dump trucks were in very poor condition. He also felt it was difficult to find quality used dump trucks. He suggested putting dump truck purchases in the next year's budget with the intention of being serious about making such a purchase.

The Park Department Supervisor was also looking to make another riding lawn mower purchase. Councilwoman Henton asked if it would be a Husqvarna. Mr. Barker confirmed. The Councilwoman then asked who was going to be dealing and repairing Husqvarnas. Mayor Lambird replied that Rural King would.

Mr. Barker then updated the Council that the OSLAD funds still had yet to come in, however his contact, Judy Bauer, guaranteed that the funds would be coming. She said the City could proceed with the City Park improvements and apologized for the delay.

Pricing for the metal roofing for the pavilions would come to \$2,842.00. The roofing would be 29-gauge.

By the next meeting, Mr. Barker expected to have bids on culvert pipes for the City Park. He hoped the OSLAD funds would arrive by then.

The City of Olney sold water to Noble for it to distribute to its residents. New EPA regulations now required Noble to have their water tested weekly and monthly. After meeting with the Mayor of Noble, it appeared that the best solution would be to have the Olney Water Treatment Plant test the water at their facility. The material and time would total \$130.00 and would be charged to Noble. The Council was agreeable to that arrangement.

Hearing the City plows working outside this evening, Councilman Eyer was curious who determined when plowing was needed. He expressed frustration in seeing plows run in shallow snow.

Mr. Barker indicated that the Street Department Supervisor determined when to send out the plows, and that plowing usually started at two-inches of snowfall. Areas needing salt were

reported by the Police Department to the Street Department. Pre-treatment of the roadways was also determined by the Street Department Supervisor based on weather reporting.

Councilman Eyer recalled times in the past where there would be six-inches of snow and no need for plows. He felt that two-inches still seemed awfully shallow.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher felt that if there was two-inches of snow with no plows out, then City Hall would be receiving many complaints from residents. The problem would also compound with very cold temperatures, additional snows, and re-freezing.

Mayor Lambird pointed out that a two-inch snowfall or icing would trigger the snow emergency provisions of City ordinance.

AGENDA #14 “ADJOURN” With no further business to discuss, Councilwoman Fehrenbacher moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Eyer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk