

CITY OF OLNEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2019

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The February 11, 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: Morgan Fehrenbacher, Les Harrison, Belinda Henton, John McLaughlin, and Mark Lambird. Also present were City Manager Allen Barker, City Treasurer Jane Guinn, City Clerk Kelsie Sterchi, City Attorney Bart Zuber, and City Engineer Mike Bridges.

AGENDA #4 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

4-A “Approve Minutes of Council Meeting on January 28, 2019”

4-B “Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable February 12, 2019” Pooled Cash \$87,125.24, Manual Pooled Cash \$100,499.83, Petty Cash \$293.55, Housing Rehab Grant \$27,496.00, IMRF \$28,182.65, Tourism \$1937.03, Christmas Light Display \$1,129.24, Route 130 TIF \$9,724.00,

4-C “Approve Payment to Illinois Rural Water Association”

4-D “Raffle License: St. Joseph School”

4-E “Raffle License: VFW #4226”

4-F “Raffle License: American Legion Post #30”

4-G “Raffle License: Olney Firefighters Association”

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 “Tourism Grant Request: Chicago Farmer Concert on March 30, 2019” The Council was provided with a Tourism Grant Application as submitted by Stephen Patterson of the Olney Arts Council.

Mr. Patterson told the Council that he had booked Chicago Farmer for a performance at the Olney Eagles Lodge on March 30, 2019. He would use the grant funds to advertise the event to those inside and outside of Richland County. Originally, Mr. Patterson requested a \$900.00 grant, but because advertising on Facebook was so inexpensive, Mr. Patterson stated that he wished to amend his request to \$700.00.

Councilwoman Henton also served on the Tourism Board. She noted that Mr. Patterson was not a promoter and was applying as a not-for-profit. The goal was to bring entertainment to the community, and she felt the tourism grant request was appropriate.

Mr. Patterson added that he would like to see such events grow in Olney to where people would be traveling in to participate in the events.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve the Tourism Grant request in the amount of \$700.00 to Mr. Patterson/Olney Arts Council for the Chicago Farmer Concert on March 30, 2019, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-B “Discussion/Possible Action: Recycling Service & Recycling Service Fees for City of Olney Residents” The Council was provided with an e-mail from Richland County Housing Executive Director Deanna Mitchell, and a listing of City-related questions from the Utility Billing Clerk.

Mayor Lambird reminded those present that the City’s only current option for recycling was Kenny Wilson’s interest in placing a recycling drop off center on the outskirts of town. Mr. Wilson proposed that each active, residential water customer be charged \$1.50 per month to help pay for the program. Mayor Lambird asked if Mr. Wilson had anything to share.

Mr. Wilson distributed a listing of proposed products that would be accepted at his drop off center. The list included cardboard, plastic, tin/aluminum cans, newspaper, office paper, shredded paper, magazines, computers, e-scrap, ballasts, Christmas lights, batteries lead acid, batteries homeline, motor oil, cooking oil, flat screen TVs, all types of metal items, tube TVs (extra \$10.00 fee), printers (possible extra fee). Mr. Wilson’s proposed hours of operation would be Tuesday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Henton asked Mr. Wilson if there was any possible way that curbside recycling could be re-instated. Mr. Wilson replied that it would be financially difficult to continue, and that his employee had a difficult time picking up in all kinds of weather. Additionally, his employee wanted to retire.

Councilwoman Henton asked why a replacement could not be hired. Mr. Wilson felt like no one would be as reliable and willing to work in such conditions. Councilwoman Henton felt that if the goal was to recycle, that curbside would allow for more recyclables to be received.

Councilwoman Henton then asked what kind of a number would make curbside recycling feasible. Mr. Wilson estimated about \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00 per month. In that case, the Councilwoman wondered if the fee for curbside service could be increased to meet that number. She noted that many people had indicated to her that they would pay more for the curbside service.

Mr. Wilson replied that one employee's salary alone would be about \$28,000.00. In addition to that would be costs incurred for gas and vehicle maintenance. Councilwoman Henton pointed out that some of those fees should be offset by the price Mr. Wilson was getting for recyclables. Mr. Wilson indicated that he had not been able to sell any commodities in 2018. The Councilwoman still felt that an increase in curbside recycling fees and fees charged to County residents for a recycling drop off program would be a compromise that would be financially feasible. Mr. Wilson did not agree.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher asked if more than one employee for curbside service would be helpful. Mr. Wilson believed so.

From the audience, Julie Hearing encouraged the Council to come up with some sort of recycling solution. She felt recycling was very important to the environment.

Mayor Lambird pointed out that if and when commodity prices improved, the fees for the recycling center could decrease or be done away with completely.

From the audience, Lori Zimmerle had several questions. She had briefly spoken to Mr. Wilson before the meeting and discovered that commodity prices most likely would not raise for another three to five years. She wondered if the recyclables would be stored for that length of time or taken to the landfill. Mr. Wilson replied the recyclables would be stored. For example, he currently had 25 semi-loads of cardboard stored. The cost of transporting the materials to a recycling center would eat up whatever money he would receive from the commodity.

Mrs. Zimmerle was also aware that only about a quarter of Olney residents recycled. She did not feel it was fair to charge the other 75% for a location that they would not use so that an individual could make a profit. She was not sure that it made sense to expend citizens for at least three more years without knowing if and when commodity prices would fluctuate. She wondered up to how many years the recyclables could be stored.

Mrs. Zimmerle also wondered if Republic Services or Clay County had been contacted for information. She was aware that some Olney residents were taking recyclables to Clay County and wondered if that could be an option, instead, for those who really wanted to recycle.

Without seeing the sheet Mr. Wilson had distributed, Mrs. Zimmerle asked when the location would be open for drop off. The Council pointed out the hours that Mr. Wilson had listed and the extra costs shown for tube TVs and possibly printers.

In addition to the investment from citizens, she wondered what Mr. Wilson would be investing. Mr. Wilson replied that he would need to purchase five more balers, and some other equipment.

Mrs. Zimmerle was aware that when dropping off items at the proposed center, individuals would also need to sort the items. She was concerned with the need to pay an employee only to verify residency.

Referencing the Olney Gazette, Mrs. Zimmerle had read that the fees incurred by the proposed recycling program for assistance would total about \$58,000.00 per year. She felt that total would contribute to much more than a supplement. The way it sounded, Mrs. Zimmerle believed that the citizens of Olney would be the ones paying for a recycling opportunity, and County residents would have a choice as to whether or not they wanted to pay for the opportunity.

In past discussions, the topic of grant funds had been discussed. Mrs. Zimmerle asked who was applying for the grants. Unsure, Mayor Lambird suspected that the Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission would assist in the applications. He felt it was part of the business of the City to help citizens and businesses find such opportunities.

Mrs. Zimmerle asked if anything had been provided showing how the financials of the program would play out. Mayor Lambird indicated not.

Mrs. Zimmerle was curious if the City had made any promises of how much money Mr. Wilson would receive per month in order to open his drop off location.

Ultimately, Mrs. Zimmerle stated that she was in support of the concept of recycling, had participated in the curbside program, and would gladly pay more in order to again have that service as long as the items had some place to go and were actually being recycled. However, that was not currently the case. She did not understand spending about \$58,000.00 per year for recyclables to go nowhere.

From the audience, Larry Pitts felt that the global recycling crisis was bigger than anyone realized. While he did not want to discourage support of someone's business, he also did not believe it was fair that each citizen be forced to pay a recycling fee if they did not want to participate. If no profits were to be made, and the recyclables were not going anywhere, he thought the whole situation seemed like a losing battle.

Mayor Lambird understood that not everyone would utilize the recycling drop off center, but reminded the audience that not everyone utilized some things they were taxed for such as the library, swimming pool, public schools, or Olney Central College. He felt that such things were paid for by all citizens so that we could live in a better place. He also felt that having a recycling option would be a bargaining chip when negotiating prices for sanitary hauling.

Bobbi Ginder then addressed the room. Mrs. Ginder reminded everyone that the cost for the facility would only be \$1.50 per month; the same price as one drink from McDonald's or

Ginger Ale's. She agreed that all citizens paid fees and taxes to the City that not everyone used, and she supported the reasons behind those fees and taxes.

From the audience, Mary Spillman also expressed concern in the fee for all. She had purchased a house that was being remodeled, and therefore needed water service even though no one was living there. She noted that some area landlords had 15 or 20 houses; some that were vacant but also required water service in order to be worked on.

In addition, Mrs. Spillman noted that some tenants often stiffed landlords on delinquent water bills. She continued that trailers in trailer courts were not individually billed by the City. In that case, in addition to the trailer court bills that the landlords currently paid, the landlords would be billed \$1.50 for each trailer in the court.

Commenting on Mr. Wilson's concern on finding an employee to continue the curbside service, she felt that the job would be a great opportunity for someone since so many were unemployed.

Scott Fore then addressed the Council. He believed that residents should be able to choose whether or not to participate in recycling. He added that like Mrs. Spillman described, he paid some tenant water bills, specifically in his apartment complex.

Bridgett Jensen stood and stated that landlords could charge an additional \$1.50 per month in rent to offset the expense. Mrs. Jensen was aware that she was privileged, and offered to pay for up to 10 people's recycling expenses for the year, if a fund was available.

Mr. Fore then stated that residents who wished to participate in recycling could pay a higher fee in order to make the program financially feasible. Otherwise, he felt that charging residents an unnecessary fee would be burdening a lot of people. When several expenses increase slightly, he noted that all of those increases could add up to quite a lot of money.

From the audience, Kat Carey commented that she would pay three times more for recycling. She worried about the youth and wanted the youth to be taught environmental responsibility. She also wondered whether or not there was a local work release program, or other group, that could help with curbside pick up.

Joel Carey noted that much of the evening's recycling conversation had been financial. Past that, he felt that recycling and sustainability should be taught and that it was important for the future. He also felt that recycling was something that everyone in the community would benefit from. He felt that having a recycling program in place would make Olney look forward-thinking and proactive to those looking to locate to the area.

Sam Benson agreed with Mr. Carey. Mr. Benson told the Council that he applauded their efforts to reinstate recycling and making the details public. He pointed out that the City could have mandated a sort of tax that would have automatically gathered the \$18.00 from each resident per year for recycling. Additionally, he felt that the option for recycling could make or break whether or not people choose to move to Olney or another nearby town instead.

Mrs. Carey noted that she had moved to Olney from another town and was astonished that there was no recycling at that time.

Mrs. Zimmerle then expressed her opinion on how Olney was a wonderful place to live with plenty of activities, arts programs, a great school district, and availability of good medical care. If recycling were to be added to the list of benefits, she felt that those choosing to participate could pay a higher fee.

Karen Winkels then stood and stated that she had participated in the curbside recycling program, and would be happy to pay more to either take it to a drop off facility or have the curbside service. She added that she would also be willing to contribute to a fund, as suggested by Mrs. Jensen.

Ms. Eichhorst then told of how some of her past communities had strong recycling programs. She also felt that Mr. Wilson's employee may have spent more time than needed collecting. He would often drive through her neighborhood the evening before her scheduled pick up and then come back through again during the scheduled pick up day. She wondered if just coming by on the scheduled day would help with employee wages. At any rate, Ms. Eichhorst commented that Mr. Wilson's employee had done an excellent job. Others from the audience agreed.

Councilwoman Henton was aware that about 800 residents per day had their trash picked up by Republic Services. With that in mind, the Councilwoman felt that it would be likely that those participating in the curbside service could have their recyclables picked up in one day. That could also help with the expense of an employee. It was too difficult for her to believe that there was no option at all for a curbside recycling program.

Carol Potter then stood and commented that Mr. Wilson's experience with the recycling program should be taken seriously. If he felt that a replacement curbside recycling employee would be too difficult to find, she felt he should be believed. She also felt that since no one else was vying for the City's recycling business, any option that Mr. Wilson could provide would be valuable.

Patty Zwilling expressed her opinion that everyone should be conscious of what they buy and what they throw away. She felt that more options should be researched.

Ms. Eichhorst offered the option of an unmanned drop off location. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher indicated that such a location was available in the past and did not work out well. The audience agreed.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher appreciated all that attended the meeting to express their opinions, and stated that the opinions were helpful for the Council to hear. She did not feel that any action could be taken at this evening's meeting. She wished to have more discussion with Mr. Wilson before moving forward.

Councilman McLaughlin would not be able to attend the February 25, 2019, meeting. Councilman McLaughlin commented that he would prefer to have curbside recycling service, but wanted to go on record that if a recycling drop off center was the only option, he would be in favor of that plan.

Jeffrey Rosenberg then stood and told that she lived outside of City limits and would be happy to pay a fee to be able to drop off recyclables.

Councilman Harrison was in favor of recycling, and also felt that curbside service was the best option. He was concerned with having a fee for all residential customers.

Mr. Wilson explained that the fee for all would be due to the fact that he would have about \$80,000.00 in additional expenses. He currently had two balers and felt that he would need a few more. Councilwoman Henton did not believe that much more recycling would be received to justify the purchase of additional balers.

From the audience, Brandy McKinney distributed a graph of results from a Facebook poll. The poll showed that most of the respondents were in favor of recycling. Councilwoman Henton pointed out that when it came to the public, there were those that utilized Facebook often, but several from other generations that did not. Mrs. Zimmerle asked if the respondents were all Olney residents. Mrs. McKinney replied that they were not all Olney residents.

Discussion on recycling would continue at the February 25, 2019, Council meeting.

8-C “Resolution: Accept Quote for an Amperometric Titrator for the Water Plant, and Amend the 2018/2019 Budget” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to accept a quote for an amperometric titrator for the Water Plant and amend the 2018/2019 budget. The Council was also provided with a copy of the quote submitted by Sidener Environmental Services of St. Louis, Missouri.

Mr. Barker explained that the amperometric titrator used in the laboratory at the Water Plant to determine potassium permanganate residual and differentiate chlorine residual was in need of replacement. The old one had quit working, and this piece of equipment was essential for operations. Sidener Environmental Services submitted a quote in the amount of \$4,897.81. The budget amendment would take \$5,000.00 worth of funds from the ½ Ton Pick-Up line item for this purchase.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve 2018-R-10, seconded by Councilman Harrison.

8-D “Ordinance: Authorize Sale of Personal Property from Water Distribution – Miscellaneous Scrap Metal” The Council was provided with a proposed ordinance to authorize the sale of miscellaneous scrap metal from the Water Distribution Department to Scrap Daddy Inc., of Olney, Illinois.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher moved to approve Ordinance 2018-05, seconded by Councilwoman Henton. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-E “Ordinance: Authorize Sale of Personal Property from the Park Department – Miscellaneous Scrap Metal” The Council was provided with a proposed ordinance that would authorize the sale of scrap metal from the Park Department to Wilson Metals of Noble, Illinois.

Councilman Harrison moved to approve Ordinance 2018-06, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-F “Ordinance: Authorize Sale of Personal Property from the Police Department – 2011 Ford Crown Victoria” The Council was provided with a proposed ordinance that would authorize the sale of a 2011 Ford Crown Victoria from the Police Department on GovDeals.com.

From the audience, Dr. David Eckiss jokingly said he would give \$5.00 for the vehicle.

Councilwoman Henton moved to approve Ordinance 2108-07, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-G “Resolution: Authorize the Execution of Mutual Aid Agreements Between the Claremont-Bonpas Fire Department and the City of Olney Fire Department & the Noble-Wakefield Fire Department and the City of Olney Fire Department” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to authorize the execution of mutual aid agreements between the Claremont-Bonpas Fire Department and the City of Olney Fire Department, and the Noble-Wakefield Fire Department and the City of Olney Fire Department. The Council was also provided with a copy of the mutual aid agreements.

Mr. Barker told that the mutual aid agreements would establish criteria for each of the departments when working within each other’s jurisdiction.

Councilwoman Henton moved to approve 2018-R-11, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-H “Resolution: Authorize Purchase of Vehicle, Waive Formal Bidding Procedures, and Amend the 2018/2019 Budget” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to authorize the purchase of a vehicle (School Car), waive formal bidding procedures, and amend the 2018/2019 budget.

Mr. Barker reminded the Council that at the last meeting, it was determined that it would be best to move forward with finding a replacement for the School Car. The School Car was a vehicle used by City employees for business travel, usually to trainings. A 2016 Chevrolet Malibu was found at Eagleson Automotive in Olney, Illinois, for the purchase price of \$13,500.00.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve 2018-R-12, seconded by Councilman Harrison. 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 added that Sarah Mann, from the Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission was leaving her position there. Ms. Mann was still under contract for up to one year in effort to help manage the transition.

9-B “RCDC Report” RCDC Executive Director Courtney Yockey was not present, so there was no report.

9-C “Chamber of Commerce Report” Councilwoman Fehrenbacher commented that the Chocolate Tour was a success.

Councilwoman Henton noted that Ladies Night tickets were on sale for the event taking place on March 12, 2019.

Councilman McLaughlin said that the Chamber’s Annual Luncheon was coming up. Mayor Lambird added that Congressman Shimkus and Senator Righter would be speaking at the event.

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

9-E “Tourism Board Report” Councilwoman Henton had nothing to report.

AGENDA #10 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS”

10-A “Brianna Wiseman” Brianna Wiseman was not present.

10-B “Sandra Goodwin” Sandra Goodwin was not present.

AGENDA #11 “ADJOURN” With no further business to discuss, Councilwoman Henton moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk