

CITY OF OLNEY  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 25, 2019

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The February 25, 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. John Monroe led the group in prayer.

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

AGENDA #4 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

4-A “Approve Minutes of Council Meetings on February 11, 2019”

4-B “Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable February 26, 2019” Pooled Cash \$91,617.09, Manual Pooled Cash \$20,782.56, Utility Refunds \$864.15, MFT \$1,513.33

4-C “Raffle License: Petroleum Club of Olney”

4-D “Approve City Council Travel Expense Reports from January 2019-Present”

4-E “Raffle License: City of Olney”

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 Harrison. 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/Possible Action: Recycling Service & Recycling Service Fees for City of Olney Residents” An oral comment had been received in the City Clerk’s Office on February 22, 2019, made by Ruth Jones. The Council was provided with a written version of the comment.

Mayor Lambird updated everyone that he, Councilwoman Fehrenbacher and Mr. Zuber had met with Kenny Wilson to discuss the proposed recycling program and fees. Mr. Wilson was now comfortable with lowering the amount to be charged per month for each residential

water customer. Instead of \$1.50 per month, he felt the fee could be under \$1.00. Mr. Wilson had also indicated that in addition to the per month fees for the recycling drop off center, he would be willing to run curbside service to those willing to pay extra.

Mayor Lambird then noted that no action on recycling would be taken at this evening's meeting.

Councilwoman Henton asked if other haulers, such as Crawford County, had been contacted about service. Mayor Lambird replied that he had spoken with Crawford County, but it was apparent that they were also facing many of the same uphill battles as everyone else. Mayor Lambird felt they would be willing to provide service to Olney, but they would only be able to provide unmanned drop off bins. While this option was not her first choice, Councilwoman Henton commented that she would rather go that route than charge everyone for a center they may or may not use.

Mayor Lambird continued that he had spoken with Revolution Recycling out of Carbondale. Revolution would charge the City of Olney \$511.00 each time they needed to dump a two and a half ton trailer. According to Mr. Wilson, Olney should generate about 15 to 20 tons worth of recycling per month. In addition, the representative from Revolution stated that he felt it to be unsustainable for their company to make such round trips to and from Olney.

Councilwoman Henton was curious on pricing details for Mr. Wilson's curbside option. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher replied that Mr. Wilson was still working on numbers for curbside service.

Councilwoman Henton stated that she preferred an optional curbside recycling program only. Councilman Harrison agreed. The Councilwoman wondered if Mr. Wilson would be willing to re-instate the optional curbside recycling only. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher replied that Mr. Wilson would not be willing.

Mr. Zuber added that it made more sense for everyone involved to have a set contract. It would also make enforcement more manageable. Councilwoman Henton countered that Mr. Wilson would not have a set contract for County participants.

Mr. Zuber stated that if the City was to be involved, a contract would be needed with details in accordance to State statute. If the City were to have a contract with anyone, a minimum guarantee amount would be needed. Councilwoman Henton did not believe that the prior curbside contract offered a minimum guarantee. Mr. Zuber was unsure without that contract in front of him. If it were the case, Mr. Zuber felt that was very generous of Mr. Wilson.

From the audience, Lori Zimmerle wondered if those wanting to participate in recycling could pay a higher fee to hit the amount that would be feasible for Mr. Wilson to offer the service.

Mr. Zuber explained due to fluctuations with optional participants, such as moving out of town, it could be easy to not meet a minimum. In the case of not meeting a minimum, the City of Olney would need to find a way to come up with the funds to meet the difference, should that be the case.

Mrs. Zimmerle then wondered if those choosing to participate could be bound to pay for a certain length of time. Mr. Zuber did not believe that to be feasible, again noting circumstances where people move out of town.

Councilwoman Henton recalled that the slogan for sustainability was “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.” She wondered if resale shops could request a \$1.50 per customer fee for the reuse of items. Mr. Zuber replied that the State statute specifically referenced how the City could charge for disposal of refuse, garbage, and ashes only. There were no citations for reuse.

Councilman Harrison commented that the City was already charging for disposal of refuse, and now the proposal was to charge yet another fee for disposal of refuse. He did not wish to force someone to pay for a service they would never use. He stated he was a supporter of recycling, but not in favor of the fee for all. Councilwoman Henton agreed.

Mayor Lambird felt that a lesser amount of trash going to the landfill would be helpful in future negotiations with Republic Services. He felt that increases would already be seen in employee costs and the fact that the trash would be going to another landfill farther away. He wanted to be able to utilize the lesser amount of trash being collected as a bargaining chip to help offset some of the other fees that were expected to raise.

Councilman Harrison felt that having customers participate and pay more for curbside service plus having those from inside and outside of City limits that would want to pay for a drop off location should be enough to allow for Mr. Wilson’s business to thrive on its own without subsidizing through all residential customers.

From the audience, Dr. David Eckiss expressed his frustration in the discussion with a vocal, “Geesh!”

Mayor Lambird pointed out that City residents were required to use Republic Services for trash pick up. Councilman Harrison noted that was because the City did not have a choice. Regardless, the Mayor did not feel that the City was required to mandate trash service.

From the audience, Michael McKinney noted that many citizens paid taxes for services they may or may not use. Because of this fact, Councilman Harrison and Councilwoman Henton’s unrest with charging a recycling fee to all did not wash with him. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher agreed.

Additionally, Mr. McKinney told the Council that he owned a business and as a business owner, he understood the need to know that a certain amount of business would be received in order to start up. He also felt that the lack of recycling made Olney look poorly, and noted that a

peer group of his was flabbergasted that the City of Olney was squabbling over \$1.50 per month for residents to have a recycling program.

Mrs. Zimmerle felt that it was not the fee itself, but the forcing of a fee to subsidize someone's business.

Councilwoman Henton felt that the City of Olney should not be looked down upon in regards to recycling. She understood that several residents were already struggling financially with many not able to afford food, medicine, or vehicles. She felt it was the Council's responsibility to look out for those residents, as well.

Mayor Lambird told those present that additional discussion would take place at the March 11, 2019, Council meeting.

8-B "Ordinance: Authorize Execution of Lease Between the City of Olney and the Richland County Farm & Fair Association, Inc." The Council was provided with a proposed ordinance that would authorize a new lease between the City of Olney and the Richland County Farm & Fair Association, Inc. (Fair Board). The Council was also provided with a copy of the proposed lease.

Mr. Barker reminded the Council that the State now required that any leased fairground areas must have a lease with a term minimum of 20 years. If the City entered into a lease more than 20 years, notice would need to be published for each year and become very costly.

Councilwoman Henton moved to approve Ordinance 2019-08, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-C "Report: Farm & Fair Association Activities for the Previous 12 Months & Plans for the Next 12 Months" Fair Board President Doug Westall was present to provide a report on Fair Board activities for the past 12 months, and the Board's plans for the next 12 months.

Mr. Westall told the Council that in the past 12 months, the Board had held their annual Spring Crash and also the Richland County Fair. For 2019, the Board would hold the Spring Crash on May 11<sup>th</sup>, and the Richland County Fair would run from July 6<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the Board was hoping to host a few flea markets.

In the past, Councilwoman Henton recalled that the Fair Board had considered holding events such as concerts. She asked if the Board had any such plans. Mr. Westall replied that due to several factors, large concerts were too risky and not well supported.

Mayor Lambird wondered what kind of help the Tourism Fund could provide. Mr. Westall commented that for the types of concerts the Board was interested in, about \$10,000.00 was required upfront with another approximate \$13,000.00 after the concert.

Mr. Zuber exited the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Councilwoman Henton then wondered if the Board had interest in other events such as rodeos. Mr. Westall replied that for 2019, it was too late to schedule such events. For 2020, the Board was working on bringing in events related to toy tractors, lawn tractors, plowing demonstrations, and steam engines.

8-D “Ordinance: Authorize Sale of Personal Property from the Police Department – 2004 Buick Century” The Council was provided with a proposed ordinance that would authorize the sale of the 2004 Buick Century (School Car) from the Police Department.

Mr. Barker reminded the Council that at the last meeting, the Council took action to approve the purchase of a new School Car. Now that the vehicle was in the City’s possession and ready to go, it was recommended to sell the 2004 Buick Century on GovDeals.com.

Councilwoman Henton moved to approve Ordinance 2019-09, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-E “Ordinance: Revoke Ordinance 2018-11 & Establish an Administrative Procedure for Assessing and Determining Claims Under PSEBA” The Council was provided with a proposed ordinance that would revoke Ordinance 2018-11 and establish an administrative procedure for assessing and determining claims under PSEBA.

Because Mr. Zuber had exited the room, this item was tabled until his return after item 8-G.

8-F “Presentation: MFT Compliance Review Report Performed by IDOT for January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2017” The Council was provided with the compliance review from IDOT covering the receipt and disbursement of MFT funds by the City of Olney from January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2017.

City Treasurer Guinn told the Council that IDOT found the MFT records to be in order and in compliance. IDOT requested that the finding should be presented to the Council.

8-G “Application for Permit to Sell Merchandise in City Park – Auction” The Council was provided with an Application for Permit to Sell Merchandise in the City Park as submitted by Rothrock Auction, LLC.

Mrs. Rothrock was present to speak on the matter. Mrs. Rothrock indicated that Rothrock Auction, LLC., had been hired to hold an auction for personal property of Wendall and Alice Messenger. Unless an alternate location was found, the auction would need to be held on W. Mack Avenue, and may cause parking and travel issues. The auction would be on March 30, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Henton wondered if the Fair Board would have any issue with the auction since the pole barns were Fair Board property. Fair Board member Bill Clow stated that the pole barn with the concrete floor was available for use and rental by the City without needing Fair Board permission.

Councilwoman Henton asked Mrs. Rothrock if trash from the auction would be cleaned before they left. Mrs. Rothrock confirmed.

Councilwoman Henton moved to approve Rothrock Auction, LLC.'s Application for Permit to Sell Merchandise in City Park for the purpose of an auction on March 30, 2019, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

Mr. Zuber re-entered the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Clow suggested that the Park Department be advised that the picnic tables under the pole barn could be removed before the auction.

The Council then revisited item 8-E.

Mr. Zuber had been advised that IML had amended their model ordinance regarding policy and procedure for PSEBA, effective February 11, 2019. As a result, it was recommended that the City revoke its prior PSEBA ordinance and pass the new ordinance as recommended by IML.

Councilwoman Henton moved to approve Ordinance 2019-10, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. 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 the CDAP grant for repairs to the Elliott Street Bridge should be formally approved before long.

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 told the Council that the Chamber would start hosting Coffee With the Chamber as of March 5<sup>th</sup>. This would be a networking opportunity for those who are unable to attend Chamber Luncheons.

In addition, the Councilwoman told that March 12<sup>th</sup> would be the Chamber's Ladies Night event. Tickets were selling quickly, so it would recommended that those interested contact the Chamber Office as soon as possible.

Lastly, Councilwoman Fehrenbacher told that the Chamber's Annual Meeting/Luncheon would be held on April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Olde Tyme Steakhaus.

9-D "Parks & Recreation Board Report" The Parks & Recreation Board had cancelled their February meeting, so there was no report.

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

AGENDA #10 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS” For clarification, Councilwoman Fehrenbacher asked what the Council’s hopes were for the next meeting regarding recycling. Mayor Lambird replied that before the next Council meeting, another meeting would be held with Mr. Wilson to hash out the remaining issues.

Again from the audience, Dr. Eckiss told the Council that he believed Mr. Wilson would lose all interest in helping the City if such discussions continued. Mayor Lambird agreed, and said that the next meeting would be the decision-maker.

Dr. Eckiss said if the City declined Mr. Wilson’s offer that they would just have to hope for good luck on any other chances. He felt that Mr. Wilson was the only one bending over backwards on getting the program put in place. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher replied that Mr. Wilson had homework to do before any action could be taken. Regardless, Dr. Eckiss felt that Mr. Wilson’s proposals could be a wasted opportunity.

AGENDA #11 “CLOSED SESSION: SALE OR LEASE PRICE OF REAL PROPERTY; ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY; APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, AND PERFORMANCE OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES; AND COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS” Councilman Harrison moved to adjourn to closed session to discuss sale or lease price of real property; acquisition of real property; and appointment, employment, compensation, and performance of specific employees, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

Councilman Harrison, Councilwomen Fehrenbacher, Henton, Mayor Lambird, City Treasurer Guinn, City Attorney Zuber, and City Clerk Sterchi left the Council Chambers at 7:36 p.m.

AGENDA #12 “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 Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Open session resumed at 7:49 p.m.

Mr. Barker told the Council that a \$37,000.00 rebuild of the Lamplight lift station had been planned for the 2019/2020 budget. One pump in the lift station was already down. The Sewer Department Supervisor was wanting to get the company scheduled to come in for the rebuild. Mr. Barker needed to know if the Council was in consensus to keep that project for the 2019/2020 budget in order to have the company scheduled. The Council was in consensus.

Mr. Barker then told the Council that the Police Chief was requesting two new computers for squad cars. The computer purchases should be just under \$10,000.00. The Chief was with the belief that the County would fund the purchase, but the request was denied. Mr. Barker indicated that enough funds were available in the 2018/2019 Contingencies line item that could be used for the computers.

Councilwoman Henton asked if bids would be sought. Because in-squad computers were a niche item, Mr. Barker was not sure if there would be many options for vendors.

The Council was in consensus that a resolution for a budget amendment to purchase the computers could be presented at the next Council meeting.

Budget discussions for FY 2019/2020 would begin at the next Council meeting. Mr. Barker indicated he was happy to make appointments for the Council to come in and review the budget proposals.

Mrs. Guinn told the Council that she had requested sealed bids from four local banks for CD rates. TrustBank was the highest bidder. Mrs. Guinn would be moving \$2,000,000.00 from the Pooled Cash Account at Citizens National Bank to TrustBank. Four CDs would be purchased in order to ladder out to where a CD would be coming due every three months. The City should see an interest rate income of about \$50,000.00 per year due to the change.

AGENDA #13 “ADJOURN” With no further business to discuss, Councilman Harrison moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi  
City Clerk