

CITY OF OLNEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2016

AGENDA #1 "CALL TO ORDER" The February 8, 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. April Dailey led the group in prayer.

AGENDA #3 "ROLL CALL" The following Council members were present: Les Harrison, Belinda Henton, John McLaughlin, Bob Ferguson, and Ray Vaughn. Also present were City Manager Allen Barker, City Attorney Bart Zuber, City Clerk Kelsie Sterchi, City Engineer Roger Charleston and City Treasurer Chuck Sanders.

AGENDA #4 "PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA"

4-A "Approve Minutes of Council Meeting on January 25, 2016"

4-B "Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable on February 9, 2016" Pooled Cash \$87,473.36, Manual Pooled Cash \$100,785.56, MFT \$3,740.00, 175th Anniversary \$57.59, Christmas Light Display \$2,915.85, Petty Cash \$141.34

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 "PUBLIC HEARING: TAXICAB LICENSE REQUEST FROM CHARLES ROBERTSON OF OLNEY, ILLINOIS" Chapter 5.32 (Taxicabs) of the City of Olney Municipal Code requires a public hearing to review applications for Taxicab Licenses. City Attorney Zuber explained to the Council that during the hearing, the Council will need to decide if the public is or is not adequately served, they would need to evaluate the necessity that requires the service, need to verify that the proposed vehicle(s) comply with the Chapter, and to decide whether or not the request should be granted.

Taxicab License applicant Charles Robertson went before the Council to speak on his request. Mr. Robertson explained that he had experience as both a taxicab driver and semi-truck driver for numerous years, and never had an accident. Before moving forward and making

monetary investments into the business, he wished to know if the Council was in favor of the request.

Mr. Robertson added that currently no taxicab service was being offered in Olney. His service would be available all day, every day. He would be employing a few other drivers, as well. Mr. Robertson's taxicab service would serve Richland County, and make any necessary trips out of the county.

From the public, Brian O'Neill wished to speak on the request. Mr. O'Neill commented that he would be in favor of the request as he felt there had not been adequate transportation services in town since 1985. He noted that such a service could also take those who are unable to drive to other transportation locations such as bus stations and the Amtrak.

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

9-A "Ordinance: Amending Chapter 5.32 (Taxicabs) of the City of Olney Municipal Code" The Council was provided with Chapter 5.32 of the City of Olney Municipal Code. City Attorney Zuber told the Council that the chapter had not been updated in quite some time, and that the Council should consider a few revisions. The Council agreed that the Chapter needed to see quite a few changes.

Mayor Vaughn asked the Council if there was any opposition to Mr. Robertson's request for Taxicab License. No one from the Council had any objection. The Mayor then recommended re-visiting the license request at the next meeting to allow the City Attorney enough time to make amendments to the ordinance.

Councilman Ferguson noted his concern on the possibility of services such as Uber coming to Olney. To his knowledge, Uber was able to avoid many of the Taxicabs laws in other municipalities.

Mr. Robertson added that he observed an advertisement at a truck stop offering \$5.00 rides to anywhere in town. Mr. Zuber replied that the person would be in violation of Chapter 5.32.

9-B "Request: Taxicab License" The Council was provided with an Application for Taxi Cab License submitted by Charles Robertson. The Council would re-visit the request at the February 22, 2016, City Council meeting.

9-C "Tourism Grant Application: White Squirrel Cruisers Car Club 29th Annual Car Show" The Council was provided with a Tourism Grant Application requesting \$2,000.00 of grant funds, as submitted by the White Squirrel Cruisers Car Club. Before the meeting came to session, the City Clerk supplied the Council with a listing of Tourism Grant General Information.

Representing the White Squirrel Cruisers Car Club, Robin Haerr addressed the Council and distributed a flyer for their upcoming event. Mr. Haerr also showed the Council the artwork that is used for advertising purposes. The Tourism Grant funds that the Club had received in the past goes towards radio and t-shirt advertisement.

Mayor Vaughn asked if the Club was growing. Mr. Haerr replied that the Club was seeing a recent slow growth.

Councilwoman Henton wished to clarify that the Tourism Grant was a reimbursement-type of grant. Mr. Haerr indicated that he was aware, and did have enough money to front the advertisement.

The Councilwoman also requested that the IllinoisSouth Tourism Bureau logo be removed from the flyer and replaced with the City's logo. Mr. Haerr would be sure to do so.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve \$2,000.00 of Tourism Grant funds to the White Squirrel Cruisers Car Club following their August car show, seconded by Councilwoman Henton. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

9-D "Discussion: Watergate Water Purchase Agreement" The Council was provided with a written summary of a meeting with Walter Buss from August 7, 2015, a listing of water bill calculations at 125% of the inside City rates, a proposed water rate schedule, a copy of an e-mail to Mayor Vaughn from Mr. Buss, and copies of Watergate water purchase discussions from the minutes of Council meetings from July 13, 2015, September 14, 2015, and October 12, 2015. Mr. Buss was also present to speak on the topic if the Council had any questions.

Mayor Vaughn recalled that when last discussed, the Council wished to learn whether or not the request would affect other billings. Mr. Barker indicated that the request should not affect any of the other billings unless others wished to operate as a water distributor.

Mr. Barker told the Council that Mr. Buss had agreed with removing the graduated billing and go to a flat \$0.514 per 100 gallons, and then after May 1, 2016, a rate of \$0.539 per 100 gallons. There would also be only one service fee and one billing fee.

Mayor Vaughn asked what Mr. Barker would recommend. Mr. Barker replied that he would recommend that the City adopt the proposed changes. The Council was in consensus to adopt the changes at the next City Council meeting.

9-E "Resolution: Accept Quote for Doe Run Lift Station Renovation from Straeffler Pump & Supply, Inc., and Waive Formal Bidding Procedures" The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to accept the quote from Straeffler Pump & Supply Inc., for the Doe Run lift station renovations that would also waive formal bidding procedures, and a copy of the quote submitted by Straeffler Pump & Supply, Inc.

Mr. Barker explained that this lift station renovation was budgeted for in this fiscal year at an amount of \$24,000.00. Councilman McLaughlin asked if the presented quote was the only one that had been received. Mr. Barker confirmed that it was the only quote, and the City had used Straeffer Pump & Supply, Inc., in the past. City Engineer Charleston commented that the quote was a fair price.

Mayor Vaughn moved to approve 2016-R-10, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

9-F “Resolution: Accept Bid for W. Main Street Watermain Replacement Project” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to accept the bid from B&T Drainage, Inc., for the W. Main Street watermain replacement, and a copy of the bid tabulations from the bid opening on February 4, 2016. Two bids were received for the project. Kieffer Brothers submitted a bid for \$657,652.00, and B&T Drainage submitted a bid for \$559,500.

Councilman McLaughlin asked if the City had worked with B&T Drainage in the past. Mr. Charleston confirmed. The project was estimated at \$612,000.00. Mr. Charleston expected that the project could begin in mid to late March.

Councilman Ferguson moved to approve 2016-R-11, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

9-G “Tourism Purchase Request: White Squirrel Costume to be Purchased from the Tourism Promotion Line Item” Councilwoman Henton and City Clerk Sterchi had been researching pricing and design for a City-owned white squirrel costume. The original goal was to include the purchase as a line item in the 2016/2017 budget, but to be sure the costume is available in time for the 175th anniversary celebration in July, it was determined to be best to purchase the costume now due to production time.

Mrs. Sterchi requested that the Council approve an expenditure of \$5,000.00 from the Tourism Promotion Line item. Expenditures from this line item require Council approval.

Councilman McLaughlin asked if other people would be able to use the costume. Councilwoman Henton replied that she had reservations about others using the costume due to care and upkeep.

The Councilwoman added that the costume would come with a cooling vest and ventilation fan.

Mayor Vaughn moved to approve the expenditure of \$5,000.00 from the Tourism Promotion line item for the purchase of a white squirrel costume, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

9-H “Council Support: ArtPlace Grant Application” The Council was provided with a memo from City Clerk Sterchi that detailed the grant application request for support.

Mrs. Sterchi told the Council that a grant had become available through ArtPlace, and she hoped the City would be supportive of applying for the grant.

During discussion on 175th anniversary options, the Dodransbicentennial Commission had entertained the thought of a mobile, leased sculpture exhibit, but the price tag was too high. The exhibit would allow rental of 20 full-scale, life-size bronze sculptures to be placed throughout the downtown area at a cost of \$45,000.00.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve applying for a grant from ArtPlace for a sculpture exhibit, seconded by Mayor Vaughn. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

9-I “Raffle License & Price of Chances Waiver-Olney Firefighters Association” The Council was provided with a Raffle License application from the Olney Firefighters Association, a memo from Fire Chief Rusty Holmes, and a description of firearms proposed to be awarded. The Fire Chief and Volunteer Firefighter Michael Pipher were present to speak on the request.

Mr. Pipher explained that the Olney Firefighters Association would like to raffle off one gun per week for a year, and to sell tickets at \$100.00 each. Money raised would go towards items that the Association needs. The Association had the opportunity to raise \$20,000.00 from the raffle.

Mayor Vaughn asked what the process of obtaining the gun would be for the winner. Mr. Pipher replied that the winner could turn in the ticket, or the winner could give the ticket to someone else. From there, the ticket holder would go to Route 130 Pawn to go through the required paperwork and verifications before receiving the gun. The process would be just as if someone were going in to the shop to purchase the gun.

Mayor Vaughn was not aware if the Council had approved raffles for firearms in the past. The Council replied that raffles had been approved for the prize of one or more firearms.

Mayor Vaughn wanted to confirm that the Raffle License ordinance currently read that one raffle chance could not be sold for more than \$50.00. Councilman McLaughlin wondered if the Association could be granted permission for the \$100.00 raffle tickets, or if the ordinance should be amended. Mr. Zuber and Mrs. Sterchi exited the meeting at 7:51 p.m. to retrieve a copy of the City of Olney Municipal Code, and returned at 7:52 p.m.

Councilwoman Henton wondered if the Association would need longer than the allotted three month time frame to conduct the raffle. Mr. Pipher replied that they should be able to sell enough tickets in that time frame.

Mr. Zuber stated that an amendment to the ordinance would be needed for the Association to sell the tickets at \$100.00 each.

Mayor Vaughn asked the Council if they had any concerns on the request. The Mayor was the only Council member with issue. He stated that he was concerned with the volume of firearms being distributed, and that he had concern that many similar firearm raffle requests would soon be received. The amendment would be on the agenda for the next City Council meeting.

9-J “Discussion: Gun Club Providing Lighting for the New Building at the Gun Range”
Mr. Barker explained that the Gun Club had proposed to wire and provide lighting for the new police building at the firing range. The Gun Club would provide all materials and labor for the project. On behalf of the Gun Club, Lynn Ernst was present to help answer any questions.

The topic has been discussed at a prior Council meeting, and at that time, the Council wished to learn what the minimum charge would be for a meter to be installed for the new electric service. Mr. Barker told the Council that \$25.00 would be the minimum charge per month for the electric meter.

Councilwoman Henton did not think that the upgrades should require a new meter. Councilman Ferguson was not sure if electric should be ran through the meter that the Saddle Club used.

Mayor Vaughn offered that the City could charge the Saddle Club \$100.00 in rent and deduct electricity off of that amount. Councilman Ferguson did not have an issue with the suggestion.

The Mayor explained that his perception was that the Gun Club was trying to “play nice” as they often get told that they are trespassing the use of electricity. Mayor Vaughn also felt that no new meter should be placed. He felt that the Saddle Club should be able to get along with all users of the area so another solution did not need to be proposed.

Mr. Ernst then told the Council that the Gun Club would propose running electricity to the new building, wiring it, and building a new meter loop, if needed. All work would be done according to code. From there, they could trench from the pole and run service to the new building. An LED light would be placed inside of the building and tap over to connect to electricity and receptacles at the existing firing line. If the Police and Sheriff Departments wished, the Gun Club could place two poles at the firing line and place 200 watt LED lights to illuminate the target area.

Mr. Ernst went on to say that all of the work and material would be provided at no cost to the City. The Gun Club wished to provide the improvements to show appreciation for use of the firing range.

Mayor Vaughn asked how often the Gun Club used the firing range. Mr. Ernst replied that the Club shoots two to three times per month.

The Mayor then asked how much electricity the Gun Club would be using. Mr. Ernst indicated that the Gun Club would not be using any electricity, but the improvements would benefit the Police and Sheriff Departments during night shoots. Mr. Ernst estimated that any electric use would not be more than three to five dollars per month. Police Chief Paddock added that the improvements would be helpful to his department.

Councilman McLaughlin was also in favor of not adding another meter as long as it would not disrupt any contract with the Saddle Club. Councilwoman Henton noted that the Saddle Club lease was only for the arena and not any of the buildings. The Councilwoman added that the Saddle Club should be informed of any approved upgrades coming into the area.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve the Gun Club's proposed improvements, to not add another meter, and to notify the Saddle Club of the improvements, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

AGENDA #10 "REPORTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS"

10-A "Status Report-City Manager" The Council was provided with a status report from the City Manager.

Mr. Barker told the Council that the W. Elm Street waterline grant that was applied for did not get approved. The grant was for \$400,000.00. Mr. Barker planned to meet with Sarah Mann to re-apply for the grant this year.

Mayor Vaughn asked if the City had a rating of major watermain and which will be needing repair. Mr. Charleston replied that the City kept track of such need based on amount of water breaks, boil orders and size. Mr. Charleston also recommending applying again for the grant before looking into a low interest loan.

Mr. Barker then reported that the bid opening with Good Energy for electric aggregation would take place in Charleston, Illinois, on February 24, 2016.

Safety Committee meetings had been reinstated as of this week. Mr. Barker felt that the first meeting went well. He anticipated one meeting per month for the rest of the year, and then to meet quarterly next year.

City Treasurer Sanders noted that Income Tax was \$85,000.00 ahead of last year. Sales Tax was \$10,000.00 less than the prior year. Use Tax was helping to offset the decline of Sales Tax. Mr. Sanders did not yet have any information on the recent influx of Telecommunications Tax.

Councilman McLaughlin asked for an update on the Whittle Avenue reconstruction. Mr. Charleston replied that he had yet to receive word from the State on the information that was resubmitted. The earliest bid opening would be in September of 2016. He did not anticipate that the project would be completed until late in 2017.

Mayor Vaughn noted that he had heard Main Street would need to be resurfaced within the next eight years. Mr. Charleston agreed. The Mayor was concerned with financing the project. He noted that STU funds and MFT funds would not be available for the project. He was curious what other monies could be available. Mr. Charleston felt that some funding could be found with EDP, but there were not too many options. He recalled that last time Main Street was resurfaced, a bond was issued. Mayor Vaughn requested that Mr. Charleston provide a rough estimate of what the project would cost.

City Attorney Zuber reported demolition proceedings were continuing to move along with 403 W. Elm Street. He was continuing to work on projects with 712 W. Elm Street and 1408 E. Main Street.

AGENDA #11 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS”

11-A “Brian O’Neill” Brian O’Neill, 818 E. Main Street, spoke about how tax money is for public use and not for private use. He wished to remind the Council of that fact.

AGENDA #12 “CLOSED SESSION: SALE PRICE OF REAL PROPERTY; ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY; AND APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND PERFORMANCE OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES” Councilwoman Henton 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 Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

Councilmen Harrison, McLaughlin, Ferguson, Councilwoman Henton, Mayor Vaughn, City Manager Barker, City Treasurer Chuck Sanders, City Attorney Zuber, and City Clerk Sterchi left the Council Chambers at 8:25 p.m.

AGENDA #13 “RECONVENE OPEN SESSION” Upon return of those who were in closed session to the Council Chambers, Councilwoman moved to enter back into open session, seconded by Mayor Vaughn. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Open session resumed at 9:53 p.m.

13-A “Ordinance: Establishing Salary of Sewer Department Supervisor” The Council was provided with a proposed ordinance to establish a \$63,760.00 for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Supervisor. Jeff Lathrop would be assuming that position with Travis Stanley as the Chief Operator for that department.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve Ordinance 2016-01, seconded by Mayor Vaughn. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

Regarding the flooring presentation given at the Community Building earlier in the evening, the Council agreed that epoxy seemed to be the best solution. Mayor Vaughn added that he wished to have a drain installed around the edge of the Community Building to help alleviate the drainage problem. The flooring expenditure would be placed on the next agenda for action.

Mr. Barker told the Council that the Lathrop Street curb and gutter project had been listed in this year's budget. He asked if the Council was ready to go out for bids on the project. The Council was ready to move forward.

Mr. Barker then told the Council that the Berger/Jenner annexation agreement from 2001 needed to be finalized. Pipe for the sewer project had already been purchased, but a contractor would be needed to finish the work.

Mr. Barker had also spoken with the Fair Board. They were interested in improving areas at the Fairgrounds by putting a fence around the track near Ludlow Street, rewiring the electrical in the swine barn, and also running water to the swine barn. The improvements would be at the expense of the Fair Board.

The Council had no issue with the improvements, but Councilman McLaughlin and Councilman Harrison wished for the old ball field areas to be cleaned up a bit.

The Sewer Department had a line item in the current budget for a storage extension at the plant with a budgeted amount of \$70,000.00. Mr. Barker wondered if the Council would like to visit the Plant to evaluate the need. Interested members of the Council would stop by when available.

AGENDA #14 "ADJOURN" Mayor Vaughn moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk