

CITY OF OLNEY  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 22, 2018

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The January 22, 2018, 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. Gary Wachtel 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 Clerk Kelsie Sterchi, City Treasurer Chuck Sanders, Assistant City Treasurer Jane Guinn, City Attorney Bart Zuber, and City Engineer Charleston.

AGENDA #4 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

4-A “Approve Minutes of Council Meeting on January 8, 2018”

4-B “Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable January 23, 2018” Pooled Cash \$51,451.53, Manual Pooled Cash \$4,322.03, Christmas Light Display \$928.42

4-C “Ordinance: Amend Section 5.24 (Raffles) of the City of Olney Municipal Code”

**2018-03**

4-D “Raffle License: OCC Student Nurse Association”

4-E “Raffle License: Relay for Life of Richland County”

4-F “Raffle License: Olney Lions Club Foundation, Inc.”

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 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 “Request/Ordinance: Vacate the East/West Alley Between S. Wilson and S. Woodlawn Streets & W. Main and W. Elm Streets” The Council was provided with a request letter from Rebecca Myers to close and purchase the alley dissecting 217 S. Wilson Street, and a GIS map showing the alley’s location.

Some of the structure of the house was sitting inside of the alley, but the alley had never been vacated. Mrs. Myers was requesting to close and purchase the alley in order to resolve the issue.

No easements were required in the alley, so Mrs. Myers could purchase the land at \$0.25 per square foot, plus the cost of recording.

Councilwoman Henton moved to approve Ordinance 2018-04, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. The ordinance would be created.

8-B “Ordinance: Authorize Disposal of Items of Personal Property Owned by the City of Olney by Recycling (Street Department 1994 Chevrolet 1500)” The Council was provided with a proposed ordinance to recycle from the Street Department a 1994 Chevrolet 1500 at Scrap Daddy, Inc.

Mr. Barker told the Council that the truck had been taken out of service last year, and was in such a condition that it was not recommended to sell by auction.

Councilwoman Henton asked if the truck’s engine worked at all. Mr. Barker was unsure of the engine’s function, but indicated that the brakes were bad, and the truck was badly rusted. The City Mechanic had deemed the vehicle unsafe to drive.

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

8-C “Ordinance: Authorize the Disposal of Items of Personal Property Owned by the City of Olney by Donation from the Fire Department (Amkus Rescue Equipment)” The Council was provided with a memo from Fire Chief Hill, and a proposed ordinance to authorize the donation of some Amkus rescue equipment to the Noble/Wakefield Fire Protection District.

Mr. Barker told the Council that the listed items of Amkus rescue equipment were very old, and Chief Hill no longer needed the equipment. Additionally, there was no more storage room to keep the equipment. Chief Hill had been in touch with the Noble/Wakefield Fire Protection District, and they indicated a need for the equipment.

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

8-D “Discussion/Possible Action: Franchise for Residential Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services” The Council was provided with a memo from Mr. Barker regarding household garbage collection, a copy of Ordinance 2013-8, and a listing of area communities’ sanitary hauling rates.

Mr. Barker explained that the City’s franchise with Republic Services was set to terminate on February 28, 2018. He had been in talks with Republic Services since December of 2017 to negotiate a renewal of the agreement, or an amendment to the agreement. New quotes

had been provided that were less than desirable, but Mr. Barker felt they were within the current cost necessary to dispose of waste.

Republic Services was proposing a cost to the City for sanitary hauling services in the amount of \$11.25 per residential account. After the third year of the agreement, a three percent increase was a possibility. Additionally, Republic Services would provide up to eight haul off dumpsters for the City to use at its discretion each year, and would also take care of dumping those haul offs.

Councilwoman Henton wondered why a 20 year agreement was proposed. Mr. Barker replied that such an agreement was proposed in order to keep such sudden, high increases from taking place. The agreement would be set for renewal every five years for up to 20 years with it being the City's option at each five year mark of whether or not to continue.

Councilman McLaughlin was baffled at Republic Services' proposed 69% increase. Currently, residents were paying \$7.00 per month for trash pick up. While agreeing that the increase was significant, Mr. Barker reminded the Council that no other companies had been bidding on sanitary hauling services for quite some time.

Councilman McLaughlin asked if there would be any harm in putting sanitary hauling services out for bid. Mr. Barker felt that Republic Services could come back with a higher rate. The rate being presented at this meeting was more of a negotiated rate.

Councilwoman Henton was concerned that with such an increase, many people would discontinue their curbside recycling. She felt that she would be one of those people.

Councilwoman Henton also wondered if Atkins Sanitation had been contacted to see if they would be interested in providing the service. Atkins Sanitation was currently providing some commercial sanitary hauling services, and some sanitary hauling in the county. Mr. Barker indicated that he had not contacted that company. Councilwoman Henton and Councilman McLaughlin felt that Atkins Sanitation should be contacted. Councilman McLaughlin stated that he would be hard pressed to vote for such an increase through Republic Services without at least checking other options first. Councilwoman Henton wondered if Wilson Metals, the current provider of the curbside recycling, might be interested.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher asked for clarification on whether the other members of the Council were suggesting to go out for a formal bid. The Council replied that they did not need a formal bid, but did want to put out feelers to see if anyone else had interest in providing the service.

Councilwoman Henton asked Mr. Barker if Republic Services would have a problem with the City contacting others to see if there was any interest. Mr. Barker thought there may be an issue, but would do whatever the Council desired. Councilwoman Henton and Councilman Harrison felt it would be worth a couple of phone calls to see if there was any interest.

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 had nothing further to report.

From the audience, Dr. David Eckiss asked if the City was happy, overall, with Republic Services. While he understood the Council’s concern on the price, he felt that reliability was very important. He did not mind paying a higher price for disposal if it was something he did not need to worry about. “It’s kind of like flushing the toilet,” Dr. Eckiss explained, “you don’t appreciate it until it doesn’t work.”

Mayor Lambird felt that the Republic Services increase was not right. He noted that Newton was paying less.

9-B “RCDC Report” RCDC Executive Director Courtney Yockey stated the RCHS CEO students had an event coming up called A Tasteful Evening that would take place at The Holiday on February 3, 2018. Food vendors would be present from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. The event itself would go until about 10:30 p.m. with features such as live entertainment and an auction.

9-C “Chamber of Commerce Report” Councilman McLaughlin had nothing to report.

9-D “Parks & Recreation Board Report” City Clerk Sterchi told the Council that the Parks & Recreation Board would have a recommendation for the Council at the next meeting. The Board had also started planning for the 2018 Adopt-a-Bed Program.

9-E “Tourism Board Report” Councilwoman Henton indicated that she would be going to the quarterly Tourism Board meeting on January 24, 2018.

City Treasurer Sanders told the Council that the Assistant City Treasurer wanted to give a report on Joint Dispatch. Mrs. Guinn told the Council that last year, the City paid \$19,624.00 per month for Joint Dispatch. In December of 2017, the charges were trued up, and the City paid \$12,768.00 during that month. Mrs. Guinn continued that this year, the City would be paying \$20,895.00 per month, resulting in a 6.5% increase each month.

Councilman McLaughlin asked how the new charges were comparable to the charges incurred when the Dispatch Center was in-house. Mr. Sanders believed it was fair to say that the City was still realizing some savings. Police Chief Paddock felt it was better to have the Dispatch Center in-house because the City lacked control with it being off-site. He did note that he felt that the Dispatch Center was doing a good job, and he doubted it would get too expensive off-site.

Mrs. Sterchi thanked those who participated in the City’s first blood drive that was held at the VFW on January 11, 2018. A total of 51 eligible donors were present, and 50 pints of blood had been received.

Mrs. Sterchi then told the Council that she had received a Special Event Application from RCRC for their annual Cold Hearted 5k. The application requested closure of a few portions of streets, including a portion on Whittle Avenue. Mrs. Sterchi asked the Council if they would be

in consensus to allow the closure again on Whittle Avenue, as in years past. The Council had no problem with the request.

Mayor Lambird wanted to take a moment to extend his condolences to the City of Flora and the family of Mayor Tackitt. Mayor Tackitt had passed away earlier in the morning. Mayor Lambird asked that everyone keep the Tackitt family in their thoughts and prayers.

The Council and department heads would be having an upcoming work session on Monday, January 29, 2018, to start budget discussions. In some prior work sessions, the Council and Department Heads would have a non-binding vote on what projects they felt were important. Mr. Barker asked the Council if they wished to conduct such a vote at this year's work session. Mayor Lambird felt that the vote was a useful tool to assess what was felt to be of importance. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher felt that the open discussion would be sufficient. No extra forms or work would be necessary. The other members of the Council agreed.

Referring back to the previous discussion on sanitary hauling, Mr. Barker asked for clarification on the direction the Council wished for him to take. After some discussion, it was confirmed that all the Council wished for Mr. Barker to do at this time was to see if there was any other interest from another company in providing sanitary hauling services. No quotes were necessary at this time.

AGENDA #10 "PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS"

10-A "Brian O'Neill" Mr. O'Neill was not present.

AGENDA #11 "CLOSED SESSION: SALE OR LEASE PRICE OF REAL PROPERTY; ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY; AND APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, AND PERFORMANCE OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES" No Closed Session was necessary.

AGENDA #12 "RECONVENE OPEN SESSION" This item was removed from the agenda.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi  
City Clerk