

CITY OF OLNEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2019

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The January 28, 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. Steve Wingert led the group in prayer.

AGENDA #3 “ROLL CALL” The following Council members were present: Les Harrison, Belinda Henton, John McLaughlin, and Mark Lambird. Morgan Fehrenbacher 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 Meeting on January 14, 2019”

4-B “Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable January 29, 2019” Pooled Cash \$67,756.22, Manual Pooled Cash \$16,135.81, Utility Refunds \$846.15, Housing Rehab Grant \$29,400.00, Christmas Light Display \$512.20

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

4-D “Raffle License: Olney Music Boosters”

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 “Discussion: Suspension of Curbside Recycling Program” Because curbside recycling had been suspended by Wilson Metals, other alternatives had been sought with only one feasible option currently available. Mayor Lambird indicated that he had met with Kenny Wilson, and an option was available for Mr. Wilson to place a recycling drop off center on the outskirts of town. Mr. Wilson requested assistance in funding because the state of recycling was not allowing for money to be made.

Councilman McLaughlin asked for Mr. Wilson's proposal. Mayor Lambird replied that the proposal was that each active water customer would be charged \$1.50 per month to help pay for the program. If commodity prices improved in the future, there would be the understanding that the monthly fee would be revisited.

Councilman McLaughlin then asked if residents outside of City limits could use the center. Mayor Lambird replied that most likely, County residents could be included. It was proposed that paying citizens would receive a card to be presented at the drop off center that would allow access. Mayor Lambird thought County residents may have the option to pay about \$20.00 per year.

Councilwoman Henton wondered who would purchase and provide the cards. Mayor Lambird believed that Mr. Wilson would purchase the cards.

Councilman McLaughlin asked how cards would be verified. Mayor Lambird told that an employee would be manning the drop off about five days per week. The center would be able to accept all items that were taken in curbside recycling, but would also accept motor oil, cooking oil, batteries, small appliances, and small electronics. In the future, Mr. Wilson may be able to purchase a glass grinder in order to accept glass for recycling.

Councilman McLaughlin estimated that approximately \$35,000.00 was being made from curbside recycling. With the proposed \$1.50 per month charge, and any County participants, he anticipated that \$58,000 could be made. Mayor Lambird pointed out that the majority of curbside recycling income went towards paying the employee. With the drop off center, there would be employee costs plus real estate costs.

Councilwoman Henton wondered if curbside recycling could be kept if curbside recyclers were charged a higher fee. Mayor Lambird felt that may be an option. The Councilwoman stated that most of the people she had spoken with would prefer curbside. Mayor Lambird understood, but believed it was too cost prohibitive due to the price of commodities. Councilwoman Henton requested that Mr. Wilson be asked about this option.

Councilwoman Henton then wondered if it would be a better option for the City to have a part-time employee that would provide the curbside service, and then have the items hauled to Wilson Metals in Noble. Mayor Lambird indicated that Mr. Wilson would need to have all recyclables be very well sorted. At the drop off location, the attendant would assist citizens with the sorting process.

Councilwoman Henton continued that she had concerns with charging every water customer when many did not drive, could not physically take the recyclables, or may not want to recycle at all. Mayor Lambird understood her concerns, but felt that if Olney wanted recycling, few options remained.

Councilman McLaughlin was concerned that without recycling, tonnage amounts would be increasing with trash hauling. He felt the increase would result in an even higher price for trash service in the future. He wondered if it would benefit citizens in the long run to be charged

\$1.50 for the recycling instead of a potential \$3.00 increase for trash collection in the future. Mayor Lambird's goal was to grow the recycling program in order to put less into landfills. Eventually, he felt Republic Services may not have much reason to increase rates if recycling was successful.

Councilman McLaughlin was curious where the drop off center would be located. He wondered if the location would be known before the Council took action. Mayor Lambird confirmed.

Councilman Harrison agreed with Councilwoman Henton's concerns about charging all water customers, Placing such costs on those not using the service would be something to consider.

There were several capital improvement projects that the City would be needing in the future. Such projects were extremely costly and may require water and sewer fee increases. While \$1.50 per month did not sound like much now, Councilman McLaughlin worried about the fact that compounding other costs could really add up.

Apartment complexes of seven units or more were allowed to have a dumpster provided by Republic Services, and the City did not bill them for trash and also did not allow for curbside recycling. Councilwoman Henton wondered if such complexes would be required to pay the monthly fee. Mayor Lambird thought it would be possible. The Councilwoman did not believe that it was fair to have some people pay the fee, and others not, simply because of where they were living.

From the audience, Brandy McKinney addressed the Council. Mrs. McKinney was very much in favor of any recycling option that could be provided, and felt it was important on several levels. She agreed that recycling would be more successful as a curbside service, so she wondered if in addition to the \$1.50 per month another option be available for curbside service at a higher price.

Mrs. McKinney continued that while she understood that not every customer would utilize recycling, she felt that it was worth the price for the greater good of the community. She stated that she had never used the airport she was being taxed for, and that her children attended private school instead of public as much as possible. Even so, she was fine with paying the tax because it was for the greater good.

Mrs. McKinney then offered that she would be happy to do anything possible to help get a recycling option passed for Olney.

More discussion would take place on the topic at the February 11, 2019, Council meeting.

8-B "Resolution: Authorize Employment Agreement with Michael Bridges as City Engineer" The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would authorize the

execution of an employment agreement with Michael Bridges as City Engineer. The Council was also provided with a copy of the proposed agreement.

Mr. Zuber pointed out that the final draft would change the term ending date from April 30, 2023, to April 30, 2021, in order to coincide with the terms of the City Treasurer and City Clerk. The agreement was in compliance with State law regarding engineering firms. Mr. Bridges had also reviewed and approved the proposed agreement.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve 2019-R-04, seconded by Councilwoman Henton. Councilmen Harrison, McLaughlin, Councilwoman Henton, and Mayor Lambird voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

8-C “Request: Tourism Promotion Line Item Expenditure for the Purchase of More Eat & Explore Illinois Cookbook & Visitors Guides to Offer for Sale” Mrs. Sterchi reminded the Council that Olney was featured in the Eat & Explore Illinois Cookbook and Visitors Guide, and when the book was printed, the City purchased some copies at a discounted rate to be sold at retail cost with proceeds going into the Tourism Fund. Only one book remained available for purchase. Mrs. Sterchi requested approval to purchase more of the books to be sold for the same purpose. The original order of books was about \$270.00. Anticipating some increases in shipping costs, Mrs. Sterchi proposed an authorization of up to \$300 for this purchase. The Tourism Promotion line item held a balance of \$2,252.00.

Councilwoman Henton moved to authorize an expenditure of up to \$300.00 from Tourism Promotion for Eat & Explore Illinois Cookbook and Visitors Guides, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-D “Resolution: Approve Quote for Water Distribution Pickup Truck, Waive Formal Bidding Procedures, and Amend the 2018/2019 Budget” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to approve a quote for a pickup truck for Water Distribution, waive formal bidding procedures, and amend the 2018/2019 budget.

Included in the current year’s budget was \$11,000.00 to purchase a used pickup for Water Distribution. A 2013 Ford F-150 pickup was found at Downtown Auto Sales in Harrisburg, Illinois. Mr. Barker reported that upon inspection of the truck, an offer of \$12,504.00 was made. Additionally, a tool box would be needed for the vehicle, and title and license fees would apply. Mr. Barker recommended amending the budget by \$2,000.00 for the purchase.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve 2019-R-05, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-E “Resolution: Accept Quote for Scum Baffle Replacement in the #2 Final Clarifier at the Sewer Plant, and Amend the 2018/2019 Budget” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to accept a quote for scum baffle replacement in the #2 final clarifier at the Sewer Plant, and Amend the 2018/2019 budget. The Council was also supplied with copies of the two quotes received.

Mr. Barker told the Council that two quotes were solicited to replace the scum baffle plates in the #2 final clarifier at the Sewer Plant. DPS Equipment Services, Inc., of Caledonia, Illinois, quoted \$32,900.00. Floyd's Welding Service, Inc., of Olney, Illinois, quoted \$18,037.50. It was recommended to accept the low quote from Floyd's Welding Service, Inc.

Mr. Barker continued that even though funds were not included in this year's budget for the project, funds were available to take \$20,000.00 from the Final #3 Rebuild & Paint line item. That project was completed and came in under budget.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve 2019-R-06, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-F "Resolution: Approve Payment from the TIF Fund to Reimburse Parkside Inn for Water and Sewer Line Work, and Amend the 2018/2019 Budget" The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to approve payment from the TIF Fund to reimburse Parkside Inn for water and sewer line work. The resolution would also amend the 2018/2019 budget. The Council was also provided with a TIF Expense Summary for Parkside Plaza.

Eric Seals, with Parkside Inn, LLC., had requested the reimbursement of construction engineering services in the amount of \$9,724.00 from the Route 130 TIF Fund. Mr. Barker reminded the Council that the engineering services were part of the cost of installing sewer and water mains/laterals from the front of Parkside Plaza Subdivision to where they were needed within the subdivision. The estimated cost for this project was \$134,023.00, of which \$134,016.42 had already been reimbursed.

An amount of \$251,000.00 was included in this year's TIF budget for water and sewer main extensions. This figure included both the City's and the developer's water and sewer projects. The budget amendment would take the additional \$9,724.00 from the Route 130 TIF Fund to be placed in the Sewer/Water Line-Rte 130/Hotel line item.

Councilman Harrison moved to approve 2019-R-07, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-G "Resolution: Authorize Application to the IEPA for a Drinking Water Loan & Wastewater Loan, and Authorize Charleston Engineering to Provide Necessary Work for the Loan Applications" The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would authorize application to the IEPA for a Drinking Water Loan and a Wastewater Loan. The resolution would also authorize Charleston Engineering to provide necessary work for the loan applications.

Mr. Barker reminded the Council that at the Special City Council meeting held on January 21st, a few costly upcoming projects were discussed. City Engineer Bridges had suggested that the City apply for IEPA loans to help with funding of these projects.

The IEPA Drinking Water Loan would help with the Jasper/Lincoln Water Line Replacement Project in Water Distribution. This project was estimated to cost \$480,000.00. The

IEPA Wastewater Loan would help with the Ultra Violet Treatment project at the Sewer Plant. This project was estimated to cost \$650,000.00.

Mr. Barker noted that CDBG grants were also being explored.

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

8-H “Resolution: Accept Public Improvements in Morgan Mary Fehrenbacher Subdivision by Fehrenbacher LLC.” The Council was provided with a resolution to accept public improvements in Morgan Mary Fehrenbacher Subdivision as requested by Fehrenbacher, LLC.

Mr. Barker told the Council that Tom Fehrenbacher had requested that the City formally accept the improvements in Morgan Mary Fehrenbacher Subdivision. All necessary approval signatures had been received on the Acceptance of Subdivision Improvements form. The subdivision itself was about 20 years old, but it had been discovered that there was no record of the City ever formally accepting the improvements.

Councilwoman Henton moved to approve 2019-R-09, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-I “Ordinance: Authorize Sale of Item of Personal Property – Whirlpool Electric Dryer from the Fire Department” The Council was provided with a proposed ordinance that would authorize the sale of a Whirlpool electric dryer on GovDeals.com from the Fire Department.

Councilwoman Henton moved to approve Ordinance 2019-04, 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 had nothing further to report.

9-B “RCDC Report” RCDC Executive Director Courtney Yockey told the Council the Industrial Luncheon went well with about 34 attendees.

9-C “Chamber of Commerce Report” Councilman McLaughlin stated that the Chamber’s Ladies Night event would be held on March 12th at The Holiday. Chocolate Tour tickets were also still available for that event coming up on February 8th.

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

9-E “Tourism Board Report” Councilwoman Henton had a meeting at the ILLINOISouth headquarters on January 23rd. The Bureau’s audit was reported with no findings. An election of officers was also held with the Councilwoman being voted as Secretary. Regional meetings would also be held in the near future with the southeastern region meeting some time in May.

ILLINOISouth had also launched a new website, and the 2019 Visitors Guides were out and available. The Visitors Guides were also being distributed with the St. Louis Magazine. So, about 30,000 guides went out with St. Louis magazine subscriptions, 60,000 distributed through the regular distribution service, and 40,000 would remain available for new inquiries and restock.

The Councilwoman continued that the State of Illinois had three new tourism grants available, but no administrators had yet been hired to monitor those grants.

On January 16th, ILLINOISouth representatives met at City Hall with the Richland County Tourism Board members, Mayor Lambird, and Mrs. Sterchi. They talked about upcoming projects, trends, and new offerings. While in town, the representatives created a video that was posted on Facebook. At the last check, the video had been seen over 3,000 times with 113 shares.

Councilwoman Henton would be attending the next Tourism Board meeting on April 24th. She also distributed a sheet of digital marketing statistics.

Before moving on, Councilman McLaughlin asked for a status update on the housing grant project. Mr. Barker replied that enough funds remained for one house to receive repairs. It was currently a challenge finding an owner-occupied home in the selected area that had the resident willing to accept and apply for the repair work.

AGENDA #10 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS”

10-A “Ron Workman” Mr. Workman was present to again complain about the condition of S. Baltimore Street. Mayor Lambird asked the City Manager if the tour of streets had yet been conducted with the Street Department Supervisor and City Engineer to determine streets for this year’s road maintenance program. Mr. Barker indicated the tour had not yet been complete. Mr. Bridges expected to begin the tour towards the end of February.

Mr. Workman also indicated he had received a letter from Code Enforcement about the condition of his roof. He stated that a church was willing to help, but that roof work could not begin for quite some time due to the weather.

Councilwoman Henton asked if Mr. Workman had spoken to Code Enforcement about the current situation. Mr. Workman replied that the church had contacted Code Enforcement and was granted an extension, but they just were not sure how long it would be until someone could work on the roof. Also, Mr. Workman was told that he could not keep a tarp on the roof and did not know what an alternative would be.

10-B “Richland County CEO” Reid Doll, Sutton Dunn, Macy Piercefield, Lauren Hill, and Wilson Conley were present representing Richland County CEO Class of 2019. They reminded the Council of the upcoming Live After 5 event that would be taking place on February 2nd. Only 15 tickets remained for the event. The event would feature cocktails, a dinner buffet,

comedian David Graham, and the Guy Ash Band. If anyone was interested in tickets, they were urged to contact CEO as soon as possible.

AGENDA #11 “CLOSED SESSION: SALE OR LEASE PRICE OF REAL PROPERTY; ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY; AND APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, AND PERFORMANCE OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES” 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 Henton. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

Councilmen Harrison, McLaughlin, Councilwoman Henton, Mayor Lambird, City Treasurer Guinn, City Attorney Zuber, and City Clerk Sterchi left the Council Chambers at 7:39 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 Councilman McLaughlin. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Open session resumed at 8:39 p.m.

Councilwoman Henton distributed a Tourism Grant application submitted by Steve Patterson/Olney Arts Council. The application was not received in time to put on this evening's agenda, but was planned to be placed on the February 11th agenda. Because the February 11th meeting was coming so close to their proposed event date of March 30th, the Councilwoman wanted to get a feel as to whether or not the Council would be in support of the request.

The Councilwoman explained that the request was from a not-for-profit organization, and felt it was appropriate for approval. A band called Chicago Farmer would be coming to perform a concert at The Eagles Lodge. The grant request was in the amount of \$900.00.

The Council seemed in favor of the Tourism Grant request. It would be placed on the February 11th agenda.

Mr. Barker wanted to give a brief update on the drainage problem at the intersection of S. Whittle Avenue and E. Monroe Street. It had been discovered that a large blockage was causing the current flooding problems. The issue should cost about \$20,000.00 to repair. Some extra funds were available from the Ludlow drainage project that could be used for this purpose.

Councilwoman Henton wondered if something different should be done in the Harris Mud & Chemical field to keep such an issue from happening again in the future. Mr. Barker replied that a grate would be placed.

Mr. Barker had also been speaking with Eagleson's about a School Car replacement. He wondered if the Council would be interested in moving forward with replacement.

Councilman McLaughlin wondered if a better option would be to pay employee's mileage for travel. Mr. Barker and Mr. Zuber discussed some scenarios about how a replacement School Car would be a better option.

The Council was in consensus to move forward with finding a replacement vehicle.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk