

CITY OF OLNEY  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 11, 2019

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The March 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. John Monroe 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.

3-A “Approval for Electronic Attendance by Councilwoman Henton Due to Family Medical Emergency” Councilwoman Henton was able to physically attend this evening’s meeting, so no action was needed on this item.

AGENDA #4 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

4-A “Approve Minutes of Council Meeting on February 25, 2019”

4-B “Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable March 12, 2019” Pooled Cash \$80,601.12, Manual Pooled Cash \$108,998.06, Housing Rehab Grant \$19,260.00, IMRF \$26,617.77, Unemployment Insurance \$70.64, Tourism \$2,500.00, Petty Cash \$270.82

4-C “Raffle License: Olney Little League”

4-D “Raffle License: First National Bank in Olney”

4-E “Resolution: Authorize an EDA Revolving Loan Balance Reduction for David Cordell & Angela Cordell” **2019-R-13**

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 “Bid Opening: Sale of 522 W. Butler Street” The City had acquired property at 522 W. Butler Street and had wished to sell the property. The sealed bid notice had been published

the required three times, but Mr. Barker indicated that no bids had been received. Bids were due by 4:00 p.m., today.

8-B “Possible Ordinance: Authorize Sale of Real Property at 522 W. Butler Street” Because no bids were received, no action was taken on this item. Mr. Barker indicated that the next step in trying to sell the property would be to hold a public auction. A resolution authorizing public auction would be presented at the next Council meeting.

8-C “Resolution: Support SWAN Grant Application” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would support a grant application for SWAN. Mr. Barker reminded the Council that each year, SWAN requested the Council’s support by endorsing its grant application for funds through the Emergency Solutions Grant Program from the Illinois Department of Human Services. Linda Bookwalter was present in case the Council had any questions.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve 2019-R-14, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-D “Request: Class S Liquor License for The Fireside at the Spring Crash Event” The Council was provided with a Class S Liquor License Application as submitted by The Fireside. From the audience, The Fireside owner, Tosha Hancock, told the Council that the Fair Board had requested that The Fireside offer alcohol sales during their Spring Crash event on May 11, 2019. She indicated that a separate area for sale and consumption would be set up, armbands would be required for legal consumers, and security would be provided by employees of The Fireside and some members of the Fair Board.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve a Class S liquor license for The Fireside during the Spring Crash event from 5:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. on May 11, 2019.

8-E “Discussion/Resolution: Authorize Agreement for Recycling Services Between the City of Olney and Kenny Wilson, Doing Business As Wilson Metals” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to authorize an agreement for recycling services with Kenny Wilson, d.b.a. Wilson Metals. The Council was also provided with a copy of the proposed agreement, and a copy of an opposition letter received from Doug Ochs.

Councilman McLaughlin was not present at the last Council meeting. He asked if any other options for recycling had been researched. Mr. Barker replied that he had been in touch with Republic Services, but they were not interested due to the current problems with selling any recyclable materials.

The Councilman recalled that at one time, the City had employed two part-time employees to conduct the curbside recycling program. He wondered if that could be reinstated if the recyclables had some place to go. Mr. Barker was not aware of any nearby purchasers. Mayor Lambird added that Secure Processors had been taking a lot of recyclables, but even they were feeling the effects of the global problem and were now no longer accepting plastics.

Councilman Harrison suggested that a drop off location be available near the Brush Dump. Because the Brush Dump was already attended by an employee, perhaps the employee could also monitor the recycling drop off. Mayor Lambird pointed out that even so, the City would have trouble storing and getting rid of the recyclables.

Councilwoman Henton had discovered that Crawford County would pick up recyclable material from Olney at no charge whatsoever. They suggested that 10, 55-gallon drums could be provided. Mayor Lambird did not believe that 10 drums would be enough. The Councilwoman felt that about 30 could actually be provided. Regardless, Mayor Lambird did not feel that would be enough to take care of all recycling participants.

Councilman Harrison was interested in having a recycling option, but did not want to make the taxpayers pay for something they absolutely would not want. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher pointed out that if the City were to be involved in any capacity, even with a location at the Brush Dump, taxpayer money would still be used. Councilwoman Henton countered that since an employee already manned the Brush Dump, there would be no additional incurred cost.

From the audience, Bridgett Jensen requested that the audience be told the conditions of the recycling agreement with Mr. Wilson. Mr. Zuber went through the agreement to highlight the main points and items to be accepted. Contrary to the prior Council meeting, Mr. Wilson indicated that he would not be able to accept any form of oil. Besides that, the list that was provided was still accurate. The facility would be open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, excluding all recognized holidays. Mr. Zuber continued that the facility should be clean, easily accessible, and be located within one mile of City limits. Mr. Wilson would also be required to dispose of all materials according to applicable laws. Fees charged per each residential utility bill would be \$0.99 per month instead of the originally proposed \$1.50 per month. Facilities that had multiple units, but only received one bill would only be charged the \$0.99 once per month and not per unit. Participants that do not reside within City limits could use the facility at a price of \$20.00 per year. The agreement would be valid for two years.

From the audience, Larry Pitts expressed his continued concern that the collected recyclables would not even be recycled for many years because the items had no place to go. He also felt that participation would fall lower than even that of the prior curbside service. He was also against a mandatory fee.

Also from the audience, Joel Carey asked for clarification on the fact that the fee had been reduced and only oil had been removed from the list of items accepted. Mr. Zuber confirmed. If Mr. Wilson removed any more items, he would be in breach of contract.

Audience member Harvey Biehl wondered why residents would need to pay Mr. Wilson if Mr. Wilson would be the one receiving the return. Mayor Lambird replied that was because currently, the recyclables were worth next to nothing, and Mr. Wilson would not be able to offer the service without an income.

Mr. Biehl then expressed concern about the environmental hazards of having the items stored for years. Mayor Lambird indicated that the items would need to be stored and disposed of as provided for by law.

For clarification, Mr. Biehl asked whether or not everyone would be required to pay for the recycling. Mayor Lambird said yes, but Councilwoman Henton differed. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher clarified that, for example, some apartment complexes would be sent one bill so they would only be charged the \$0.99 one time and not for each unit of the complex. So, not everyone would pay, but everyone receiving a water bill would.

From the audience, Lori Zimmerle thanked Councilman Harrison and Councilwoman Henton for speaking out for those who did not want to pay the charge. Negative feedback that Mrs. Zimmerle had been receiving had been coming from those in town who were suffering and really did not have the spare money. She did not feel it was fair to charge everyone if not everyone would use the facility.

On the contrary, Carol Potter stated that the feedback she had received was overwhelmingly in favor of the proposal. She felt recycling was critically important for the youth. Mrs. Zimmerle pointed out that the recyclables would be stored, not recycled, for a very long time. Regardless, Mrs. Potter felt the current proposal would be sending a good message.

Mrs. Potter continued that perhaps donations could be sought or certain waivers could be applied for those residents that were struggling financially. She also offered that she would be willing to sit on a committee that could work on how to make recycling affordable for all. Several audience members indicated they would also.

If everyone wanted to participate in recycling, Councilwoman Henton wondered why the curbside program had such a low percentage of participation. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher felt that the price difference between the then \$3.50 per month versus the proposed \$0.99 per month would be a significant reason. Councilwoman Henton pointed out that there would also be a big difference in the level of service with the new proposal.

From the audience, Kate Patterson stated that she felt it was absolutely unacceptable to not have an option for recycling. She felt that Olney should be setting a standard for forward thinking and progressive ideas. Mrs. Patterson was aware that the topic of recycling had been discussed at Council meetings since the curbside program ended in December of 2018. She felt it had been discussed enough already. Audience member Bobbi Ginder agreed that it was time to do something. Councilwoman Henton still felt that other options were needed.

Another woman from the audience whose name is unknown felt that it sounded as if enough people would be willing to pay \$12.00 per year to make the recycling center viable. In that case, she stated that an opting out should be acceptable.

Mayor Lambird then stated that when curbside service started, a concerted effort was made from City Hall to have people opt out of the program. Mrs. Zimmerle and Councilwoman Henton disagreed.

From the audience, Jeffrey Rosenberg reminded everyone present that the term of the agreement was only for two years and only \$0.99 per month.

Councilman McLaughlin stated that he felt the proposed recycling fee would be a better option than having Republic drastically increase trash rates for the next contract due to higher volumes being taken. Mr. Pitts felt that Republic would raise rates anyway.

From the audience, Ruth Jones felt that those strongly for recycling should put their money where their mouth was and pay whatever it took for them to do so instead of forcing everyone to pay.

Mayor Lambird moved to approve 2019-R-15, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. Councilman McLaughlin, Mayor Lambird, and Councilwoman Fehrenbacher voted yes. Councilman Harrison and Councilwoman Henton voted no. The motion carried.

8-F “Resolution: Accept Quote for Two In-Car Computers for the Police Department & Amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2018/2019” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to accept a quote for two in-car computers for the Police Department and amend the 2018/2019 budget.

Mr. Barker reminded the Council that at the last meeting, the Council had come to a consensus to authorize the purchase of needed in-car computers for the Police Department. Funds were available in the Contingencies line item to accommodate the purchase. The quote received for the computers was in the amount of \$9,333.00.

Councilwoman Henton moved to approve 2019-R-16, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-G “Resolution: Acknowledge CDAP Grant Award for Repairs to the Elliott Street Bridge & Authorize Charleston Engineering to Provide Necessary Work for the Repair Project” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would acknowledge a CDAP grant award for repairs to the Elliott Street bridge and authorize Charleston Engineering to provide necessary work for the repair project.

In a letter to Mayor Lambird dated February 18, 2019, from DCEO, the City was notified of its grant award to use the returned CDAP funds for repairs to the Elliott Street bridge. Mr. Barker reported that the grant was in the amount of \$260,813.68. The estimated cost of the repair project is \$465,000. It was also necessary that authorization be given to Charleston Engineering to provide the necessary work to begin the repair project.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve 2019-R-17, 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 work was taking place on three projects that included

the ultra-violet treatment project for the Sewer Plant, the Whittle Avenue and Monroe Street drainage problem, and funding for the waterline replacement at Jasper and Lincoln Streets.

9-B “RCDC Report” RCDC Executive Director Courtney Yockey told that the Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission hired a new Executive Director that would be starting within the next week. He continued that the next business workshop would be held on April 11, 2019, and would be about how to handle business after disasters and/or emergencies. Lastly, Mr. Yockey told that the Best Western Plus was hoping to open in April of 2019.

9-C “Chamber of Commerce Report” Councilwoman Fehrenbacher told the Council that the Chamber’s Ladies Night event would take place the next evening. The event was sold out. March 19, 2019, would be the date for this month’s Chamber Luncheon, and the Chamber’s annual meeting would take place on April 16, 2019. Tickets were still available for the April 16th luncheon meeting.

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

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

AGENDA #10 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS” No one from the public wished to speak.

AGENDA #11 “2019/2020 BUDGET DISCUSSIONS”

11-A “Water Fund” Mrs. Guinn ran through a slideshow of the Water Fund’s proposed budgets for 2019/2020. For the next fiscal year, Mrs. Guinn anticipated total income to be \$2,230,497.00 compared to this year’s projected income of \$1,741,234.00. She noted that the main reason for the increase was the expected receipt of a \$505,000.00 loan for the Jasper and Lincoln Street water line replacement. An amount of \$505,000.00 was also reflected in expenditures for the same purpose, so those would offset each other.

For the Water Plant, Personnel Services was showing an expected increase of \$22,267.00 due to certifications that would increase salaries. Also, some employees were expected to make insurance changes to add children. Any other personnel increases would be provided for by the IBEW contract.

Contractual Services for the Water Plant would increase slightly due to increases in utilities. Capital Outlay had decreased a significant amount of \$14,894.00 for the next year.

In Water Distribution, Personnel Services was shown to increase by \$30,751.00 due to the need of a full-time employee. Contractual Services was shown to increase by \$36,977.00. Of that amount, \$12,000.00 came from the inclusion of engineering fees. None had been budgeted before even though such services were needed for special projects. Also, a new line item was included for Housing Agreement Rebate in the amount of \$10,500.00.

The Supplies line item would also be increased from \$51,118.00 to \$60,500.00 for the purchase of meters and meter parts.

Capital Outlay showed large increase from \$17,136.00 to \$1,018,920.00. Mrs. Guinn explained that of that amount, \$505,000.00 was listed as an expenditure for Jasper/Lincoln Replacement, but that would be offset by that same amount shown in expected loan income. An amount of \$25,000.00 was also budgeted for Water Distribution's portion of the GIS project, \$13,000.00 budgeted for the purchase of a used pick up truck, \$325,920.00 for the painting of the Industrial Park water tower, and \$150,000.00 for emergency water main replacements.

Debt Service was expected to be \$27,724.00 as a result of payments needed for the W. Main water main replacement loan.

Overall, the Water Fund budget looked unfavorable by (\$214,625.00). To break even, that same amount would be brought in from the funds set aside to paint the Industrial Park water tower. By doing so, the budget would balance.

11-B "Sewer Fund" Mrs. Guinn then ran through a slideshow of the Sewer Fund's proposed budget for 2019/2020. For the next fiscal year, Mrs. Guinn anticipated total income to be \$1,697,050.00 compared to this year's projected income of \$1,022,148.00. Of the expected income amount for 2019/2020, Mrs. Guinn explained that \$675,000.00 of that amount would be for an anticipated loan or grant for the ultra-violet treatment project.

For expenditures, Personnel Services would be increasing by \$33,811.00 due to certifications that would increase salaries. Any other personnel increase would be provided for by the IBEW contract.

Contractual Services would increase by \$19,292.00. The increase would include \$10,500.00 for the Housing Agreement Rebate, and a \$2,000.00 increase for Engineering.

Supplies showed a large increase of \$32,751.00 mainly due to zinc treatment and some electrical increases for the ultra-violet treatments.

In Capital Outlay, \$12,000.00 was included for the Sewer Department's portion of the GIS project, \$10,000.00 for the purchase of a used pick up truck, \$25,000.00 for the purchase of a used crane truck, and \$25,000.00 for emergency sewer line replacements. The Lamp Light LS Rehab was budgeted for \$37,000.00, \$675,000.00 budgeted for Ultra Violet Treatment, \$30,000.00 for Digester Lid (Painting), and \$50,000.00 for Digester Lid (Piping).

Overall, the proposed Sewer Fund budget would be unfavorable by (\$40,729.00). An amount of \$413,000.00 had been set aside for capital expenditures, so funds could be taken from that holding to have that budget break even.

11-C “Tourism Fund” Mrs. Guinn then ran through a slideshow of the Tourism Fund’s proposed budget for 2019/2020. Mrs. Guinn showed that income was expected to increase by \$13,725.00 for the next fiscal year. Part of that total would include an anticipated \$25,000.00 worth of Walldogs donations. The new hotel would also be opening and would bring an increase in Hotel/Motel Tax. Without knowing how the hotel would affect those tax receipts, she budgeted a conservative increase of only \$3,738.00.

Most of what was listed in Expenditures was very similar to the 2018/2019 fiscal year. Mrs. Guinn pointed out that there would be a reduction of \$5,225.00 in the Transfer to General Corp line item. This reduction was to help offset some of the website upgrades that would be made. The upgrades were not going to be targeted for Tourism purposes. An amount of \$25,000.00 was also included for Walldogs expense.

Currently, the Tourism Fund held about \$107,700.00. Of that amount is \$25,000.00 that has been earmarked for the Walldogs project, and \$11,000.00 was collected from Walldogs fundraising.

Fair Board President Doug Westall and Fair Board Member Bill Clow were in the audience. Mayor Lambird asked them what they could do with an extra \$3,000.00 contribution to the fireworks show. Mr. Westall replied that he could conduct a better show. Currently, the Fair Board spent a little over \$5,000.00 on fireworks.

AGENDA #12 “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 7:50 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi  
City Clerk