

CITY OF OLNEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 8, 2017

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The May 8, 2017, 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. Beau Brown 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 Attorney Bart Zuber, City Clerk Kelsie Sterchi, City Treasurer Chuck Sanders, Assistant City Treasurer Jane Guinn, and City Engineer Charleston.

AGENDA #4 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

4-A “Approve Minutes of Council Meeting on April 24, 2017”

4-B “Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable May 8, 2017” Pooled Cash \$400,860.45, Manual Pooled Cash \$98,736.34, Tourism \$1,300.00, Petty Cash \$205.31

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 Henton. 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 “PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, ETC.”

8-A “Presentation: Information Regarding the Potential Addition of a K-9 Unit for the Police Department” The Council was provided with a listing of “2017 Canine Unit Estimates,” as prepared by Officer Jonathan Pflaum. Officer Pflaum was also present to give a Powerpoint presentation regarding the potential addition of a K-9 Unit for the Police Department.

Officer Pflaum told the Council that he had approached Chief Paddock about six months ago asking if it would be possible for the department to get a K-9 unit. The Richland County Sheriff’s Department and several other communities have K-9 units.

K-9 units could assist in a variety of police duties. They could aid in search and rescue, public relations/community involvement, arrests, and officer safety.

Because a dog's sense of smell is seven times greater than that of a human, the assistance in search and rescue would often be life saving. Officer Pflaum noted that the longer someone is missing, the more their safety becomes of concern. The sense of smell is also beneficial in locating drugs and people, both of which could also assist in search warrants and/or establishing probable cause.

K-9 units are also good to promote community interaction. K-9s are often used for presentations at schools, nursing homes, daycares, festivals, and at group meetings.

Officer Pflaum was aware that cost of a K-9 unit would be of concern to the Council. He detailed ways that costs could be recuperated. For instance, money seized during K-9 investigations could go back into the K-9 fund. Additionally, fundraising and grants could be key. Officer Pflaum gave an example where \$24,000.00 was raised towards a community K-9 unit from fundraising alone in a four month time frame. Another community raised \$46,000.00 in six months with fundraising and the award of a grant.

The total estimated cost for a K-9 unit would be \$19,129.00. Necessary expenditures would be: vehicle kennel insert, hot pop door popper, canine, training, annual food and nourishment, annual veterinarian care, bite sleeve, training harness, canine specialty brush, 30 foot leather lead, patrol lead, 15 foot tracking lead, leather collar, choke collar, pinch collar, two leashes, and a water bowl for the squad car. Office Pflaum noted that sometimes, veterinarians will donate checkups and vaccines, or provide those services at cost. Additionally, area businesses will often sponsor dog food for a year at a time.

Officer Pflaum then told of the need for a concrete pad with an outdoor area and space for the handler to take the canine home. Officer Pflaum currently has such needs available on his property.

Two different kinds of canines would be available for purchase. A single service canine would be used only for narcotics detection and training. The dog would be \$9,000.00. Office Pflaum said that the department would actually want a full service dog that would be used for narcotics detection, tracking, and apprehension. This dog would be \$15,000.00.

A dedicated squad vehicle would also be required. While a squad car could work in a pinch, an SUV would be much more convenient. A 2016 Ford Explorer SUV would total about \$33,000.00 to \$34,000.00, after equipment install.

Officer Pflaum continued that canine training and lodging for the handler would be needed for six weeks at a cost of about \$1,554.00.

Officer Pflaum asked if the Council had any questions for him at this time. The Council had no questions, and thanked Officer Pflaum for his presentation.

8-B "Request: 'Book Bus' Summer Reading Program at Musgrove Park on Tuesday Evenings in May and June" Mayor Lambird told the Council that permission was again being sought to have the "Big Blue Book Bus" in Musgrove Park on Tuesday evenings from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in May and June. This would be the third year for the book bus program.

Mayor Lambird moved to allow the "Big Blue Book Bus" at Musgrove Park on Tuesday evenings from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in May and June, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-C “Appointment: Mayor Pro-Tem” City Manager Barker told the Council that for many years, Bob Ferguson had served as Mayor Pro-Tem for the City Council. Since Mr. Ferguson is no longer on the City Council, a new Mayor Pro-Tem would need to be appointed to oversee the City Council meetings when Mayor Lambird is not in attendance.

Councilman Harrison moved to appoint Councilman McLaughlin as Mayor Pro-Tem, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-D “Resolution: Appoint City Treasurer” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to re-appoint Charles (Chuck) Sanders as the City Treasurer. By statute, the term of the City Treasurer runs concurrently with the term of the Mayor, therefore it was necessary that someone be appointed to the position of City Treasurer.

Mayor Lambird asked Mr. Sanders if he would like to be re-appointed as the City Treasurer. Mr. Sanders replied that he would.

Councilman Harrison moved to approve 2017-R-39, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-E “Resolution: Appoint City Clerk” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to re-appoint Kelsie Sterchi as the City Clerk. By statute, the term of the City Clerk runs concurrently with the term of the Mayor, therefore it was necessary that someone be appointed to the position of City Clerk.

Mayor Lambird asked Mrs. Sterchi if she would like to be re-appointed as the City Clerk. Mrs. Sterchi replied that she would.

Councilwoman Henton moved to approve 2017-R-40, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-F “Discussion/Possible Action: Rescind 2017 Free Swim Day Set for the Date of the ERFAE Duck Race, and Redesignate That Free Swim Date” At the March 13, 2017, City Council meeting, the Council authorized the two Free Swim Days for 2017 to be on Independence Day and the date of the ERFAE Duck Race. Since that time, it had been learned that the ERFAE Duck Race would not be taking place this year. Pursuant to the agreement with the Carrie Winter Trust, the Council must provide two free swim days each year at the Musgrove Aquatic Center, so the Council would need to designate a new secondary date.

The Council discussed a variety of days that could be used as the second Free Swim Day.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to designate Labor Day as the second Free Swim Day at the Musgrove Aquatic Center for 2017, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-G “Ordinance: Authorize Sale of Items of Personal Property on GovDeals.com – John Deere Model F932 Riding Lawn Mower from Park Department” The Council was provided with a memo from Park Department Supervisor Frank Bradley, and a proposed ordinance that would authorize the sale of a John Deere Model F932 riding lawn mower from the Park Department by auction on GovDeals.com.

Mr. Barker told the Council that Mr. Bradley recommended a minimum bid of \$1,500.00 on the mower. Councilman McLaughlin asked if the mower could be used in any other department. Mr. Barker replied that it was not recommended for continued use by the City.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve Ordinance 2017-28, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-H “Recommendation of Letter of Council Support for Dog Park Grant Application” At the April 25, 2016, City Council meeting, the Council designated Miller’s Grove for the site of a future dog park. The Council also at that time voted to authorize a letter of support to go with an application for grant funds to be used towards a dog park.

Councilwoman Henton told the Council that PetSafe™ offers five, \$25,000.00 grants for brand new dog parks. Unfortunately, Olney was not a recipient of any of the PetSafe™ grants in 2016. The Councilwoman wanted to know if the Council would support re-applying for one of the grants.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher asked for more detail on where the proposed park would be located. Councilwoman Henton replied that after some research last year, it was discussed the area south of Miller’s Grove would be the most appropriate due to there already being grass in the area, trees, water access across East Street, a new sidewalk, close restrooms, parking, etc.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to authorize a letter of Council support to go along with the PetSafe™ grant application for a dog park, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-I “Ordinance: Amend Section 5.12.070 (Restriction on Number of Licenses Authorized) to the City of Olney Municipal Code for Discontinuation of a Class E Liquor License for Pizza Hut #2732” The Council was provided with a proposed ordinance that would reduce the number of Class E liquor licenses from one to zero, and a copy of an e-mail from NPC International requesting that the Olney Pizza Hut’s liquor license be discontinued.

City Manager Barker told the Council that a Class E liquor license authorized beer and wine sales for consumption on premise only at a restaurant. The reduction of Class E liquor licenses was at the request of NPC International, representing Pizza Hut #2732.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve Ordinance 2017-29, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-J “Resolution: Amend Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget in MFT for Safe Routes to School Project and Authorize Expenditure” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would amend the 2017-2018 budget and authorize an \$11,512.00 expenditure for the Safe Routes to School Project. The Council was also provided with a copy of the Resolution for Improvement by Municipality Under the Illinois Highway Code, provided by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

In Fiscal Year 2015-2016, the City was the recipient of a Safe Routes to School grant in the amount of \$250,000.00 for the construction of sidewalks extending from the Middle School to the Elementary School. IDOT awarded the bid to the lowest qualified bidder in the amount of \$261,512.38. Therefore, Mr. Barker explained, the City was responsible for the remaining \$11,512.38.

Councilman Harrison moved to approve 2017-R-41, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. Mayor Lambird, Councilwomen Fehrenbacher, Henton, and Councilmen Harrison and McLaughlin voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

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, and a status report from Fire Chief Mike Hill. Mr. Barker told that the past month had been a busy one for the Fire Department. Additionally, two pieces of vacant City property would soon be solicited for sale by sealed bids. The properties were located at 304 Lee Avenue and 539 S. Shields Street.

From the audience, Michael Winter of the Olney Daily Mail asked for more detail on why the properties were going to be sold. Mr. Barker replied that the properties had been quit claimed to the City, and the structures demolished. The City had no use for the properties, so they would be advertised for sale by sealed bids.

City Clerk Sterchi commented that HV’s Food and Spirits had invited the Council to stop by their location on May 10, 2017, between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. for a meal.

AGENDA #10 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS”

10-A “Brian O’Neill” Brian O’Neill began his commentary by greeting “Mayor Henton,” and not Mayor Lambird. Mr. O’Neill went on to say that certain people had been making threats and harassing him. He would soon be placing the acts of disorderly conduct on YouTube. Mr. O’Neill then told the Council that Olney needed more jobs, and that sidewalks would not bring jobs or feed families.

Mayor Lambird asked if City Treasurer Sanders had anything to share with the Council. Mr. Sanders replied that the 2017-2018 budget books had been distributed in the Council mailboxes during the week prior.

Mr. Winter recalled that at one time, the City had said they would eventually place a sidewalk to Miller’s Grove. He wondered if that ever happened. Mayor Lambird replied that the project took place and finished quite some time ago.

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

Councilman Harrison, Councilwomen Henton, Fehrenbacher, Mayor Lambird, City Treasurer Chuck Sanders, City Manager Barker, City Attorney Zuber, and City Clerk Sterchi left the Council Chambers at 7:34 p.m.

Councilman McLaughlin left the City Council meeting for the evening also at 7:34 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 Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Open session resumed at 7:44 p.m.

Mr. Barker unrolled an aerial shot of S. Kitchell Avenue and the surrounding areas. A portion of Kitchell Avenue, from Main Street to Chestnut Street was being concreted. The section of Kitchell Avenue from Chestnut Street to Elm Street was bid last year in the amount of \$47,432.00 for hot mix asphalt pavement.

In continuing with the project, Mr. Barker felt that the intersection of Kitchell Avenue and Chestnut Street needed to be improved. To improve the intersection with asphalt would be \$10,066.00. To improve the intersection with concrete would be \$15,890.89.

If the City chose to repave Chestnut Street from Camp Avenue to Whittle Avenue, repave Kitchell Avenue from Chestnut Street to Elm Street, and repaved the intersection of Kitchell Avenue and Chestnut Street, the prices would be reduced because more work would be done.

This meant that instead of \$47,432.00 for Kitchell Avenue from Chestnut to Elm Street, the cost would go down to \$41,508.40. Instead of \$10,066.00 for the asphalt pavement at the Kitchell Avenue and Chestnut Street intersection, the cost would go down to \$9,012.95. The repaving of Chestnut Street from Camp Avenue to Whittle Avenue would be \$43,941.75.

Mr. Winter asked if Chestnut Street was a designated snow route and/or if any traffic studies had been conducted on Chestnut Street to see if the repaving was warranted. Mr. Barker was unsure on the snow route, but indicated that it was very obvious that Chestnut Street needed to be repaired.

After supplying the Council with the information, Mr. Barker wanted to know if the Council would be in consensus for him to at least have the contractor place the work on their schedule. The Council agreed. A resolution to approve the pricing and amend the budget would be presented at the next City Council meeting.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher noted that Whittle Avenue was closed to traffic from Brentwood to the intersection of Route 130. The State of Illinois was also working on a project at the Route 130 and Route 50 intersection. She wondered if Mr. Barker knew how long the two projects would be overlapping. Mr. Barker was unsure and stated that because the Route 130 and Route 50 intersection work was a State project, the City had no jurisdiction and would not know how long the work was expected to take.

Mr. Winter asked if the City could put up a detour sign at the Route 130 and Route 50 intersection. Mr. Barker reiterated that the project was a State project, so the City could not add or remove signage, or have any control over that particular project.

Councilwoman Henton reminded the Council that last year they had discussed how to handle weed/mowing complaints on property inside City limits that was baled. The Council had not come to a formal resolution, and she wondered if some additional policies should be placed, such as special use permits.

Councilman Harrison offered that if a property was at least two or three acres in size, the area could be allowed for baling. If this were the case, Councilwoman Henton commented, then she would not be required to mow her yard because it was of such acreage. She wondered why it was acceptable for certain properties in residential areas to be grown over 12 inches, and not others.

Councilman Harrison noted if the area was growing a crop such as hay, then it should be exempt. Councilwoman Henton pointed out that planted crops were already excluded per the ordinance. Mayor Lambird felt that the U.S.D.A. would define hay as a crop. Even so, Councilwoman Henton and City Attorney Zuber wondered how hay would be defined.

The topic would be revisited at a later date.

AGENDA #13 “ADJOURN” Councilman Harrison moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk