

CITY OF OLNEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2017

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The November 13, 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. 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, City Attorney Bart Zuber, and City Engineer Charleston.

AGENDA #4 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

4-A “Approve Minutes of Council Meeting on October 23, 2017”

4-B “Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable November 14, 2017” Pooled Cash \$190,784.80, Manual Pooled Cash \$115,973.60, IRP \$21,225.00, IMRF \$27,491.75, Petty Cash \$425.18, Tourism \$1,280.05, Christmas Light Display \$2,767.56, Route 130 TIF \$1,779.50, Fire Pension \$2,600.00, Police Pension \$2,600.00

4-C “Raffle License: RMH Foundation”

4-D “Approve SOS Bucks for City Employees for Christmas”

4-E “Ordinance: Authorize Sale of Items of Personal Property Owned by the City of Olney by Recycling or Auction on GovDeals.com from the Police Department (60 Recovered and Unclaimed Bicycles)” **2017-54**

4-F “Raffle License: RCHS Wrestling”

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 “Discussion/Possible Resolution: Authorize Lease Between the City of Olney and the Olney Little League” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would

authorize the City to enter into a lease agreement with the Olney Little League, and a copy of the proposed lease agreement.

The City Attorney reminded the Council that at the October 23, 2017, City Council meeting, a second discussion was held about the terms of the lease between the City and the Olney Little League on the League's use of the nine ball diamonds in the baseball/softball facility inside of Musgrove Park. The main change made since that meeting was one that incorporated the idea of the City charging 10% of what the League received for use of the premises by third parties.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher asked if the Little League had a chance to review the updated draft of the lease agreement. Mayor Lambird confirmed that the League had reviewed and approved the change.

Recalling past discussions of possibly hiring a recreation director in the future, Councilwoman Henton wondered if the proposed lease would prevent the City from creating such a position to take over scheduling of the fields. Mr. Zuber replied that the lease could easily be terminated by either party notifying the other of their intentions by August 1 of a given year. From there, both parties would be able to renegotiate terms by October 31 of that same year. If neither party was able to agree on renegotiated terms, the lease would then be terminated on October 31 of the following year.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve 2017-R-65, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-B "Discussion/Resolution: Accept Proposal from Kemper CPA Group for Audit Services for Three Years" The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would accept a proposal from the Kemper CPA Group for three years of audit services. The Council was also provided with a copy of the proposal, a copy of a letter from the Illinois Comptroller's Office, and a copy of an article that appeared in the Olney Daily Mail on November 1, 2017.

Mr. Sanders told the Council that he had received two proposals from the Kemper CPA Group to provide audit and professional services for fiscal years ending April 30, 2018, 2019, and 2020.

Mr. Sanders also told that earlier in the year, the Comptroller's Office issued a letter requiring a change in the basis of accounting for financial reporting purposes from the modified cash basis of accounting to an accrual basis of accounting. The City is using, and has been using, a modified cash basis of accounting for many years. The Illinois Legislation was considering Senate Bill 2258 that would allow municipalities to prepare their annual financial audit through either an accrual basis or cash basis accounting practices. Therefore, Mr. Sanders requested two different proposals from Kemper, depending on the final decision made by the State officials.

Kemper's services for an accrual basis of accounting was more expensive than the modified cash basis. The accrual basis would cost \$23,475.00 in 2018, \$23,950.00 in 2019, and

\$24,660.00 in 2020. Services for a modified cash basis would cost \$19,975.00 for 2018, \$19,975.00 for 2019, and \$20,575.00 for 2020. Mr. Sanders noted that if the City was required to have a single audit, such a service was not part of the proposals presented at this evening's meeting.

Councilwoman Henton moved to approve 2017-R-66, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-C "Discussion/Authorization: Contribution of Additional \$70,000 Toward the City's IMRF Funding Obligation" Mr. Sanders reminded the Council that the prior year's IMRF Tax Levy amount of \$214,763.00 had included the minimum required City contribution of \$164,763.00 plus an additional contribution of \$50,000.00. The City had contributed an additional \$50,000.00 into the IMRF Fund over the past three years. This year, Mr. Sanders believed that the City could contribute an amount of \$70,000.00 instead.

It had also been recommended by the CFO of the IMRF that cities with unfunded benefit obligations make additional contributions when funds are available. It was also the CFO's recommendation to submit additional contributions in the month of December to receive the maximum credit from investment returns. Mr. Sanders added that the additional \$20,000.00 proposed was available due to lower payroll expenses than previously budgeted.

Mr. Sanders also believed that the Library would be making an additional contribution, but he was unsure on the amount.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to authorize a contribution of \$70,000.00 towards the City's IMRF funding obligation, seconded by Councilwoman Henton.

Mayor Lambird asked how much of the IMRF Fund was invested in equities. Mr. Sanders replied that to his recollection, approximately 75% to 80% was invested into equities.

Mayor Lambird wondered if there was a risk in paying the State an extra \$70,000.00 and then losing the money. Mr. Sanders believed that historically, the stock market would have an average of a 7% increase. The Mayor countered that he did not believe that the market was currently behaving historically.

Councilman McLaughlin and Mayor Lambird were curious how much of the underfunding would be improved by the additional contribution. Mr. Sanders replied that the IMRF Fund was approximately \$2,600,000.00 underfunded. The past years' contributions plus the proposed \$70,000.00 contribution, would come close to erasing 10% of the underfunding. Mr. Sanders then clarified that the proposed IMRF contribution from the IMRF account could only be used towards IMRF and nothing else.

Mayor Lambird told that his concern was with sending money from the citizens of Olney to the State, which had historically done a poor job of operating pensions. He did not feel that there was any guarantee that the IMRF monies would be safe. He felt that even though the City was doing what they were supposed to, that did not mean the City was completely safe.

Councilmen McLaughlin, Harrison, Councilwomen Fehrenbacher, and Henton voted yes. Mayor Lambird voted no. The motion carried.

8-D “Discussion/Resolution: Estimate of Amount for 2017 Tax Levy” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would suggest an estimated tax levy consisting of a 4.99% increase for the City of Olney, and a 4.99% increase for the Library.

Mr. Sanders told that the State required the Council to establish the estimated amount of the tax levy at least 20 days prior to the passage of the tax levy ordinance, which was scheduled to be heard at the December 11, 2017, Council meeting. Mr. Sanders had consulted with the Supervisor of Assessments, and the assessor estimated that the EAV would go up 5% for the City in the next year. Mr. Sanders recommended approving a tax levy that would be 4.99% greater than the prior year. That would also coincide with the calculated tax levy amount that is done in addition to multiplying the EAV by 5% and extending from there. The estimated overall tax rate would remain the same as last year, but tax dollars would increase.

The proposed tax levy amount would include the IMRF calculated amount plus a \$50,000.00 contribution. The Fire and Police Pension amounts were also included, above the third party actuary’s minimum recommendations. Mr. Sanders also noted that the actuary recommended that the City consider a cash infusion in the Fire and Police Pensions. That particular recommendation was not included in the tax levy. Mr. Sanders recommended that the City consider such an infusion when budgeting for the next year.

Councilman McLaughlin wondered if the Council would be locked in at the 4.99% levy if they took action on the proposed resolution at this evening’s meeting. Mr. Sanders replied that action would establish the maximum percent increase, but the actual levy could be lower. Mr. Sanders then offered that he could prepare other options of different percentages or dollar amounts, if the Council would be interested. Councilman McLaughlin replied that he would be interested in seeing other options.

Mr. Sanders then distributed a spreadsheet that detailed all levy amounts that supported the 4.99% figure in this evening’s proposed resolution.

Councilwoman Henton moved to approve 2017-R-67, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-E “Resolution: Authorize the Execution of an Amendment Letter to Service Agreement for the Supply of Electricity for Residential and Small Commercial Retail Consumers (Electric Aggregation)” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would authorize the execution of an amendment letter to the service agreement for the supply of electricity for residential and small commercial retail customers (electric aggregation).

Mr. Barker reminded the Council that in February of 2016, the City entered into an agreement with Illinois Power Marketing Company d/b/a Homefiled Energy to supply electricity to residential and small commercial retail customers who did not want to opt out of the program. Mr. Barker was notified last week that Homefield Energy was offering a contract amendment to

the existing agreement. The amendment would take the contract price from \$0.5950/kwh to \$0.5700/kwh from February of 2018 through June of 2019. The amendment would also extend the contract term to December of 2020 with a rate of \$0.05596/kwh from June of 2019 through the end of the contract term.

Councilman McLaughlin asked if the pricing would match Ameren's should Ameren's go below the Homefield Energy pricing during the contract term. Mr. Barker believed so.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve 2017-R-68, seconded by Councilman Harrison.

Mayor Lambird asked if there were any other suppliers that could offer better pricing. Mr. Barker replied that when the aggregation rate went out for bid last year, Homefield Energy was the lowest supplier. Councilwoman Henton also pointed out that residents ultimately have the authority to choose whether or not to keep the aggregation pricing or to switch providers.

A majority affirmative voice vote was received to approve 2017-R-68.

8-F "Request: East Fork Bassmasters, USA Bassin, & Crawford County Bass Anglers Exceptions for Fishing Tournaments on East Fork Lake" The Council was provided with a memo from City Clerk Sterchi explaining requests from the East Fork Bassmasters, USA Bassin, and Crawford County Bass Anglers to schedule fishing tournaments on East Fork Lake in 2018. The Council was also provided with a listing of fishing tournament regulations for East Fork Lake.

Mrs. Sterchi told the Council that on November 1, 2017, anglers were allowed to start scheduling tournaments on the lakes for the 2018 year. There were a few requests that did not fall in line with the existing regulations for tournaments. She reminded the Council that they had approved such requests in past years in conjunction with approval from the IDNR's Mike Hooe. However, this year, Mr. Hooe was not recommending any exceptions to the six hour rule for June, July, and August. Mr. Hooe did not have any issues with the exception requests for over 30 boat tournaments, as long as they were the only tournaments scheduled on the lake for that particular date.

The three fishing groups were contacted by Mrs. Sterchi with this information, but still asked that the requests go before the Council for their decision.

From the audience, Steve Francis wished to speak. Mr. Francis was representing the East Fork Bassmasters. Since the regulations were put in place five years ago, the Bassmasters had received approval in four of those years for eight hour tournaments. Had Mr. Francis known that Mr. Hooe would not recommend the exemption sooner than November 1, he would have scheduled an earlier tournament. As it stood, the only other suitable tournament days earlier in the year were already booked.

Understanding the importance of the regulations to keep the lake healthy, Mr. Francis was asking for one more year's exception for an eight hour tournament, if only for the June 2, 2018, date.

Councilwoman Henton felt it was important to listen to the IDNR's recommendations, but understood Mr. Francis' request. She recalled that the six hour limits for June, July, and August were put in place because of the heat with fish in holding tanks. Because Mr. Francis' June 2nd request was only a few days past May, she felt this could be authorized.

Councilwoman Henton moved to allow the East Fork Bassmasters to hold an eight hour fishing tournament on East Fork Lake on June 2, 2018, moved to not allow for eight hour tournaments for the Bassmasters' June 30th date, the USA Bassin's June 9th, July 7th, and August 11th dates, and the Crawford County Bass Anglers' June 30th date. She also moved to authorize more than 30 boat tournaments for the East Fork Bassmasters on April 14th and June 2nd. The motions were seconded by Councilman Harrison.

Councilman McLaughlin asked if not authorizing the exemptions for the other requests would hurt those tournaments. Councilwoman Henton felt that while it was a pleasure to host the USA Bassin and Crawford County Bass Anglers, she did not believe that any of those anglers would be staying overnight in town. Mayor Lambird pointed out that it would be more of a tourism detriment to not have a healthy fish population.

A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-G "Resolution: Reject Bid for the New Concrete Floor at the Olney City Park Storage Building" Mr. Barker told the Council that sealed bids were solicited for the new concrete floor at the Olney City Park storage building. The bid opening was scheduled for Wednesday, November 8th, at 11:00 a.m. at City Hall. Only one bid was received for the project. Mr. Barker and the Park Department Supervisor recommended rejecting the bid and instead going out for bids on the project again in the Spring with a revised scope of work.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher moved to approve 2017-R-69, seconded by Councilwoman Henton. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. The resolution would be created.

8-H "Resolution: Accept State Bid for a 2017 Ford Interceptor Utility AWD for the Police Department & Waive Formal Bidding Procedures" The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would accept a State bid for a 2017 Ford Interceptor Utility AWD for the Police Department, and waive formal bidding procedures. The Council was also provided with a copy of the State bid from Morrow Brothers Ford of Greenfield, Illinois.

Mr. Barker explained that the Police Department's current budget held \$36,000.00 for a vehicle. The State bid through Morrow Brothers Ford for a 2017 Ford Interceptor was \$35,960.00. Mr. Barker and Police Chief Paddock recommended accepting the State bid.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve 2017-R-70, 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 told the Council that the work on Whittle Avenue and Brentwood Avenue were both completed. He commented that it had been a great year for street improvements done to Chestnut, Kitchell, and Whittle.

Mr. Barker continued that the leaf collection program had started that day. He expected that the program would run until close to Christmas time. If residents had bagged leaves, they could call City Hall to schedule a pick up. Loose leaves should be left near the roadway for the vacuum truck to pick up as the Street Department canvassed the City. Councilman McLaughlin asked when the vacuum truck would be at certain locations in the City. Mr. Barker replied that predicting that would be difficult. Their speed would depend on how many leaves were out.

Mr. Barker then reported that a truck in the Street Department would soon be taken out of service. He had found an appropriate truck as a replacement, and wanted to place a bid for it. Mr. Barker guessed that the purchase would be less than \$3,500.00, and asked if the Council would like for him to submit a bid for the vehicle. The Council was in consensus that the City Manager could place a bid. If Mr. Barker was the successful bidder, a budget amendment would be presented at the next Council meeting.

9-B “RCDC Report” RCDC Executive Director Courtney Yockey had nothing to report.

9-C “Chamber of Commerce Report” Councilman McLaughlin had nothing to report for the Chamber of Commerce, but noted that the Olney Christmas Parade, being hosted by the Olney Rotary Club, was coming up on November 25, 2017. To date, the Councilman had received 61 entries and hoped for an end total of about 70. He reminded the Council of the Temporary No Parking Order that would be in effect the afternoon of the parade on both sides of the parade route. Chief Paddock added that his officers were getting the details of the parade ready to go, and recommended that reminder notices of the Temporary No Parking Order be sent to the newspapers and the radio station.

9-D “Parks & Recreation Board Report” The Parks & Recreation Board had cancelled their November meeting, so there was nothing to report.

9-E “Tourism Board Report” Councilwoman Henton commented that the Holiday edition of the Tourism Times had been released.

AGENDA #10 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS”

10-A “Brian O’Neill” Mr. O’Neill was not present.

From the audience, Chad Yonaka made a request that the City repaint a few streets in Olney. Mr. Yonaka resided at the corner of N. East Street and Douglas Drive. He told that because of vehicles being parked on the west side of N. East Street at his property, he had to replace two side mirrors, and one vehicle had been totaled. He requested that N. East Street should have no parking or the street should be properly painted.

City Manager Barker commented that the topic had been brought up a couple of months ago, and the Council was discussing the situation.

Reverend Wachtel then told the Council that he and other residents were still having issues with people parking between the curb and the sidewalk across the street from the Fire Department. People were parking regular size pickup trucks, and larger dually trucks in this area causing vision problems when trying to turn off of Locust Street onto N. Walnut Street.

The parking issue in this area had been addressed before. Chief Paddock recommended that Reverend Wachtel give him a call the next day to address the issue further.

AGENDA #11 “ADJOURN” Councilwoman Henton moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk