

CITY OF OLNEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 26, 2018

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The November 26, 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. David McNabb 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 Roger Charleston.

AGENDA #4 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

4-A “Approve Minutes of Council Meeting on November 13, 2018”

4-B “Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable November 27, 2018” Pooled Cash \$150,657.08, Manual Pooled Cash \$4,853.46, Utility Refunds \$1,448.19, Fire Pension \$800.00, MFT \$9,623.50, Tourism \$154.39, Christmas Light Display \$4,884.42

4-C “Approve SOS Bucks to City Employees for Christmas”

4-D “Raffle License: OCC”

4-E “Raffle License: RCHS (CEO Program)”

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

4-G “Raffle License: Olney USBC (Bowling League)”

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: Tax Levy” City Treasurer Guinn had placed a packet of tax levy options in the Council’s mailboxes the week prior for their review.

According to the Supervisor of Assessments, the EAV was estimated to raise by 1% next year. Taking this information, Mrs. Guinn put together a couple of options.

The first option would keep the tax rate the same as the year prior, but the EAV would increase by 1%. In this option, General Corporate, and others with a set rate, would be set at the maximum rates. Actuarial-recommended amounts for Fire and Police Pensions were used. Estimated labor rates were used for IMRF and the other labor-related lines. An additional \$50,000.00 would also be levied in this option for an additional contribution to IMRF.

Mrs. Guinn continued that in order to get down to the same rate as last year, in this option, \$8,000.00 had been removed from Unemployment Insurance due to excess funds in that account, and \$40,863.00 of the additional \$50,000.00 for IMRF had been removed. This first levy option was not recommended by Mrs. Guinn.

The second levy option showed a 1.0499% increase. This option also took \$8,000.00 from Unemployment Insurance, \$50,000.00 out of IMRF, and added those amounts to Fire Pension, along with an additional \$30,705.00. Therefore, an additional \$88,705.00 would be added to the Fire Pension over the actuarial suggested amount. This would exceed estimated expenses by \$99,000.00.

The third party actuary, Art Tepfer, recommended a levy amount of \$675,129.00 for the Police Pension. In addition to that amount, funds would be needed for expenses such as the annual report, audit, training, fiduciary insurance, etc. So, an amount of \$693,644.00 was recommended for that levy.

With the Fire Pension, the proposed levy would exceed estimated expenses by \$23,000.00.

If the Council wished to see any other options, Mrs. Guinn indicated that she would be happy to lay out other scenarios.

Councilman McLaughlin stated that he would only be in favor of the first option and would absolutely not vote for any increase whatsoever. Mrs. Guinn pointed out that if that scenario was used, more money would be coming out of the Fire Pension Fund than what would be put into it. Regardless, Councilman McLaughlin did not care and would not change his opinion. He felt that the Council needed to pump the brakes on taxes. He pointed out that continuously levying 2% to 5% increase year over year compounds greatly.

Councilman McLaughlin asked how much the Fire Department budget was, excluding pension amounts. Mrs. Guinn replied that the Department's current budget was at approximately \$508,000.00 in expenditures, including salaries. Councilman McLaughlin was amazed that pension costs were about 60% of the entire Fire budget.

Mayor Lambird recalled that last time, the City was told that the EAV was estimated to go up by 5%, but had actually raised somewhere between 3.5% and 4%. Mrs. Guinn felt it was possible that the coming EAV would raise more than 1%.

Councilwoman Henton was aware that the IMRF was underfunded, but she wondered if any interest was being paid on the underfunded amounts. Mrs. Guinn did not believe so. She

did note that the City had been paying in extra for a few years, so now the rate was decreasing. Over the past year, the City rate had decreased from 16% to 13%.

AGENDA #9 “REPORTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS”

9-A “Status Report-City Manager” Mr. Barker told the Council that he had received several positive comments on the Christmas Light Display, Community Tree Lighting, and the Christmas Parade. He was asked to pass on the praise to the Council and supervisors.

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

9-C “Chamber of Commerce Report” Councilman McLaughlin told the Council that the Moonlight Madness event was coming up on Friday, November 30th. He encouraged everyone to shop local that evening.

9-D “Parks & Recreation Board Report” The Parks & Recreation Board’s November meeting was cancelled, 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.

Councilman McLaughlin thanked Mrs. Sterchi, City crews, and the Police and Sheriff’s Departments for their help with the Christmas Parade, sponsored by the Olney Rotary Club. A total of 73 entries were in the parade, and the weather was wonderful.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher noted that many parade attendees had left their garbage along the parade route. She wondered if additional trash cans could be placed. Councilman McLaughlin replied that Mrs. Sterchi had picked up some of the trash along the route the day after the parade. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher felt that attendees would be more likely to use trash cans if more were available. Councilwoman Henton commented that several trash cans were already along Main and Whittle. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher clarified that some cans could be added along N. East Street and the area on Main Street from Pizza Hut to McDonald’s.

Mayor Lambird and his family worked the Bucket Brigade at the Christmas Light Display on the night of Thanksgiving. He told the Council that visitors from at least 22 different states came through to view the display that evening. He felt the City should be proud of that attraction, and should think of other ways to keep and bring people to town.

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 needed.

AGENDA #12 “RECONVENE OPEN SESSION” No closed session was needed.

AGENDA #12 “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 7:12 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk

DRAFT