

CITY OF OLNEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 2018

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The October 22, 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. Tim Loomis 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 Clerk Kelsie Sterchi, City Treasurer Jane Guinn, and City Attorney Bart Zuber. City Manager Allen Barker was absent.

AGENDA #4 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

4-A “Approve Minutes of Council Meeting on October 8, 2018”

4-B “Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable October 23, 2018” Pooled Cash \$100,809.99, Manual Pooled Cash \$2,973.25, Housing Rehab Grant \$21,200.00, MFT \$4,013.02, Unemployment \$2,464.93, Tourism \$724.45, Tourism \$18.60, Christmas Light Display \$280.79, Route 130 TIF \$109,274.45

4-C “Raffle License: Richland County Homefront”

4-D “Raffle License: RCHS Wrestling Team”

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 “Request/Possible Ordinance: Closure of a Portion of the North/South Alley Between E. Butler and E. Laurel Streets & N. Sycamore and N. Mill Streets” The Council was provided with a letter of request from Jennifer Chaplin to close a portion of the alley mentioned in the title, and a map of the alley and surrounding area. Mrs. Chaplin was requesting to close the alley from the south exit to the top portion that intersects between her two properties on the east and west of the alley. Notices of the request for closure were sent to property owners adjoining the alley.

As discussed at the October 8, 2018, meeting, Mrs. Chaplin was requesting vacation of the North/South alley between E. Butler and E. Laurel Streets and N. Sycamore and N. Mill Streets, but only the portion that adjoined their properties. At that meeting, Mayor Lambird suggested postponing this request so that the water drainage in the area could be evaluated. Street Supervisor Tyler Kocher inspected the area, and did not believe the flooding of the alley was an issue.

Kellie Levitt, 729 E. Laurel Street, was present in opposition of the request. Mrs. Levitt had brought photos to show the Council of how the flooding of the alley affected access to her carport. She stated that the photos were taken on August 17, 2018. She also added that she preferred having two entry and exit points in case of emergency.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher wondered how long the area took to drain once rain had stopped. Mrs. Levitt replied that the area would drain about one and a half to two hours after rain ceased.

Councilwoman Henton asked if the City Engineer had any input. Mr. Charleston replied that he had not been monitoring the area because it had not been brought to his attention to research.

Councilwoman Henton then asked Mrs. Levitt if the flooding had always been a problem. Mrs. Levitt replied that she had lived at her residence for the past five years, and the alley had flooded as such the entire time.

The City had several platted alleys in town. Some of the alleys were well utilized and others were not. Mayor Lambird understood the frustration of a homeowner maintaining any portion of a platted alley only to have people drive over it and be destroyed.

Mrs. Levitt indicated that she would only be driving through the southern entry/exit point if absolutely necessary.

From the audience, Dr. David Eckiss asked if the City would maintain all of the alleys. Mayor Lambird felt that other towns typically maintained all alleys.

Councilman McLaughlin was in favor of closing the alley, but added that the flooding issue needed to be addressed. He also pointed out that utility easements would need to be reserved through the alley so no matter what, nothing could be built over the alley. Because of this, in case of a dire emergency, the Levitts would still be able to exit on the south side.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher asked for what purpose the Chaplins were wanting to have the alley closed. Mrs. Chaplin replied that they had hoped on placing a fence and leveling the yard.

Mayor Lambird then stated that the City would look into the culvert situation in order to no longer have a flooding issue in the alley.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve Ordinance 2018-47 that would vacate the portion of the North/South alley between E. Butler and E. Laurel Streets and N. Sycamore and N Mill Streets in between the Chaplins' properties and to also address the flooding issue in the alley, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. Councilman McLaughlin, Mayor Lambird, and Councilwoman Fehrenbacher voted yes. Councilman Harrison and Councilwoman Henton voted no. The motion carried.

8-B "Resolution: Accept Quote for the Kennedy Pump Repair, Waive Formal Bidding Procedures & Amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2018/2019" The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to accept a quote for repair to the Kennedy Pump, waive formal bidding procedures, and amend the 2018/2019 budget. The Council was also provided with a copy of the quote received from Pump Repair Specialist, Inc.

Mrs. Guinn told the Council that the Kennedy Pump at the East Fork Lake dam had quit working and needed replaced. Initially, the pump was removed from its location and taken to Pump Repair Specialist, Inc., in Oblong, Illinois, for repair. The pump was declared to be unrepairable. A quote was then received in the amount of \$9,865.60 to replace the pump.

Mrs. Guinn continued that the expense to replace the pump had not been budgeted for, however, extra money was in the line item to paint the water tower. She recommended reducing the water tower painting line item by \$10,000.00 and creating a new line item for the Kennedy Pump Replacement. The pump replacement is considered an emergency and the process had already begun.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve 2018-R-73, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-C "Discussion: Lightning Detectors at Musgrove Park" The Council was provided with information on a LW110 Lightning Warning System. Discussion had taken place at the October 8, 2018, meeting on placing a lightning warning system at Musgrove Park. There is a group willing to donate \$6,000.00 for the detector, with the City contributing \$3,000.00, and submitting an application to the Carrie Winter Charitable Trust for the remaining \$3,000.00.

Mayor Lambird told the Council that he had researched some policies and procedures out of Utah. Generally, officials were given a short training on the various signals and how to best read the device. From there, the official is the person to make the designation on whether or not to seek shelter.

Councilwoman Henton preferred to know whether or not the grant would be approved before committing City funds. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher suggested that the lightning detector could be approved contingent upon receipt of the grant.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher then asked where the City's portion of the purchase would come from in the budget. Mayor Lambird replied that funds were left over from the Ludlow drainage project that could be used.

Councilman Harrison asked how the lightning detector would be maintained. Mayor Lambird told that the detector was a self-contained unit, and that the City would not be required to maintain the device.

Councilman McLaughlin was in favor of placing a lightning detector if three-fourths of the cost was being covered by non-City funds.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher asked if any other nearby towns had lightning detectors with policies. Mayor Lambird indicated that there were no nearby towns that had such a device. He found a town near Indianapolis, and indicated that there were several all across Florida.

Dr. Eckiss asked how expensive the device was. Mayor Lambird replied that the device cost about \$12,000.00. Dr. Eckiss felt that amount was pretty pricey. Councilman McLaughlin clarified that if approved, the City would only be paying \$3,000.00 of that amount.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve the placement and \$3,000.00 expense for a lightning detector at Musgrove Park, contingent upon approval of a \$3,000.00 grant from the Carrie Winter Charitable Trust, seconded by Councilwoman Henton. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-D “Discussion: Review of Boat License Fees” The Council was provided with a summary of classifications of boat licenses and current fees. At the last meeting, Mayor Lambird suggested to the Council to add a surcharge to the boat license fees in order to have that money go to Preston Township to improve certain roads leading to the lakes. The Mayor also suggested an intergovernmental agreement. Before making a decision on this topic, the Council decided that input from boaters should be solicited.

Mayor Lambird told the Council that he had spoken with Steve Francis, of the East Fork Bassmasters, on this topic. Mr. Francis provided no negative feedback regarding the surcharge as long as road improvement was seen.

Councilman McLaughlin asked if an appropriate agreement could be developed dictating which roads should be repaired as a result of the surcharge. Mr. Zuber indicated so, and stated that the agreement could be as specific as needed. In a worst-case scenario, if the agreement was breached, the City could stop the surcharge and end the agreement.

Councilwoman Henton suggested a yearly agreement so that roads could be dictated each year.

The Preston Township Road Commissioner told the Mayor that it would cost approximately \$10,000.00 to oil and chip one mile of road. Mayor Lambird asked Mr. Charleston if that number seemed accurate. Mr. Charleston believed so.

Mayor Lambird suggested that the topic be researched further and brought up again at the December meeting.

8-E “Discussion/Possible Resolution: Rescheduling of City Council Meeting Scheduled for November 12, 2018” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would reschedule the November 12, 2018, City Council meeting to November 13, 2018.

Mrs. Guinn told the Council that Veteran’s Day was a recognized holiday for City employees. Since Veteran’s Day would be falling on a Sunday this year, the holiday would be observed by the City on Monday, November 12th, which was also the date of the regularly scheduled Council meeting. Because of the required timeline for the upcoming tax levy, it was not recommended to cancel this meeting.

Councilwoman Henton moved to approve 2018-R-74, 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” Mr. Barker was not present, so there was no report.

Mrs. Guinn reported that sales tax had slightly increased for the month. She also added that Mr. Barker wanted her to note that the 50% reimbursement for water and sewer line work from the TIF had been made to Parkside Plaza. A change order was necessary, so an additional \$2,721.00 was reimbursed.

9-B “RCDC Report” RCDC Executive Director Courtney Yockey told the Council that the workshop on succession planning had gone well. Additionally, a Joint Review Board meeting had recently taken place.

9-C “Chamber of Commerce Report” Councilman McLaughlin had nothing to report.

9-D “Parks & Recreation Board Report” The Parks & Recreation Board had nothing to report.

9-E “Tourism Board Report” Councilwoman Henton told the Council that the Tourism Board would be meeting on October 24th. She had also completed an interview with WTWO about Olney’s white squirrels. The interview should air some time before the end of the month.

Councilman McLaughlin then told that the Olney Rotary Club had started planning for the Christmas Parade. Parade entries were already being received.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher asked if there was an anticipated completion date for the hotel project. Mayor Lambird indicated that the project should be completed sometime in February of 2019.

AGENDA #10 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS”

10-A “Ron Workman” Mr. Workman was not present.

Dr. Eckiss wished to speak. Regarding Item 8-B, Dr. Eckiss wondered why bidding was waived. Mrs. Guinn replied that the pump replacement was an emergency, so there was no time for a bidding process.

Dr. Eckiss then commented that he had noticed other instances in the past where bidding was waived. As a citizen, he felt that proposals should be laid down and assessed since such large expenditures were coming out of the taxpayer base.

Councilman McLaughlin agreed that the City waived bidding fairly frequently. He added that the Council also has additional information that the public may not see unless requested. Other Council members pointed out that there are also other circumstances such as one supplier or vendor, or specific sales territories. In these instances, it would be a waste of time and taxpayer money to advertise for bids when the same end result would take place.

Dr. Eckiss thanked the Council for the information, and commented that he was satisfied with the answers.

AGENDA #11 “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 7:37 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk