

CITY OF OLNEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2014

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The December 8, 2014 meeting of the Olney City Council was called to order at 6:58 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Olney City Hall located at 300 S. Whittle Avenue, Olney, Illinois, with Mayor Ray Vaughn presiding.

AGENDA #2 “PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG-PRAYER” Council members and visitors joined in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Don Meeks led the group in a prayer.

AGENDA #3 “ROLL CALL” The following Council members were present: John McLaughlin, Barb Thomas, Brad Brown, Bob Ferguson and Ray Vaughn. Also present were City Manager/City Attorney Larry Taylor, City Treasurer Chuck Sanders, City Engineer Roger Charleston and City Clerk Kelsie Sterchi.

AGENDA #4 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

4-A Approve Minutes of Council Meeting from November 24, 2014 and Special City Council Meeting on November 12, 2014. Mrs. Sterchi handed out two corrected pages of the minutes from November 24, 2014 for the Council’s consideration.

4-B Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable December 9, 2014: Petty Cash \$100.20, Pooled Cash \$68,690.86, Manual Pooled Cash 103,815.24, IRP \$21,225.00, Tourism \$15.98, Christmas Light Display \$3,313.86, Christmas Light Display (2) \$600.00

4-C Raffle License-Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks #926

4-D Raffle License-American Legion Womens Auxiliary

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 Thomas. A majority affirmative voice vote was received to approve the consent agenda.

AGENDA #7 “CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA”
No consideration was necessary since no items were removed from the consent agenda.

AGENDA #8 “PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, ETC.”

8-A “Proclamation: John D. Hurn’s 100th Birthday and Name as Century Citizen” The Council was provided with a proposed proclamation to celebrate John D. Hurn’s 100th birthday, and to name him a Century Citizen. Mr. Hurn turned 100 years old on Thanksgiving Day of 2014. The Council gave their blessing for the Mayor to declare a proclamation in celebration of Mr. Hurn.

8-B “Presentation: Report from Fire Pension Board and Formal Request for Tax Levy” The Council was provided with a formal request for tax levy from the Firefighters Pension Fund with a recommended levy sheet. Mr. Sanders told the Council that the Fire Pension Board had met the week prior and prepared the Required Reporting to the Municipality that Mr. Sanders then handed out to the Council. The total assets showed \$2,096,208.00.

For estimated receipts during the next succeeding fiscal year, \$20,000.00 was set for participant contributions deducted from payroll with \$151,000.00 totaling from employer contributions and all other sources.

The assumed investment return given by the Illinois Department of Insurance’s actuarial was 5.00%, but Mr. Sanders believed the actual return was about 3.20%. The total net income received from investment of net assets was at \$72,000.00. Currently, there are four active employees, three retired firefighters and one survivor receiving benefits.

As reported by the Illinois Department of Insurance, the funded ratio of the fund is 56.08% with the unfunded actuarial accrued liability standing at \$1,701,534.00.

By State code, the maximum percentage that can be invested in equities is capped at 10%.

The Fire Pension Board requested a preferred tax amount of \$151,853.00 to allow for \$18,000.00 in additional contributions above the calculated and actuarial recommended contribution. The Fire Pension Board also established a preferred range for the tax levy with a minimum amount of \$141,725.00 to a maximum amount of \$181,525.00.

Mayor Vaughn extended his appreciation to the Fire Pension Board for their work.

Art Tepfer would be scheduled for a conference call in early 2015. So the Council could attend and converse with Mr. Tepfer, the conference call would take place during a meeting of the City Council.

8-C “Discussion: 2014 Tax Levy” The Council was provided with four options for the 2014 tax levy payable in 2015. The Council heard the first three options at the November 24, 2014 meeting. At Mayor Vaughn’s request, City Treasurer Sanders prepared a fourth option. Option four was similar to option two, but differed in that the new option reduced line item taxes by 50% and left the other 50% in the Fire Pension Tax Levy. The percentage in the Fire Pension Tax Levy would take that levy to the recommended \$151,853.00. Option four also included IMRF for the library in the amount of \$20,000.00. This option was the recommendation of the City Manager and the City Treasurer.

Noted by Mayor Vaughn, option four would slightly reduce the tax rate. The 3.61% increase in EAV would also be lower than most of the other taxing districts in Richland County.

Councilman McLaughlin asked for clarification on the library's portion. City Manager Taylor explained that the library establishes its own budget. The City then levies what they recommend specifically for liability insurance, social security, unemployment insurance and workers compensation. The Library and Library Building components of the total library tax is capped. To the extent that the EAV increases, those dollars increase because that same percentage is applied to the EAV.

Councilman McLaughlin then asked if the Municipal Band increase was the best way to attain the \$8,001.56, or if the money could be taken from reserves. The City Manager thought that because there was a maximum cap on the Municipal Band, and because the City always levied substantially less than that cap, it seemed appropriate as a place to generate some additional revenue, at least on a temporary basis. The monies could improve areas near the band shell.

The Council felt that option four was a reasonable approach. The Council also wished to change the time of the Special City Council meeting on December 15, 2014 from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

8-D "Resolution: Authorize the Execution of a Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement and the Existence and Formation of the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System by Intergovernmental Cooperation" The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to authorize the execution of a law enforcement mutual aid agreement and formation of the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System by intergovernmental cooperation, and also a copy of the proposed mutual aid agreement.

The presented information was similar to the agreement the City currently held, but added updated language. It would allow for calling on other counties for help at no charge, and vice versa.

Mayor Vaughn wondered who would be in charge of a local crisis between the Olney Police Department, the Sheriff's Department and the Olney Fire Department. Police Chief Paddock replied that the organizations would work together. Usually, the first to respond to the scene would take charge of the incident. Leadership roles could change as hours and situations developed.

Mayor Vaughn moved to approve 2014-R-61, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-E "Discussion/Possible Action: Electric Rate for City of Olney Accounts Beginning January 2015" Since the topic was discussed at the last City Council meeting on November 24, 2014, City Manager Taylor had been in contact with Homefield Energy and some other alternative suppliers. The City Manager had received a proposal from Homefield Energy, but had not received proposals from the other suppliers. The City held the option to review the Homefield Energy proposal or to table the matter until another proposal had been received. The City Manager then handed Homefield Energy's proposal to the Council. The proposed rates would begin on January 5, 2015.

Quotes provided by Homefield Energy would only be available the day that the quote was given. If the City were to agree to a Homefield Energy proposal this evening, the City Manager would also submit the paperwork this evening in order to meet eligibility. Of the two quotes supplied from Homefield Energy, City Treasurer Sanders had indicated that he would advise the two year term at a rate of 5.058 cents per kilowatt hour. Mayor Vaughn agreed.

Mayor Vaughn moved to approve 2014-R-62, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-F “Discussion: Streets and Sidewalks” The topic of streets and sidewalks had been brought up at the prior meeting. One of the City Manager’s biggest concerns was in regard to the lack of wheelchair accessibility throughout the community, especially downtown. An ongoing program was needed to address the ramps at intersections. As the budget process would come about in 2015, such topics would be discussed with suggestions of budgeting money for those purposes. Mr. Taylor had spoken with City Engineer Charleston concerning the possibility of using some MFT funds for that purpose.

On the topic of sidewalks, Councilman McLaughlin inquired about the sidewalks near the area of IGA. Due to the water main project, sidewalks had been damaged. The Councilman wondered if the sidewalks would be replaced. Mr. Charleston responded that as much work would be done as weather would allow. Such repair was in the contract listed as part of completion.

8-G “Ordinance: Amend Section 5.12.130 (Hours of Sale Regulated) of the City of Olney Municipal Code” The Council was provided with a proposed ordinance to amend the Hours of Sale Regulated section of the City code to include Class V license holders for the Sunday sale hours.

City Manager Taylor explained that the addition to this section of the Code was an oversight from when the Code was amended for the addition of the Class V license. The second sentence, having to do with liquor sales on Sunday, unintentionally omitted Class V.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve Ordinance 2014-47, seconded by Councilman Brown. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-H “Resolution: Accept Bid from Doll’s Inc. For Demolition of 321 E. Lafayette Street” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to accept the bid from Doll’s Inc. for the demolition of 321 E. Lafayette Street.

Two bids were received. Wilson Farms Excavating of Dundas, Illinois, submitted a bid in the amount of \$5,400.00. Doll’s, Inc., of Olney, Illinois, submitted the low bid of \$4,475.00. The demolition of 321 E. Lafayette Street was initiated by Code Enforcement Officer Mike Mitchell by way of the expedited procedure.

Councilman Ferguson moved to approve 2014-R-63, seconded by Mayor Vaughn. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-I “Discussion: Revised Curbside Recycling Holiday Schedule for 2014” Wilson Metals, the contractor for the City’s curbside recycling service, had a portion of their contract that provided that they would not be in operation beginning the Friday before Christmas through January first. January 1 of 2015 falls on a Thursday. Wilson Metals’ plan was to actually take back operation on Monday, January 5, 2015. The City Manager wanted to be sure that the date change was acceptable to the City Council. The Council approved.

AGENDA #9 “REPORTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS.”

9-A “City Manager - Status Report” The Council was provided with a Status Report from City Manager Taylor. Mr. Taylor explained that a culvert was failing under Sycamore Street, just south of Locust Street. The area was currently barricaded. The replacement would cost around \$7,000.00. The City did not have such a project budgeted for the fiscal year. Councilman McLaughlin felt that the money needed to be found as the fix was of the City’s obligation.

Councilman McLaughlin is a member of the Olney Rotary Club that sponsored the 2014 Olney Christmas Parade. The Councilman thanked those who helped with the parade, specifically the Olney Police, Richland County Sheriff and Sewer Departments. Mayor Vaughn commented that the Olney Rotary Club had done a great job with the parade.

AGENDA #10 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS” Mayor Vaughn took the opportunity to review the Code of Conduct for City Council meetings. Conduct rules included no use of inflammatory speech, to only speak respectfully, to follow the rules of decorum, to not use hateful or abusive speech, to have no comment directed to a specific Council member, no raised voices and no arguing.

10-A”Mayor Vaughn’s Dumb Mouth Flames Up Ferguson St. Louis Protest-No Noise Ordinance Zoning Protection :) No Disorderly Conduct for Loud Freedom of Speech Outside Olney City Hall During Council Meetings Losers, Etc.!” Looking at Brian O’Neill’s topic on the evening’s agenda, Mayor Vaughn asked Mr. O’Neill if the listed topic was, in fact, what he had submitted. Mr. O’Neill replied that it was. Mayor Vaughn asked how the listed topic fit into the Code of Conduct. Mr. O’Neill indicated that the Supreme Court backed his right to do so. Mayor Vaughn told Mr. O’Neill that he would not be allowed to make abusive comments to the Council. Mr. O’Neill began to argue. Mayor Vaughn called Mr. O’Neill out of order and asked him to have a seat. Mr. O’Neill ignored the Mayor and began to speak on his topic before officers escorted Mr. O’Neill out of the building.

AGENDA #11 “CLOSED SESSION: SALE PRICE OF REAL PROPERTY; ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY; AND APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND PERFORMANCE OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES” Councilwoman Thomas moved to adjourn to closed session to discuss the

sale price of real property, acquisition of real property and appointment, employment and compensation of specific employees, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

Councilmen Brown, Ferguson, McLaughlin, Councilwoman Thomas, Mayor Vaughn, City Manager Taylor, City Treasurer Sanders and City Clerk Sterchi left the Council Chambers at 7:50 p.m.

AGENDA #12 “RECONVENE OPEN SESSION” Upon the return of those who were in closed session to the Council Chambers, Councilman McLaughlin moved to enter back into open session, seconded by Councilwoman Thomas. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Open session resumed at 8:34 p.m.

12-A “Discussion/Possible Action: Authorize Sale of 310 E. Main Street” Councilman McLaughlin moved to allow for an appraisal of the property to explore its future sale, seconded by Mayor Vaughn. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk