

CITY OF OLNEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 27, 2015

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The July 27, 2015, 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 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. David McNabb led the group in prayer.

AGENDA #3 “ROLL CALL” The following Council members were present: Les Harrison, Belinda Henton, Bob Ferguson, and Ray Vaughn. John McLaughlin was absent. Also present were City Managers Larry Taylor and Allen Barker, City Treasurer Chuck Sanders, City Clerk Kelsie Sterchi, and City Engineer Roger Charleston.

AGENDA #4 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

4-A Approve Minutes of Council Meeting on July 13, 2015

4-B Approve and Authorize Payment of Account Payable July 28, 2015: Pooled Cash \$108,773.87, Manual Pooled Cash \$9,793.33, Utility Refunds \$1,525.13, MFT \$7,091.40, Liability Insurance \$1,295.00, Tourism \$5,096.48

4-C Raffle License-Richland County Homemakers Education Association

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 Harrison 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 “Ordinance: Handicapped and Reserved Parking Space in 200 Block of E. York Street” The Council was provided with a proposed ordinance to authorize a handicapped and a reserved parking space in the 200 block of E. York Street, and a copy of an e-mail request sent from County Clerk Alice Mullinax.

City Manager Taylor told the Council that Code Enforcement Officer Mike Mitchell and Street Department Supervisor Tom Umfleet had looked at the proposed area on E. York Street behind the building where some of the County offices had been temporarily relocated. There is a loading zone behind the building that the City was proposing to use to create a handicap parking space. The parking space could be temporarily placed as long as the County offices were at that location. This spot could be reserved specifically for the County Treasurer. An additional space on the south side of E. York Street could also be designated as a handicap parking space. If approved, those spots would be enforced 10 days after passage and after signs had been installed.

Councilman Ferguson moved to approve Ordinance 2015-33, seconded by Mayor Vaughn. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-B “Discussion: Acquisition of Easement from Cypress Road to the East” This item was removed from the agenda.

8-C “Resolution: Accept Bid for Granular Activated Carbon at the Water Treatment Plant” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to accept a bid for granular activated carbon from Carbon Activated Corporation of Blasdell, New York, and a recommendation memo from Water Plant Supervisor Frank Bradley.

A total of three bids had been received. Norit Activated Carbon of Marshall, Texas, bid \$87,058.00, All-Service Contracting Corporation of Decatur, Illinois, bid \$75,287.00, and Carbon Activated Corporation of Blasdell, New York, bid \$67,031.50. The 2015/2016 budget held \$70,000.00 for the project. In addition to the granular activated carbon, there would be costs related to removing the current carbon and its disposal.

Councilwoman Henton moved to approve 2015-R-42, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-D “Resolution: Amend 2015/2016 Budget for City Manager Expenses” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to amend the Administrative Department’s 2015/2016 budget, and a spreadsheet detailing what is currently budgeted, the proposed changes, and the difference between the two.

Mr. Taylor noted that the net effect of the changes was not adverse to the budget. In actuality, the proposed changes would leave a positive amount in the budget. Much of the net savings was due to the Auto line item that was originally budgeted for \$25,000.00. Instead of purchasing a car, the new City Manager would be receiving a car allowance of \$3,000.00.

Mayor Vaughn moved to approve 2015-R-43, seconded by Councilwoman Henton. Councilmen Ferguson, Harrison, Mayor Vaughn, and Councilwoman Henton voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

8-E “Resolution: Approve Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to accept the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan, and a copy of the Plan Commission minutes from August 6, 2015. Mayor Vaughn noted that approving the plan did not mean that each proposed item was set in stone. Consideration for each project would be subject to Council review and approval if and when timing was appropriate for such consideration. By having a comprehensive plan in place, the City was provided with a direction to look to for the future. The plan would also be necessary when applying for certain grants. Parks & Recreation Board members Morgan Henton, Drew Holdren, and Connie Buss were present.

Mr. Henton explained that the Parks & Recreation Board reviewed the City parks to evaluate condition and needs. Two public forums were held late in 2014 by the Board in effort to gain feedback and ideas. From there, improvement plans were created that were tied to timelines. Timelines were based off of current need and financial situations.

An Adopt-a-Bed program had also been implemented. Thirteen local groups, businesses and organizations participated. Participants for the 2015 program included Keller’s Landscaping, Blank’s Insurance, Dr. Dirk and Jeffrey Rosenberg, First National Bank of Olney, First Financial Bank, TrustBank, A.M. Transport, and State Farm-Lauren McClain.

On August 6, 2015, the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan was presented to the Plan Commission. The Plan Commission approved the Plan with making the road to Rotary Park and the boat launch parking lot improvements a priority.

Mayor Vaughn was impressed by how much work had been accomplished by the seven member group. He commented that without the Board, many of the accomplishments could not have happened in such a speedy timeframe. On behalf of the Council, he wanted to note appreciation to the Parks & Recreation Board.

Mr. Holdren explained that some of the questions raised during the Plan Commission meeting were in regard to timelines. He noted that the timelines were not set in definite, but were merely guidelines.

Councilman Ferguson commented that the donation of the land from the Musgroves could not have fit any better into the growth pattern of the City. Dr. David Eckiss asked if the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan fell into what the Musgroves had hoped for the

property. Councilman Ferguson remembered the original master plan and felt that the new Comprehensive Plan followed along closely. Mr. Henton included that the Board had also recommended leaving green spaces available for trees and wildlife.

From the audience, Brandy McKinney expressed concern about the recommendation to close the Borah Lake Beach area. She wondered if any plans were considered to include a public beach at Rotary Park. Mr. Henton replied that there was not a plan for a public beach at Rotary Park for the time being. In the Parks & Recreation Board's opinion, Borah Lake Beach was being underutilized and was not much of a beach any longer. Additionally, vandalism had been a continuing issue. As a reminder, he stated that the Plan was simply a collection of recommendations that the Council could or could not approve as each item came to the table.

Mrs. McKinney continued that Borah Lake Beach was the only place in town where such nice playground equipment, picnicking, fishing, and water play could take place. Many people do not own property on the lakes to enjoy. In her experience, each time she had been to the beach, she witnessed a minimum of 10 families enjoying the beach area. She felt the families deserve that right. While understanding of the Board's concerns, she noted that none of the other City parks were without vandalism. She hoped to find a way to have a better beach in a different, more appropriate place.

Councilman Ferguson felt that the parks outside of the City limits should have security cameras or other security implemented.

Mayor Vaughn moved to approve the Parks & Recreation Board Comprehensive Plan, seconded by Councilwoman Henton. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

Mayor Vaughn wished to address item 9-B "Parks & Recreation Board - Recommendation of Additional Parking Stops Placed at Musgrove Park Near the Ball Diamonds Donated by an Anonymous Donor." Mr. Holdren provided the Council with a Project Evaluation Checklist recommending donation of 260 parking stops at Musgrove Park near the ball diamonds by an anonymous donor.

Mr. Holdren continued that the Parks & Recreation Board had been approached by an anonymous donor wishing to donate \$9,100.00 to the Olney Little League in order to provide 260 parking stops at Musgrove Park. If approved, the Olney Little League would disburse the funds for the stops and install rebar. City Engineer Charleston would verify placement. If approved, the project would be completed in late summer or fall of 2015.

Councilman Ferguson moved to approve installing 260 parking stops at Musgrove Park as donated by an anonymous donor, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-F “Discussion: Purchase of Lake Patrol Boat” City Manager Taylor told the Council that the 2015/2016 budget had \$15,000.00 reserved for a Lake Patrol replacement boat. According to City Mechanic Roger Fulk, any more time and money put into boat repair would not be recommended. Lake Patrol served at least until Labor Day of each year.

Councilman Ferguson supported the purchase of a new Lake Patrol boat. Councilwoman Henton agreed. She added that she had spoken to a Lake Patrol officer who detailed some of their problems, many of which cannot be handled from the shore. Mr. Taylor suggested that the Council could pass a resolution approving the purchase of a boat up to a certain amount if approved by the City Manager.

Mayor Vaughn moved to allow the purchase of a Lake Patrol boat up to \$15,000.00, if approved by the City Manager, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Resolution 2015-R-45 will be prepared.

Mayor Vaughn wished to move to Brian O’Neill’s public comments under item 10-A. Mr. O’Neill, 818 E. Main Street, felt that the “Back to Work” program was not effective because elected officials do not want people to go back to work. He felt other government programs were also ineffective for this same reason.

AGENDA #9 “REPORTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS”

9-A “City Manager - Status Report” Mr. Taylor mentioned that the Musgrove Aquatic Center typically closed around when the school year would begin. In speaking with Park Department Supervisor Frank Bradley, it was Mr. Bradley’s recommendation to have the pool stay open for its regular hours through August 11, 2015, if lifeguards were available. The school district indicated that they would be interested in using the pool the weeks of August 24 and August 31, 2015, as part of their physical education program. Additionally, Mr. Bradley recommending having the pool stay open on Saturdays and Sundays until Labor Day weekend. In the past, Mr. Bradley had trouble keeping lifeguards, but was willing to try again this year.

Councilwoman Henton asked what the total cost would be to keep the pool open for two weeks. Mr. Taylor was unsure with respect to costs of chemicals, etc. The Councilwoman then asked if the school district would reimburse the City for any expense. Mr. Taylor did not believe so. Councilwoman Henton believed the school district should. Overall, the Council allowed the City Manager’s discretion on the remainder of the 2015 Musgrove Aquatic Center hours.

Mr. Taylor went on to remind the Council of the authorization from the last Council meeting to allow the City to accept donations and to disburse funds for the pickleball group. As of Friday, July 24, 2015, \$660.00 in donations had been received and no disbursements had been made. The City would continue to accept donations.

Councilwoman Henton added that work had been done on the pickleball court, but was not done to satisfactory standards. The vendor would need to be scheduled for return to complete the work. She was aware that the Council had approved a 90 day window for taking and disbursing funds, but that time frame may need to be adjusted. The topic would be re-evaluated closer to the 90 day mark.

City Engineer Charleston reported that the Safe Routes to School project was moving along well. The sidewalk had been completed to Imperial Drive.

City Treasurer Sanders updated the Council that he received an e-mail from the DCEO confirming that the City was in compliance with State and Federal statutes, and was in good status with the Department.

Mayor Vaughn noted that the evening's meeting was City Manager Taylor's last City Council meeting. Mr. Taylor had served a total of 34 years with the City. He spent 34 years as City Attorney, and overlapped that position by taking on the role of City Manager for 12 years. He had served under six different mayors and roughly 17 different City Councils. Mayor Vaughn mentioned what a pleasure it had been working with Mr. Taylor over the years. He was well aware of the hours and dedication that Mr. Taylor put in to his City work. The Mayor invited the rest of the Council to share their farewells to Mr. Taylor.

Councilman Ferguson agreed with the Mayor on Mr. Taylor's impressive dedication. He noted that Mr. Taylor's 34 years of experience certainly could not be replaced. Councilman Harrison commented that he wished he could have worked with Mr. Taylor for a longer amount of time, but was aware that Mr. Taylor was ready to enjoy retirement. Councilwoman Henton had worked with Mr. Taylor the longest in her prior experiences working with the City. She thanked him for everything he had done.

Mr. Taylor replied to the Council's sentiments with sharing that his time with the City had been enjoyable. While there had been trying times, he enjoyed working with the good people of the City. He counted his time with the City as a blessing. The Council gave Mr. Taylor a well-deserved standing ovation.

9-B “Parks & Recreation Board - Recommendation of Additional Parking Stops Placed at Musgrove Park Near the Ball Diamonds Donated by an Anonymous Donor” This item was discussed at the bottom of item 8-E.

AGENDA #10 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS”

10-A “Brian O’Neill” This item was presented at the bottom of item 8-F.

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

Councilmen Harrison, Ferguson, Councilwoman Henton, Mayor Vaughn, City Managers Taylor and Barker, City Attorney Zuber, City Treasurer Sanders and City Clerk Sterchi left the Council Chambers at 7:43 p.m.

AGENDA #12 “RECONVENE OPEN SESSION” Upon the return of those who were in closed session to the Council Chambers, Mayor Vaughn moved to enter back into open session, seconded by Councilwoman Henton. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Open session resumed at 9:38 p.m.

Mayor Vaughn mentioned that he and City Managers Taylor and Barker had sat down with Wilson Metals to discuss the City’s leaf collection program. Wilson Metals had provided a verbal proposal to undertake the program beginning in 2015.

Mr. Taylor commented that while many ideas were being discussed, Wilson Metals would work on a way to encourage citizens to bag their leaves versus having all leaves vacuumed. Some of the Council was concerned because the leaf program had struggled over the years for various reasons such as weather and equipment complications.

City Manager Barker had 16 years of running a leaf collection program in Tennessee. He echoed the Council’s detailing of complications with such programs. Councilman Ferguson had asked if Mr. Taylor had spoken to any of the surrounding communities’ leaf collection contractors. Mr. Taylor had not, but Mr. Barker would research the topic further.

Councilwoman Henton brought up her concern with overgrown weeds and tall grasses in areas such as large acreages within City limits that bale their properties. She felt that plants such

as alfalfa, corn, and beans should be permitted, but not grass and weeds that property owners did not want to mow. She felt that weeds were weeds, no matter what, and that the City ordinance did not dictate a difference. Mayor Vaughn felt that properties surrounded by weeds were certainly different than tall grasses in a field.

Councilman Ferguson asked if that concept would apply to the baled area at Musgrove Park. Councilwoman Henton thought so. Councilman Ferguson leaned towards agreeing with the Councilwoman. Mayor Vaughn ended by stating that he would defer to the current City ordinance and that ordinance should be enforced.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk