

CITY OF OLNEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 11, 2015

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The May 11, 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. John Monroe led the group in prayer.

AGENDA #3 “ROLL CALL” The following Council members were present: Les Harrison, Belinda Henton, John McLaughlin, and Ray Vaughn. Bob Ferguson was absent. Also present were City Manager Larry Taylor, City Attorney Bart Zuber, 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 on April 27, 2015

4-B Approve and Authorize Payment of Account Payable May 12, 2015: Petty Cash \$260.43, Pooled Cash \$169,686.13, Manual Pooled Cash \$115,016.73, E. Main Water Main Grant \$48,812.33, MFT \$3,135.33, IMRF \$28,063.34, Tourism \$200.00

4-C Raffle License-MS Join the Movement of Richland County

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 McLaguhlin 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: Authorize Sale of 2008 Ford Crown Victoria on GovDeals.com (Police Department)” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to sell a 2008 Ford Crown Victoria from the Police Department on GovDeals.com. City Manager Taylor told the Council that the vehicle was in poor condition with over 127,000 miles.

Councilman Harrison moved to approve Ordinance 2015-23, seconded by Mayor Vaughn. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-B “Discussion: Quote from ARC for Providing Labor, Supplies and Equipment for Cleaning Restrooms and Picking Up Trash Twice Per Week” The Council was provided with a letter from ARC Vocational Manager Bea Gardner to Little League President Frank Bradley that detailed the expense breakdowns for providing labor, supplies and equipment for cleaning restrooms and picking up trash at Musgrove Park.

The City Manager explained that for the past two years, there had been an agreement made with ARC for the services where the City paid half of the cost, and Little League paid for the other half. Little League had decided not to participate in ARC’s services this year. Mr. Taylor felt that if Little League would not be participating, there did not seem to be any reason for the City to participate when there are Park Department employees who could handle the work. Mr. Taylor was not sure why Little League chose not to renew the services.

The letter stated that if toilet paper and paper towels would be supplied, ARC would charge \$630.00 per month for the services. Without the supplies provided, the monthly cost would be \$775.00.

Mayor Vaughn thought he recalled an agreement where the City would not incur any expense on the maintenance of the Musgrove Park restrooms during ball season. He asked Mr. Taylor what the original agreement was for such services.

Councilwoman Henton had found that the minutes from the City Council meeting held on August 8, 2011, indicated that Little League would put into their budget funds for a groundskeeper during the three to four months that Little League used the facilities. Additionally, a Special City Council meeting was held on February 13, 2012, that stated if Little League received the revenues from the concession stand, they would help with maintenance. The letter received in February of that year outlined that the Little League would contract with ARC to clean bathrooms three times per week, and provide a caretaker for the grounds to trim weeds, maintain landscaping, and pick up trash during the season. The history showed that Little League paid the full price for ARC’s services for the first year, but that the City paid half of the expense for the past two years.

Mayor Vaughn asked what maintenance the Park Department had been providing at the ball diamonds. Mr. Taylor replied that among other things, the department had been maintaining the ball diamonds, weed eating, mowing, and lining of the fields.

Councilman McLaughlin asked who would be cleaning the restrooms if not ARC. Mr. Taylor told the Councilman that the City crews would provide the cleaning.

Councilwoman Henton had spoken to Mr. Bradley to ask if Little League could help with the lining. Mr. Bradley indicated that it was extremely difficult for Little League to find volunteers, and he did not think it would be possible.

Councilwoman Henton also spoke with a few other cities on the topic. Many indicated that if their City maintained the grounds during ball season, the City would keep the concession revenue. And vice versa if another association maintained the grounds. Often times, an association would also hold fundraisers to help with maintenance costs.

Mayor Vaughn had yet to see any expense or income amounts from the concession stand. He felt that Little League had made an agreement and that the spirit of that agreement should continue.

The Mayor then asked Mr. Taylor if such work was reasonable to pass on to the three full-time Park Department employees. Mr. Taylor felt that the work could be accomplished with the help of the part-time workers.

To clarify, Mayor Vaughn asked if Little League would not be paying or providing any services, but would be receiving all revenue from the concession stand. Mr. Taylor said that Little League did pay the City \$300 per month during the season, but that fee was used to pay electricity and nothing more.

Councilman McLaughlin was in favor of speaking with Little League on their revenues from the concession stand in the upcoming Fall. Mr. Taylor replied that after the conclusion of ball season, the City should be receiving an accounting of how the concession stand performed.

8-C “Resolution: Accept Quote for Slide at Musgrove Park from Hutchinson Recreation & Design, Inc., and Waive Formal Bidding Procedures” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would approve a quote for a slide at Musgrove Park and have the Council waive the formal bidding procedures. The Council was also provided with a letter of recommendation from Park Department Supervisor Frank Bradley, and a quote from Hutchinson Recreation & Design, Inc.

At the April 27, 2015, meeting, the City Council decided to add \$10,000.00 to the 2015/2016 budget for a replacement slide at Musgrove Park. The original quote was in the amount of \$9,621.00, however with freight, the grand total would come to \$10,561.00. The proposed resolution would take \$600.00 from the contingency fund to be placed in the slide’s line item.

Councilman McLaughlin asked if Mr. Bradley tried to negotiate the price. Mr. Taylor knew that Mr. Bradley had canvassed a few different slides, but was unsure about any negotiating. The Councilman felt that the freight cost was extremely high. It would have been his preference to see the price negotiated down to under \$10,000.00.

Councilman Harrison moved to approve 2015-R-27, seconded by Mayor Vaughn. Councilmen McLaughlin, Harrison, Mayor Vaughn, and Councilwoman Henton voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

8-D “Discussion: Commitment of \$10,000 for Housing Grant” City Manager Taylor reported that the City was continuing to move forward with the HUD housing grant. Providing any funds in the form of a match would give the applicant additional points in receiving the grant. The minimum amount for the commitment of funds would be \$10,000.00. During the last meeting in June of 2015, Mr. Taylor would have a letter prepared for the \$10,000.00 support for the Council to approve before submitting the application which would be due by July 8, 2015. Additionally, Build Community had indicated their consideration towards some sort of financial grant or letter of commitment for funds similar to what Mr. Taylor was proposing of the Council.

An area had been selected for use of the grant, if awarded. The area would be along Chestnut, Elm and Cherry Streets between Lincoln and Polk Streets on the East side of town. House to house interviews would soon be conducted, and hopefully completed by the end of the month.

Councilman McLaughlin was worried that the State could freeze the grant monies. Mr. Taylor felt that the State would proceed with these housing grants.

8-E “Discussion: Procedures for Demolition of Structures” The Council was provided with a summary of processes on the demolition of dangerous and unsafe buildings. City Attorney Zuber wished to briefly discuss the processes to give the new Council members a better understanding.

One method did require a court order while the expedited version did not. The expedited version would only be an option if the structure was an immediate danger or hazard. Using this method, a structure could be demolished within 30 days.

Councilman McLaughlin asked how many structures the City had demolished in the past year. Mr. Taylor thought approximately five structures had been demolished by the City.

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 had received information regarding proposed increases in Ameren rates beginning on June 1, 2015. At that time, the rate would increase to 5.87 cents per kilowatt hour. In October of 2015, the rates were proposed to raise to 6.115 cents per kilowatt hour. Mr. Taylor wanted to bring these numbers to the Council’s attention because the aggregation rate that the City had agreed to is good through June of 2016 in the amount of 4.58 cents per kilowatt hour. Additionally, the City’s electric aggregation rate for its municipal buildings is set at 5.058 cents per kilowatt hour until January of 2017.

Mr. Taylor went on to say that City Engineer Charleston had bid documents prepared for the painting of the Washington Street water tower. The City has \$350,000.00 set aside for the project. The project can be bid through two different options. The first option would allow the bidder to complete the project this year. The second option would allow the bidder to complete the project next year. The reason for offering two options is due to concern that the water tower painting

contractors may be booked up for the season. The bids will be opened on June 5, 2015, and will be considered at the June 8, 2015 Council meeting.

City Treasurer told the Council that at the May 26, 2015, meeting, he would have the six month financial review ready for review. Also, the annual audit is set to begin in June.

City Engineer Charleston told the Council that he will have information regarding the annual MFT street maintenance program at the next meeting. Additionally, the berm that was recently constructed at Musgrove Park to aid with water redirection was complete. After the weekend rains, it seemed that the berm was providing a solution to the problem.

9-B “Parks & Recreation Board - Recommendation of Little Free Library, Adopt-a-Flower Bed Program, and Naming of Trails North of the East Fork Dam” Parks & Recreation Board Chairman Morgan Henton came before the Council to present three recommendations to the City Council. The first recommendation was for a Little Free Library to be placed in Bower Park. The suggestion was brought to the Board by Haley Simpson. Ms. Simpson was present to speak more on the topic.

Ms. Simpson handed the Council a bookmark that gave an overview on the Little Free Library. A shelving unit would be placed in Bower Park where anyone could come to take and/or leave books to read. She felt the library could bring about a sense of community and sharing that could potentially be a catalyst to create reading-oriented events at Bower Park such as read-a-louds for children.

Mayor Vaughn asked who would be in charge of the Little Free Library. Ms. Simpson responded that she would be checking in on the library every so often to make sure that items left were appropriate. Ms. Simpson's mother is also the librarian at ERES and would be checking in on the library as well.

Mr. Henton added that part of Ms. Simpson's reasoning for wanting to place the library in Bower Park was due to the fact that the Police Department was nearby, and Whittle Avenue saw enough foot traffic for it to be used often.

In order to graduate from ERHS as summa cum laude, one of the requirements of the students would be to complete a capstone experience. The Little Free Library would be Ms. Simpson's required capstone experience. Ms. Simpson was set to graduate in 2016.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve the placement of a Little Free Library in Bower Park, seconded by Councilwoman Henton. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

Mr. Henton then suggested an Adopt-A-Flower-Bed Program. The idea would be for community groups and/or individuals to “adopt” a flower bed in the City to maintain. The Board

recognized that the Park Department can only do so much with its resources. The adopted flower beds could have a placard placed in or near them listing who had adopted the bed. While it may be late in the year to plant any new flowers, there would always be plenty of weeds to combat. A pilot program could be created for the current year.

Mayor Vaughn liked the suggestion, but was concerned with its coordination. He recommended that Mr. Henton speak with the Park Department Supervisor on the logistics. The rest of the Council also indicated their support.

Lastly, Mr. Henton wished to address the trails near the East Fork Lake Dam. It had come to the Board's attention that many citizens were not aware of the miles of trails near the dam. The Board wished to seek the blessing of the Council to move forward with finding an official name for the trails.

Mr. Henton had spoken with the White Squirrel Saddle Club, and they wished to be involved with the naming as they had provided a lot of work on the trails. Mr. Henton also thought recommendations could be taken from the public via the Parks & Recreation Board's Facebook page.

The Council gave their blessing for the Parks & Recreation Board to seek a name to recommend for the trails north of the East Fork Lake Dam.

While Mr. Henton was present, Mayor Vaughn asked on the progress of the Board's comprehensive plan. Mr. Henton replied that the comprehensive plan was mostly complete, but was being fine tuned before being presented to the Council.

Mayor Vaughn told the Council and the audience that Superintendent Marilyn Holt's last official day as Superintendent would be on June 30, 2015. The Mayor had signed a proclamation declaring June 30 as Marilyn Holt Day in the City of Olney.

AGENDA #10 "PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS"

10-A "Brian O'Neill" Brian O'Neill, 818 E. Main, told the Council that Mayor Vaughn had violated the Open Meetings Act and Mr. O'Neill's freedom of speech.

Mr. O'Neill then handed the Council a copy of 415 ILCS 105 regarding environmental safety. He expected the Police Chief to issue each Council member a \$100.00 fine for not having a garbage can at City Hall. Mayor Vaughn found the nearest garbage can and placed it on the table for Mr. O'Neill to see.

Lastly, Mr. O'Neill felt that the Police Chief watched someone commit a misdemeanor without punishment, and Mr. O'Neill demanded that the City Manager fire the Chief.

AGENDA #11 “CLOSED SESSION: SALE PRICE OF REAL PROPERTY; ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY, APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND PERFORMANCE OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES; AND COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS” Councilman McLaughlin moved to adjourn to closed session to discuss the 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 McLaughlin, Harrison, Councilwoman Henton, Mayor Vaughn, City Manager Taylor, City Attorney Zuber, City Treasurer Sanders and City Clerk Sterchi left the Council Chambers at 7:48 p.m.

AGENDA #12 “RECONVENE OPEN SESSION” Upon the return of those who were in closed session to the Council Chambers, Councilwoman Henton moved to enter back into open session, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Open session resumed at 9:55 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk