

CITY OF OLNEY  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 26, 2015

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The October 26, 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, Bob Ferguson, and Ray Vaughn. Also present were City Manager Allen Barker, City Attorney Bart Zuber, City Clerk Kelsie Sterchi, City Engineer Roger Charleston, and City Treasurer Chuck Sanders.

AGENDA #4 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

4-A Approve Minutes of Council Meeting on October 26, 2015

4-B Approve and Authorize Payment of Account Payable October 27, 2015: Pooled Cash \$71,490.62, Manual Pooled Cash 3,386.70, Utility Refunds \$1,421.98, IRP \$1,047.00, Tourism \$4,439.89, Christmas Light Display \$1,277.85

AGENDA #5 “REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM CONSENT AGENDA” No items were requested for removal from the consent agenda.

AGENDA #6 “CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA” Councilwoman Henton moved to approve the items on the consent agenda, seconded by Councilman Harrison. 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: Sale and Disposal of Personal Property - 63 Bicycles from the Police Department” The Council was provided with a proposed ordinance to dispose of 63 bicycles from the Police Department by recycling or sale.

City Manager Barker explained that the bicycles had been accumulated as lost and found items that had never been claimed and now declared surplus items. Police Chief Paddock added that some of the bicycles would be eligible to be sold by auction on GovDeals.com and some were in extremely poor condition and would best be served by recycling those items at Scrap Daddy, Inc.

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

Mayor Vaughn asked if any of the bicycles would be sold locally. City Clerk Sterchi replied that when bicycles for sale were posted to GovDeals.com, that notice could be placed on the City website and Facebook page.

8-B “Discussion: Classifications and Pricing of Boat License Stickers” The Council was provided with a memo from Councilwoman Henton that detailed four potential proposals regarding boat sticker classifications and pricing, a summary of current 2015 boat license sales, a copy of Ordinance 2014-17, and a copy of Ordinance 2002-03.

Councilwoman Henton told the Council that when the boat license structure was changed in May of 2014, daily licenses were broken down into four categories whereas annual licenses were broken down into three categories. She felt the structure was confusing to those selling the licenses. Additionally, revenue was reduced because of the reduction in Class B pricing for City residents from \$20.00 to \$10.00.

The Councilwoman suggested that the City should always have the same number of categories for dailies and annuals. She had also heard that complaints had been received regarding boats with large motors and the consequential wave action on lake shorelines. A large motor classification could also be considered.

Mayor Vaughn asked for some examples of what costs were incurred by the lakes. Members of the Council and the City Treasurer detailed costs such as a Lake Patrol boat, officer wage, chemical expenses, dam repairs, boat slip replacement, maintenance of restrooms, parking, replacement of signs, and replacement of buoys.

Councilman McLaughlin and Councilwoman Henton felt that requiring a license for a non-powered boat was a bit of a “pain.” In the past, the requirement for a boat with no motor having a license was due to insurance requirements. Councilman McLaughlin felt that requiring \$100,000.00 worth of insurance coverage on something like a kayak was silly. Councilwoman Henton added that kayaking was an excellent form of exercise and should be encouraged.

Even if non-powered boats did not require a City boat license, a State registration and water usage stamp would still be required by the Department of Natural Resources.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve Proposal #2, seconded by Councilwoman Henton. A majority affirmative voice vote was received with Councilwoman Henton abstaining. Ordinance 2014-43 will be prepared. The ordinance would define the classes and rates as:

		Daily	Annual City	Annual Outside City
Class A	Non-Powered	\$2.50	\$10.00	\$20.00
Class B	Electric-24.99	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$30.00
Class C	25-74.99	\$7.50	\$35.00	\$45.00
Class D	75-Up	\$10.00	\$50.00	\$60.00

8-C “Discussion: Use of City Hall for Jury Trials Beginning in November of 2015 Through March of 2016” The Council was provided with a copy of an e-mail from Mayor Vaughn to Mr. Barker and Mrs. Sterchi detailing a request from Judge Dunn to use City facilities for jury trials from November 2015 through March of 2016. The use would be a result of ongoing renovations at the courthouse.

Mayor Vaughn pointed out that the use of City Hall would not be for day to day court cases, but jury trials only. Parking areas would need to be considered, and traffic inside of City Hall would be increased. The Mayor stated that unless the Council had any objections, he would work on the details with the court and the City Manager. The Council had no issue with the request.

AGENDA #9 “REPORTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS”

9-A “City Manager - Status Report” The Council was provided with a Status Report from the City Manager. Mr. Barker informed the Council that the Police Department was in possession of a few quotes for replacing the air conditioning unit at the Police Department. The compressor had gone out, and it was in the City’s best interest to replace the unit.

Mr. Barker was also continuing to work with City Engineer Charleston on plans for upgrading the Community Building. He hoped to have something soon to present to the Parks & Recreation Board along with the City Council.

Mr. Barker continued by telling the Council that the new leaf machine that had been ordered a few months ago had a delayed date of delivery due to its motor being on backorder. It was hoped that the City would have the new machine within a couple of weeks. The City was in possession of one leaf machine that had just received maintenance, and should be running its route shortly. In the meantime, the Street Department was picking up bagged leaves.

Mr. Barker also indicated that the Millers Grove sidewalk extension was complete.

Mayor Vaughn asked City Treasurer Sanders for an update on receipt of funds from the State. Mr. Sanders replied that Use Tax, Gaming Tax and MFT monies were still being withheld. Alternatively, Income Tax was ahead of last year’s numbers.

City Clerk Sterchi summarized her recent training at the MCI Clerk's Institute in Springfield, Illinois. She gained some knowledge on new requirements and laws, among other topics. She looked forward to attending the third and final Institute year in 2016.

Mrs. Sterchi also updated the Council that plans for the Dodransbicentennial were still under way. Currently, souvenir items were filtering in to be available for purchase during the 2015 holiday season. The souvenirs would make nice gifts as preparation for the new year. T-shirts and ornaments were in stock and ready for sale.

Councilman McLaughlin told the Council that the Olney Rotary had sent out entry forms during the prior week for the Christmas Parade. Some entries were already being received.

The Mayor then asked City Attorney Zuber for an update on demolitions. Mr. Zuber told the Council that 533 W. Chestnut should be taken care of very shortly. Another property subject to demolition was still pending due to finding the owner to be served notice. A trial would soon be taking place for 425 E. South Avenue. Additionally, a vacant lot was to be quit-claimed to the City the following day.

#### AGENDA #10 "PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS"

10-A "Brian O'Neill" Brian O'Neill, 818 E. Main Street, reminded the Council that he was running for president during the 2016 election year. He felt that if the Democrats continued to "hold out," there would never be a budget. Mr. O'Neill had also heard that there had been talks to increase sales tax. He felt that the raise would make people leave the state and poorly affect the economy. He felt it was a no-win situation.

Mr. O'Neill also felt strongly that the Wal-Mart representative that attended the October 12, 2015, meeting to request a Class B liquor license should return to pursue his request. He felt that the Council had a responsibility to not violate its duties and peoples' rights.

Lastly, Mr. O'Neill complimented Mayor Vaughn by stating that he was fixing the City's infrastructure problem while prior mayors such as Fehrenbacher, Lambird and Henby only ran down the infrastructure.

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

Councilmen Harrison, McLaughlin, Ferguson, Councilwoman Henton, Mayor Vaughn, City Manager Barker, City Treasurer Chuck Sanders, City Attorney Zuber, and City Clerk Sterchi left the Council Chambers at 7:29 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 Mayor Vaughn. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Open session resumed at 7:56 p.m.

Referring to the large, original zoning map in the Council Chambers, City Manager Barker asked if there was any reason to keep the map considering some zoning had changed since its origination in 1981 and was available online. Councilwoman Henton replied that she would wish for the mapping to be kept for historical purposes. Councilman Ferguson added that he referred to the map regularly. Councilman McLaughlin noted that extra space would be needed in the Council Chambers if jury trials would be taking place in the room.

It was determined that the mylar pieces could be saved and stored.

Mayor Vaughn commented that money had been placed in the 2015/2016 budget for City Hall improvements. It had been over a decade since any upgrades had been made. Mr. Barker would be exploring some options for upgrades. A few members of the Council noted that they would like to see different options for window coverings in the Council Chambers.

Mr. Barker asked the Council if they would be interested in changing the meeting times for Council meetings to an earlier option. The Council was open to a change in City Council meeting times.

Mr. Barker then told the Council that he had been researching other community’s sanitary hauling fees. The City of Olney currently charged \$7.00 per month for the service. Mr. Barker thought an increase in the fee could generate substantial funds that could be used on major street improvements.

Councilman McLaughlin reminded the Council that water rates were just raised to span a three year period. He was concerned with another rate increase if there was no immediate definitive reason. He wished to see a project in place first.

Mayor Vaughn added that he receives many complaints on the condition of streets. Finding revenue to take care of such problems continued to be an issue.

Councilman Harrison asked if Sales Tax funds could be used for road maintenance. Sales Tax could be raised to generate such revenue. Councilman Ferguson responded that those funds

could be used, but an increase would need to go to referendum first. A favorable outcome would not be likely.

Councilman McLaughlin went on to say that he would like to see a plan put into place for the revitalization of Olney's downtown areas. City Attorney Zuber indicated that he used to be on a board that worked on revitalization ideas. There had been a Main Street Communities Program that laid out how to do such revitalization.

The Council went on to discuss several incentives that could be a possibility to bring businesses into the downtown area. Additionally, if granted the new Enterprise Zone, the benefits would be open to commercial businesses in addition to industrial. Conversations would continue to develop at future meetings.

AGENDA #13 "ADJOURN" Councilman McLaughlin moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi  
City Clerk