

CITY OF OLNEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The September 14, 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.

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 Accounting Clerks Peggy Eimer and Jane Guinn.

AGENDA #4 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

- 4-A Approve Minutes of Council Meeting on August 24, 2015
- 4-B Approve and Authorize Payment of Account Payable September 15, 2015: Petty Cash \$94.01, Pooled Cash \$142,601.16, Manual Pooled Cash \$101,131.20, IMRF \$29,617.81, 175th Anniversary \$726.39
- 4-C Raffle License-Britton’s Bullpen, Inc.
- 4-D Raffle License-Center Shrine Club
- 4-E Raffle License-St. Joseph
- 4-F Raffle License-Olney Eagles Aerie #2549

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 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.

Mayor Vaughn chose to discuss item 8-B “Discussion: Watergate Water Purchase Agreement” before 8-A.

The Council was provided with a memo from City Manager Barker, a summary of Mr. Barker’s meeting with Walter Buss on August 7, 2015, water rate calculations and a proposed rate

schedule, a copy of minutes from the last Watergate discussion on July 13, 2015, and the original e-mail sent to Mayor Vaughn from Mr. Buss on June 25, 2015.

Mayor Vaughn recounted that the billing issue arose when the City lowered the Watergate rates from 150% to 125% of that of City residents. The Mayor felt the situation seemed to be looking a gift horse in the mouth with an agreement that had been in effect for a number of years. A few other water customers were also billed in a similar manner.

The Mayor was concerned that if the agreement was adjusted for Watergate, other customers would demand the same exception. He felt a standardized formula for rates would need to be developed for such circumstances that would apply to all in a similar situation.

Councilman Harrison wondered if the Council should consider removing the per meter fee to become comparable to other municipalities. The Mayor was again concerned with the potential ripple effect. Councilwoman Henton mentioned that some apartments and duplexes were also billed a per unit fee.

While the Mayor was content with Watergate's current system, he felt if a change was made, all ramifications would need to be determined beforehand. He asked the Council if there was anyone present wishing to make a motion to change the Watergate rate per Mr. Buss' request. No one from the Council made a motion.

The Mayor requested that City Manager Barker attain more information about how different areas and departments could be affected by the proposed changes.

AGENDA #8 "PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, ETC."

8-A "Request: Class S Liquor License" The Council was provided with a Class S Liquor License Application and Special Event Application submitted by the American Legion Post #30. Lisa Ault was present to answer any questions.

Ms. Ault summarized that the American Legion would be holding an event at Millers Grove on September 19, 2015, for their members and their families. Hamburgers and hot dogs would be free, and beer was hoped to be available for sale.

The American Legion possessed Class D and Class D-S liquor licenses. Ms. Ault was originally under the impression that the Class D-S license would cover the American Legion for their event at Millers Grove. City Clerk Sterchi had made Ms. Ault aware that a Class S license would need to be obtained for coverage off-premise. Appropriate insurance coverages had been submitted to Mrs. Sterchi and were currently on file.

Councilman Ferguson asked how sale of alcohol to those of legal age would be policed. Ms. Ault replied that American Legion staff would be checking identification cards.

Mayor Vaughn moved to approve a Class S liquor license for the American Legion for Saturday, September 19, 2015, at Millers Grove if Ms. Ault would supply the City Clerk with an end time for the sale of alcohol, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-B “Discussion: Watergate Water Purchase Agreement” This item was discussed before item 8-A.

8-C “Resolution: Approval of Final Plat of Gibson Subdivision Lots 1 and 2” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution to approve the final plat of Gibson Subdivision Lots 1 and 2, the minutes from the Plan Commission meeting from September 8, 2015, and a copy of the proposed final plat.

Mr. Barker reported that the Plan Commission unanimously voted during their meeting on September 8, 2015, to recommend the final plat to the Council. The subdivision was required to go before the Plan Commission and the Council as the lot was required to be divided in order to place another house at that location.

City Attorney Zuber also told the Council that the City would be trading the 20 foot by 20 foot portion that used to house a lift station to James Gibson in exchange for a sewer easement.

Councilman Ferguson moved to approve 2015-R-50, seconded by Councilwoman Henton. A majority affirmative voice vote was received with Mayor Vaughn abstaining.

8-D “Discussion: Olney Township Fire Protection District Contribution” The Council was provided with excerpts from City Council minutes dated June 8, 2015, and June 22, 2015. Mr. Barker told the Council that he had been in contact with Olney Township Fire Protection District’s attorney, Paul Bishop. Mr. Bishop had just been in contact with the Mayor that very afternoon regarding the Olney Township Fire Protection District and their contributions. A meeting would take place in the near future with the City Manager, representatives of the Fire District, and Mr. Bishop.

Mayor Vaughn noted that the contract with the Fire District indicated that any actions would need to be taken on October 1 and November 1, so he advised Mr. Bishop that the upcoming meeting would need to take place before the next Council meeting on September 28, 2015, in case any action was necessary. The Mayor requested that the topic stay on the agenda for the September 28 meeting.

8-E “Ordinance: Authorize Sale of Personal Property (1994 Sea Ray & 1994 Eagle Trailer from the Police Department) on GovDeals.com” The Council was provided with a proposed ordinance to sell by auction the Police Department’s 1994 Sea Ray and 1994 Eagle Trailer on GovDeals.com.

Mr. Barker told the Council that the boat and trailer were used for Lake Patrol until the purchase of the most recent boat and trailer in August. The Sea Ray is currently inoperable.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve Ordinance 2015-38, seconded by Councilman Harrison. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

8-F "Appointments/Re-Appointments to Various Boards and Commissions" The Council was provided with a listing of re-appointments to the Library Board and an appointment to the JEDS Board.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to re-appoint Crystal Trout, Sarah Britton, and Sheila Ritter to the Library Board, and to appoint Les Harrison to the JEDS Board, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

Councilman McLaughlin added that the JEDS Board had recently released their proposed budget. The Board did not want to approve the budget until the Council had the chance for review.

The Council decided that the JEDS budget would be placed on the September 28, 2015, agenda for discussion.

8-G "Council Support: Paint Illinois Blue, September 19, 2015" The Council was provided with a letter from the Illinois Auxiliary regarding the upcoming Thank a Police Officer Day. The letter was sent to help promote the Paint Illinois Blue event on September 19, 2015. Mayor Vaughn encouraged the community to help thank the Police Department by wearing and displaying blue all over town. The Council was in support of this effort.

AGENDA #9 "REPORTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS"

9-A "City Manager - Status Report" Mr. Barker introduced Jane Guinn from the audience. Mrs. Guinn was training to become the Assistant City Treasurer. Mr. Barker also announced that Jonathan Pflaum was recently sworn in as the newest member of the Police Department.

Mr. Barker went on to tell that work had been taking place downtown with sidewalk repair and improving the appearance of some of the downtown areas. Also, the City was continuing to work with the State and Jasper County on the upcoming Enterprise Zone application.

Mayor Vaughn asked Mrs. Guinn how State payments were coming along. Mrs. Guinn replied that Income Tax was still up with Sales Tax coming in slightly behind. Use Tax had also increased from the prior year. At this time, the City was not receiving Video Gaming Tax funds from the State.

Councilman McLaughlin was concerned with the Sales Tax being down almost \$16,000.00. He wanted to be able to see what areas were in decline whether it be retail, restaurant, or otherwise.

Mayor Vaughn commented that years ago, he had heard the comment that as gas prices rise, sales tax will also rise because people are not willing to drive as far to spend money. The City's Sales Tax dollars began to drop in November of 2014 when gas prices took a dramatic downturn. Use Tax was on the rise which could indicate that shopping such as online purchases were on the rise.

Mayor Vaughn asked the City Attorney for an update on demolitions. Mr. Zuber replied that there were two cases still pending and two properties that had been given their 15 day notices.

Mayor Vaughn also asked Mr. Zuber if the revised process of paying ordinance violation fines at City Hall before being filed in the Circuit Court was working well. Mr. Zuber felt that the process seemed to be working just fine, however he made a recommendation for the wording on the ticket being revised in effort to be more clear on when additional fees would be added to the violation.

The Mayor then asked the City Engineer for an update on various projects. City Engineer Charleston indicated that the paperwork process was taking place for the water main replacement projects on W. Main and W. Elm Streets. He was also continuing work on the Whittle Avenue project. Lastly, he told the Council that the State had provided final approval of the Safe Routes to School sidewalks.

Mayor Vaughn reported that the left turn signal on E. Main Street was not in working order. Mr. Barker would look into the repair.

From the audience, Dr. David Eckiss asked if the local SWAN location had been closed. The Mayor replied that he had read of the closing in the newspaper. Mr. Eckiss wondered how the closure would effect the community. In speaking with other mayors, Mayor Vaughn was well aware that social services was taking a large hit.

9-B "City Clerk - Set Date for Trick or Treat & Request Annual Squirrel Count Volunteers"
City Clerk Sterchi reminded the Council that a Trick or Treat date and time needed to be set by the City. She requested setting the Trick or Treat for Saturday, October 31, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to set Saturday, October 31, 2015, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. as the City of Olney's Trick or Treat night, seconded by Councilwoman Henton. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

Mrs. Sterchi also noted that the City's 37th Annual Squirrel Count would be taking place during the first three Saturdays in October. She was actively seeking volunteers to participate in the count and encouraged anyone interested to contact her at City Hall. In addition to simply being able to enjoy a nice Autumn morning, the count would serve as true scientific research that would be used to help document the health of the squirrel population in Olney. Councilwoman Henton noted that Dr. John Stencil was in the process of writing a formal report for publication.

AGENDA #10 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS”

10-A “Brian O’Neill” Brian O’Neill, 818 E. Main Street, told the Council that when one person is left behind, all are affected. He also felt that when a State budget was passed, there would still be problems. The only way to solve the problems would be with a complete government overhaul. He went on to list many acts that he felt were only failures.

Mr. O’Neill would be filing his papers with the government for his 2016 presidential candidacy.

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 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, McLaughlin, Ferguson, Councilwoman Henton, Mayor Vaughn, City Manager Barker, City Attorney Zuber, and City Clerk Sterchi left the Council Chambers at 7:39 p.m.

AGENDA #12 “RECONVENE OPEN SESSION” Upon the return of those who were in closed session to the Council Chambers, Councilman Harrison moved to enter back into open session, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Open session resumed at 8:26 p.m.

Mayor Vaughn told the Council that he had received a letter from Ameren indicating that they have not been causing any internet connectivity issues in the area.

Councilman McLaughlin asked for an update on the CellOne tower on E. Main Street. Mr. Barker replied that he had been attempting to make contact with the CellOne representative with no luck. Mr. Barker had been having the most assistance from a store representative in town. He was unsure what the options were at the current time, and had made Mr. Zuber aware that the City may need to take legal action at some point.

Mayor Vaughn then explained he had been approached by Julia Eichhorst regarding the Tiger Boosters’ desire to again set off fireworks during home football games of the Olney Tigers. Unless the Boosters heard otherwise from the Council, they planned to continue with the program. A majority of the Council felt that the continuance would be acceptable.

12-A “Discussion: Projects in City of Olney Parks” Mr. Barker had been in touch with Park Department Supervisor Frank Bradley about four projects to see if the Council wished to create a

timeline for completion. The State's budget uncertainty had been leaving many question marks for planning due to funding concerns.

First, Mr. Barker mentioned the Musgrove Park lights and benches. The 2015/2016 budget held \$15,000.00 for the project. Mr. Bradley had told the City Manager that 1,400 feet of underground wiring would also be needed at an amount of roughly \$10,000.00.

Councilman McLaughlin asked if solar lights had been researched. Mr. Barker replied that solar lights had been looked into, but were unfortunately not an option.

Mr. Barker reminded the Council that Mr. Bradley had planned on utilizing some poles and fixtures from the City Park. Whatever the decision, Councilman McLaughlin wanted to be sure the lights did not look unattractive. The Councilman would also like to see the lights placed on a timer.

The next project for discussion was the Community Building improvements. The 2015/2016 budget held \$20,000.00; hopefully for flooring and cabinets. Mr. Barker noticed that water seemed to be coming in from the front door, and two down spouts were missing along the back side of the building.

Different flooring options had been discussed over the months, and the last update was that Mr. Bradley would be looking into a sort of waterproof paint or sealant for the floors after the tiles were removed. Mrs. Sterchi informed the Council that Mr. Bradley had the Community Building blocked off for the entire month of January 2016 in hopes for repairs.

Mayor Vaughn's preference would be to have a contractor come in to detail all things needed to make the Community Building up to par, and to inform in what sequence the repairs would need to be made. The Fair Board had also made mention that they would wish to see a nicer Community Building. Perhaps the Board could aid in the way of funds and/or labor.

Another project would be improvements to the Band Shell. The vinyl siding would need replaced, and the concrete stage had areas that were chipped. The 2015/2016 budget held \$8,000.00 for improvements at the Band Shell. Taxes had been raised for the Band Shell repairs. Those improvements should be made during the fiscal year.

Lastly, a backhoe had been budgeted for \$40,000.00. Councilman McLaughlin felt the purchase of a backhoe should wait, and the \$40,000.00 could be used for the other three projects. Mr. Barker also mentioned that the current backhoe could be refurbished using some of those funds.

The consensus of the Council was to prioritize the Community Building first. The Band Shell improvements should then be completed in time for Spring. The lights for Musgrove Park could then be worked on during the winter in the way of sanding and painting.

Councilman McLaughlin wanted to make a point that he did not want the projects to be forgotten, and would like to see completion in a timely fashion.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk