

CITY OF OLNEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 25, 2011

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The April 25, 2011 meeting of the Olney City Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Olney City Hall located at 300 S. Whittle Avenue, Olney, Illinois, with Mayor Mark Lambird presiding.

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

AGENDA #3 “ROLL CALL” The following Council members were present: Brad Brown, Pete Weber, Bob Ferguson and Mark Lambird. Councilman Foster entered the meeting later. Also present were City Manager Randy Bukas, City Attorney Larry Taylor, City Treasurer Brad Yockey, City Engineer Roger Charleston and City Clerk Belinda Henton.

AGENDA #4 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

4-A Approve Minutes of Council Meeting on April 11, 2011

4-B Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable April 26, 2011-Pooled Cash \$130,412.19

4-C Resolution: Intergovernmental Agreement for Governmental Body Maintenance of Traffic Control Devices-Resolution 2011-R-26

4-D Ordinance: Repeal and Amend Ord. 2011-14 (Disposal of Florescent Light Bulbs)-Ordinance 2011-18

4-E Resolution: Health Insurance Premium Allocations for Non-Bargaining Employees-Resolution 2011-R-27

4-F Raffle License Application-Backyard Bloomers Garden Club

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

AGENDA #6 “CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA” Councilman Weber moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Councilman Brown. A unanimous voice vote was received.

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

AGENDA #8 “STAFF REPORTS”

8-A “City Manager - Status Report” Mr. Bukas reported that four contracts have been awarded and notices to proceed have been issued for the neighborhood revitalization program. The owner of the fifth house authorized for revitalization has died so work cannot be completed. Another house has not been found to substitute so the program will only be completed on four.

Concerning the Locust Street ditch which is planned for improvements, the Public Works Coordinator and the City Engineer met with representatives from Richland Memorial Hospital.

The hospital has some pipes that drain into the ditch. Once Mr. Charleston determines the elevations of the ditch, a culvert will be installed and covered with millings. If enough money is available through the annual MFT maintenance program, this area will be oiled and chipped.

There is a similar problem near Lincoln and Scott Streets. The ditch is eroding because of the flow. A culvert will also be installed in that area.

City crews finished connecting the mains on Ash and Beech Streets. Pine Street connections still need to be completed along with dirt restoration work. All of this work will be dependent upon weather.

Both water clarifier projects have been completed.

Last week the Richland County Multi-Hazard Mitigation committee met and identified different hazards that could potentially occur in Richland County. This information will be compiled and presented back to the committee in about six weeks at which time a public hearing will be held.

The City Hall window project is approximately 95% complete.

8-B “City Manager - Discussion Citizens National Bank” The Citizens National Bank requested permission to construct a handicap ramp in front of their building located at 202 S. Whittle. Drawings were provided to the Council for review. They proposed removing the existing sidewalk and constructing 14' of sloped sidewalks from each side of their entrance. Handrails will be installed along the slopes to prevent someone from stepping off of the elevated sidewalk. Steps will be installed in front of the entrance down to the curb. Mr. Bukas suggested that their request be approved and proposed for the City to make the curb at the corner of Whittle and Market handicap accessible.

Councilman Brown moved to approve Citizens National Bank request, seconded by Councilman Ferguson.

Councilman Foster entered the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

A unanimous voice vote was received.

8-C “City Treasurer - Financial Report” Mr. Yockey presented his monthly financial report. As of March 31, the total revenues minus expenses for General Corporate was \$18,907.60 compared to a year ago of -\$53,669.58.

The total revenues minus expenses for the Water Fund was \$146,607.11 compared to a year ago of \$87,141.30.

The total revenues minus expenses for the Sewer Fund was \$155,402.64 compared to a year ago of \$57,408.09.

Mr. Yockey noted some items of interest. As of April 25, 2011, the total sales and use tax was \$1,659,683.35 as compared to the same time last year of \$1,559,294.26. The sales and use tax budget is \$62,683.35 above budget for the year.

Income tax as of April 25, 2011 was \$738,547.97 compared to a year ago of \$514,290.66 which is \$53,547.97 above budget for the year.

Telecommunications tax as of April 25, 2011 was \$175,872.54 compared to last year of \$180,773.17 which is \$16,600 behind in the budget for the year.

The net change for the sales and use tax, income tax and telecommunications tax is \$99,603.86 above budget for the year.

The Council also received a spreadsheet detailing General Corporate, Water and Sewer year to date revenues and expenses compared to last year.

AGENDA #9 “NEW BUSINESS”

AGENDA #10 “OLD BUSINESS”

10-A “Discussion: Fees” At the last meeting the Council briefly discussed proposed fee increases for building permit fees, demolition fees, variance fees, flushing laterals and televising laterals. Councilman Brown questioned if the fee increases are based on expenses. Mr. Bukas explained staff spends quite a bit of time on these items. Some of the building permit fees have not been increased for 12 years.

No input has been received from the public since the last meeting.

Councilman Ferguson moved to approve the proposed fee increases, seconded by Councilman Foster. A unanimous voice vote was received. Ordinance 2011-19 will be prepared.

10-B “Resolution: Adopt 2011/2012 Budget” Mr. Bukas commented that a public hearing has been conducted for the 2011/2012 budget and the Council has discussed the proposed budget during the past four meetings. He proposed that the budget be adopted as presented.

Councilman Foster moved to approve Resolution 2011-R-28, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Councilman Ferguson, Mayor Lambird, Councilmen Foster, Brown and Weber voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

10-C “Discussion: Cruelty to Animals” Councilman Foster commented that the proposed cruelty to animals ordinance has been proposed because the Council was approached by Animal Control and citizens that felt an ordinance was needed. Councilman Foster reviewed the proposed ordinance.

Susie Bromm questioned if it was the intent of the Council that all outside cats be penned. Councilman Foster commented that is not required, but cats are not allowed to run at large.

Marie Riggs asked about cats running at large. Councilman Foster commented if the cats can be caught they will be taken to Animal Control if space is available, and they will try to find the owners or adopted.

Mrs. Riggs remarked it is difficult to catch so many cats, and enforcement is costly. She believes there is a better way. She knows a lot of time has been put into creating and amending the proposed ordinance, but the time should have been spent on the disaster alert system. She stated the priorities are dangerously wrong.

Councilman Foster disagreed that the priorities are wrong because the City can do more than one thing at a time. He did not bring up this matter because he wanted it, but citizens and Animal Control wanted something concerning cruelty to animals in writing.

Sandy Millman, Animal Control Officer, agreed tethering will make her job easier.

Councilman Foster stated there are people who do not take care of their animals. Mrs. Riggs remarked that there are animals that have no owners and they become the victim. Councilman Foster understood, but stated people come to town to see the squirrels not the cats.

Ms. Millman commented that a cruelty to animals ordinance is needed along with the tethering ordinance, but the Council needs to make sure the ordinance includes that the pens need to be secured.

Mrs. Riggs remarked that she and other citizens donate money to spay and neuter cats and release them back into the community. Grants are available for such programs, but Olney would not qualify because of the cats running at large ordinance.

Mrs. Bromm requested that pen sizes be increased to 100 square feet which should not include the dog house area. She also believed 90 degrees was too hot for an animal to be left in an unattended vehicle. She preferred 80-85 degrees. In addition, she also believed cats should not be allowed to be tethered.

Ms. Millman wanted an amendment to the proposed ordinance that would allow the Animal Control Officer to break vehicle windows to rescue an animal from an unattended vehicle if the temperature is over the allowable degrees and the owner cannot be found.

Brian O'Neill commented that the City and County need to get together and consider expanding the animal shelter.

Mrs. Riggs commented that she and Ms. Millman have made an attempt with Judy McGillivray to clean up her properties and have the cats neutered and off the street. According

to Mrs. Riggs, Mrs. McGillivray has agreed to move the cats at her Butler Street house, but no action has yet been taken.

Mayor Lambird asked Ms. Millman how many cats are currently at the shelter. Ms. Millman stated currently she has two cats, but there are seven cages available for cats.

10-D “Discussion/Resolution: Combined Dispatch Agreement” Mr. Bukas reported that the Richland County Board has agreed to the most current proposed combined dispatch agreement with the exception they wanted a clarification to Section 22 concerning employment. The Council was provided with the proposed change.

Councilman Brown moved to approve Resolution 2011-R-29, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Mayor Lambird, Councilmen Brown, Weber and Ferguson voted yes. Councilman Foster voted no. The motion carried.

AGENDA #11 “Public Comments/Presentations”

11-A “Disability Parking Spaces” Brian O’Neill reported citizens have problems getting in and out of downtown stores. Mr. O’Neill asked the Council to pass an ordinance making the downtown area more handicap accessible.

Elizabeth Craig questioned if the City will be purchasing a street sweeper. She was informed that the budget, which was just approved, included a street sweeper, but it will take a few months for one to be obtained.

Councilman Brown moved to recess for five minutes, seconded by Councilman Foster. A unanimous voice vote was received.

The City Council recessed at 8:27 p.m.

Councilman Foster moved to return to open session, seconded by Councilman Brown. A unanimous voice vote was received.

The Council returned into open session at 8:33 p.m.

AGENDA #12 “REPORT FROM THE MAYOR”

12-A “Appointments to Various Boards and Commissions” Mayor Lambird recommended the replacement of Mike King on the Plan Commission with Brad Williams.

Councilman Brown moved to approve the appointment of Brad Williams to the Plan Commission, seconded by Councilman Weber. A unanimous voice vote was received.

Mayor Lambird recommended appointing Gary Foster and Rick Chaplin to the JEDS Board.

Councilman Brown moved to approve the appointment of Gary Foster and Rick Chaplin to the JEDS Board, seconded by Councilman Weber. A unanimous voice vote was received.

Mayor Lambird thanked Mr. Bukas, Mr. Charleston and the city workers for the work done in the Boone Street flooding area. It was Mayor Lambird's opinion that the improvements are working quite well during the recent heavy rains.

Mayor Lambird discussed the problems that occurred at the Ludlow radio tower on April 19. He believes an emergency generator and a backup system for the emergency sirens at the Police Department are needed. There was some discussion as to whether the building housing the equipment at the Ludlow tower is adequate for the equipment.

Mayor Lambird also noted a problem with no backup generators at the Sewer Plant and lift stations. He suggested a large portable generator. Mr. Bukas thought the Sewer Plant had a generator on a trailer that could be used for the lift stations. He will look into this matter.

Mayor Lambird announced that Kate and Steve Patterson have been working on creating a farmers market downtown on Saturday mornings. One issue is the possibility of selling locally produced wine.

Steve Patterson explained the farmers market is to emphasize local farmers and local vendors to create a local economy. There are wine makers that are interested in selling their wine products at the market. He would like to bring this matter to the Council for discussion.

Mr. Taylor has done some research on this matter. The current ordinance would have to be amended to create a new class of liquor license. A county and state liquor license would also be required.

Councilman Brown believed the Council should try their best to work with these people.

The first farmers market will be at the Lawn and Garden show on May 7 at the Trust Bank and then each Saturday at 202 E Main from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

AGENDA #13 "REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS" Councilman Brown has noticed several items damaged at the ball fields in the City Park. He questioned the plan or time table for repairs. Mr. Bukas reported that an electrician has been hired to make repairs, but weather may delay completion. A claim will be submitted to the City's insurance company.

Mr. Bukas detailed the damages at the ball diamonds. The leagues will be making repairs to their dugouts.

Councilman Brown noted there are some street banners that were also damaged in the storms.

Mayor Lambird questioned who owned items like the dugouts and bleachers at the ball parks. It was Mr. Bukas' understanding that the baseball associations put up the dugouts and

bleacher covers, and they also maintain them. From what Mr. Bukas has been told, the City owns the lights, concession stand, restrooms and announcer's booth.

Councilman Ferguson questioned if the force main from the City Park to the Sewer Plant is functioning properly. Mr. Charleston has talked to Sewer Plant Supervisor Tony Steber and he indicates everything is working fine and is having less trouble with his other lift stations. There continues to be an infiltration problem. Mr. Steber's department has been televising sewer lines starting with the north east section of town and will continue toward the plant to look for problem areas.

Councilman Foster questioned the status of the old Central School building. Mr. Bukas understood the building is for sale, but if it does not sell, the owner plans to demolish it this summer.

Mayor Lambird thanked Councilman Weber for his service and told him it has been a pleasure to work with him.

AGENDA #14 "CLOSED SESSION: COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS, COMPENSATION OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES AND SETTING THE PRICE FOR THE SALE OR LEASE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY" Councilman Weber moved to adjourn to closed session to discuss collective negotiating matters, compensation of specific employees and setting the price for the sale or lease of city-owned property, seconded by Councilman Foster. A unanimous voice vote was received.

Councilmen Foster, Brown, Weber, Ferguson, Mayor Lambird, City Manager Bukas, City Attorney Taylor and City Clerk Henton left the Council Chambers at 8:49 p.m.

AGENDA #15 "RECONVENE OPEN SESSION" Upon the return of those who were in closed session to the Council Chambers, Councilman Foster moved to enter back into open session, seconded by Councilman Weber. A unanimous voice vote was received. Open session resumed at 9:26 p.m.

AGENDA #16 "ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION" No action was taken as a result of the closed session.

AGENDA #17 "ADJOURN" Councilman Foster moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Weber. A unanimous voice vote was received.

The meeting of the City Council adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Belinda C. Henton
City Clerk