

CITY OF OLNEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2013

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The February 11, 2013 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. Jerry Bush led the group in a prayer.

AGENDA #3 “ROLL CALL” The following Council members were present: Barb Thomas, Gary Foster, Bob Ferguson and Mark Lambird. Brad Brown entered the meeting later. Also present were City Manager Larry Taylor, City Treasurer Chuck Sanders, City Engineer Roger Charleston and City Clerk Belinda Henton.

AGENDA #4 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

4-A Approve Minutes of Council Meeting on January 28, 2013 and Special Council Meeting on January 31, 2013

4-B Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable February 12, 2013-Pooled Cash \$70,020.64, Manual Pooled Cash \$124,084.65, Boone Street Grant \$4,000.00, Levied Insurance \$4,821.22, Tourism \$1,750.00, Christmas Light Display \$1,885.13

4-C Ordinance: Sale of Decorative Light Pole Base

AGENDA #5 “REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM CONSENT AGENDA” Councilman Foster requested that item 4-C Ordinance: Sale of Decorative Light Pole Base be removed from the consent agenda.

AGENDA #6 “CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA” Councilman Foster moved to approve items 4-A and 4-B from the consent agenda, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

AGENDA #7 “CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM” Councilman Foster understood the City has some decorative light pole bases in stock, but questioned if more can be acquired if needed. Park Supervisor Frank Bradley explained the bases are no longer available, but the City has 13 bases in stock. Four more bases will be needed to complete the City Park lighting project so there will be a surplus of 9. The individual requesting the base has a pole but no base.

Councilman Foster moved to pass Ordinance 2013-07, seconded by Councilwoman Thomas. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

AGENDA #8 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS”

8-A “Past 27 Years City of Olney” Brian O’Neill alleged that Councilman Foster, during his time as Fire Chief, took part in illegal actions in connection with a fire next to Mr. O’Neill’s house.

Mr. O’Neill complained about no smoking signs, which are required by law, not being posted correctly. Mr. O’Neill went on to say that laws are not being enforced. Mr. O’Neill then showed the Council a can of rocks which were thrown at his house. According to Mr. O’Neill the police officers are failing to do their duty. Mr. O’Neill alleges that the Council is not treating everyone equal.

AGENDA #9 “PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, ETC.”

9-A “Request: Illumination of Unknown Soldier Monument in Haven Hill Cemetery” Frank Hull from Rolling Thunder, Inc. Illinois Chapter 3 has requested permission to light the unknown soldier monument in Haven Hill Cemetery with a solar powered light. He presented three different plans and described each plan. There are three reasons for illuminating the monument; awareness, education and patriotism.

Councilman Foster asked Mr. Bradley if he saw any problems with plan 3 which includes pavers extending all the way to the sidewalk the width of the monument and would include posts and chains on three sides of the lot. Mr. Bradley believed plans 1 and 2 would cause minimal inconvenience to his department. Mr. Bradley was worried about setting a precedent for anyone wanting to setting up a light.

Councilman Foster questioned if the City has a policy concerning the lighting of grave sites. Mr. Bradley said there is nothing written in the Code concerning this matter.

Councilman Foster did not have a problem with any of the three options. Councilman Ferguson suggested that Mr. Hull work with Mr. Bradley and Mr. Taylor to determine the best plan for all concerned.

Mr. Bradley expressed concern with the close proximity of the light to the sidewalk. Councilman Foster commented the club will be taking a chance with vandalism as long as they understand the potential. The Council was in agreement to allow Mr. Hull to work with Mr. Bradley and Mr. Taylor.

9-B “Ordinance: Sanitary Hauling Bids” Sanitary hauling bids were opening on January 24. Only one bid was received which was from Republic Services of Indiana L.P. Three different proposals were bid. Proposal 1 was for once a week pickup with no limit on the number of containers provided by the customer. Republic bid \$16.00 per month per customer. Proposal 2 was for a once a week pickup with a maximum of four containers per pickup

provided by the customer for \$12.00 per month per customer. Proposal 3 was for once a week pickup with Republic providing up to 2, 96-gallon containers for all residential customers for \$6.65 per month per customer. Additional totes would be \$3.00 per month. Proposal 3 is the same service customers are now receiving.

Republic also bid \$3.00 per month for curbside recycling services. This service would be every other week and would be mandatory for all customers. The recycled materials would be transferred to Republic Services Municipal Recycling Facility in Indianapolis rather than using Secure Processors in Olney.

The Council was provided with a proposed ordinance authorizing Proposal 3 which also incorporated the bid specifications into the ordinance. Mr. Taylor recommended accepting Proposal 3 from Republic Services for \$6.65 per month which is 2 cents less than the current amount charged. He did not propose making any change to the \$7.00 per month that the City charges each customer on their water/sewer/garbage bill.

Mr. Taylor also recommended that the City continue to do its own recycling program rather than contracting it through Republic. City Treasurer Sanders is evaluating the costs of the recycling program in relationship to the number of participants. He hoped to have a proposal for the City Council to consider at the next meeting regarding the amount that should be charged for recycling.

The current franchise expires February 28, 2013.

Councilman Foster moved to pass Ordinance 2013-08, seconded by Councilwoman Thomas. Councilman Ferguson, Mayor Lambird, Councilwoman Thomas and Councilman Foster voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

9-C "Discussion: County Road Tax" Richland County Highway Engineer Danny Colwell addressed the Council concerning a proposed sales tax for transportation purposes which is on the April 9 ballot.

Mr. Colwell presented a letter to Council concerning the details of the proposed tax. Richland County has experienced a drop in Motor Fuel Tax allotments. They have also seen a reduction in state funding of rural roads, but the cost of road maintenance has increased dramatically. The proposed .25% transportation sales tax is projected to generate approximately \$250,000 annually. These funds will be distributed to the Richland County Highway Department and the nine road districts. Mr. Colwell asked the Council to acknowledge that the reduction in state funding for local agency roads is a real problem, and there does not appear to be a solution coming from the state in the near future. He also asked the Council to agree that the .25% sales

tax the County is asking for is a fairer method to fund road maintenance than to ask for a voter approved property tax increase.

Councilman Foster questioned how farm ground affects the County's assessments. Mr. Colwell explained approximately 5% of the property taxes generated for his levy comes from farm ground, approximately 80% come from inside city limits and the remaining 15% comes from buildings outside city limits.

Mr. Colwell explained the proposed tax would not apply to the purchase of vehicles, food or medicine.

Councilman Ferguson questioned how the state figures the MFT allotment. Mr. Colwell explained for counties it is a percentage of motor vehicle registrations collected from within the county. The road districts are based on miles of roads maintained. It is approximately \$1,200 per mile each year.

Councilman Ferguson questioned what has caused the decrease in funding. Mr. Colwell explained the state has collected less. There are also subsidies for ethanol and bio diesel fuels causing fewer taxes to be collected. People are driving less and purchasing less fuel. Mr. Colwell explained the state is withholding collections. There are some diversions at the state level.

Mr. Colwell pointed out there are situations where the County provides services to the city residents. In 2004 the County provided service to the City for wind storm damage at no cost. The County intends to join the Public Works Mutual Aid Network. This will allow their resources to be called upon when needed.

9-D "Resolution: Amend Budget for Additional Sidewalk Repairs" The Council was provided with a proposed budget amendment which will move \$5,000 from contingencies to sidewalk repairs. This will increase the sidewalk line item from \$15,000 to \$20,000. This amendment will allow for additional sidewalk repairs as weather permits until the end of the fiscal year.

Councilman Ferguson moved to approve resolution 2013-07, seconded by Councilwoman Thomas. Mayor Lambird, Councilwoman Thomas, Councilmen Foster and Ferguson voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

9-E "Discussion: IEPA Low Interest Loan Program-W. North Avenue Pumping Station" The Council was provided with a memo from City Engineer Charleston regarding the IEPA low interest loan program. Mr. Taylor wanted the Council to be aware of some of the initial costs in preparing the documents that are necessary for the loan application. There are costs that must be

incurred in order to apply for the loan whether the loan is received or not. The estimated cost to prepare the application is \$8,000. If the Council wants to proceed with the loan application, work needs to begin on the documentation as soon as possible.

Councilman Foster questioned if there are any outstanding loans in the Sewer Department. There is still an outstanding IEPA loan for the Park Lift Station project of approximately \$500,000.

Councilman Foster questioned the estimated cost for the W. North Avenue pumping station project. Mr. Taylor commented the project is estimated at \$550,000. Councilman Foster questioned if revenues would be able to pay for both loans without increasing rates. Mr. Taylor believed rates would have to be increased, but an analysis would have to be done.

Mr. Charleston explained the W. North Avenue pumping station is the oldest in town. The plan is to rebuild the pumping station and eliminate the Elm Street pumping station by rerouting it to W. North Avenue. This Project would also move the pumping station out of the roadway into a right-of-way.

Mr. Charleston advised the City already has an EPA permit for this project. It was issued several years ago and a renewal has been requested.

Councilman Foster recommended proceeding with the pre application. He also requested estimates on rate increases. He was not in favor of increasing rates.

Councilman Ferguson commented he definitely believed the Council should consider this project because interest rates will not get any lower and he did not anticipate any grant programs forth coming from the state of Illinois.

Councilman Foster moved to authorize Mr. Charleston's firm to do the study for the W. North Avenue sewer pumping station, seconded by Councilwoman Thomas. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

9-F "Discussion: Support of OSLAD Grant for Playground Equipment in Olney City Park" Last year the City applied for an OSLAD grant for playground equipment at the Olney City Park, but was unsuccessful with receiving a grant. Mr. Taylor commented the City will be installing \$15,000 of equipment before the end of the fiscal year. The deadline for the next round of OSLAD grants is July 1. Applications will not be available until April 1.

In order to improve the City's chances with the next OSLAD grant, the City was advised a more up-to-date master plan is needed. The Comprehensive Plan was completed in 2000, and

is too old to receive any points on the grant. The application also needs to include evidence of public input and support.

Concerning the Comprehensive Plan, Richland County Development Corporation Executive Director Brandi Stennett believed the first focus should be the adoption of an updated parks and recreation plan. She thought a plan for the park system could be completed within a month. Currently, the Comprehensive Plan does not address time lines for replacement of equipment or maintenance schedules. This would need to be completed by July 1. She also suggested multiple forms of public input such as a survey which might be able to be put on the City's website or in the newspaper.

Councilman Brown entered the meeting at 8:24 p.m..

Mr. Taylor commented work can begin to update the Comprehensive Plan, but this matter should be submitted to the Plan Commission for approval and then forwarded to the Council for approval.

AGENDA #11 "REPORTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS"

10-A "City Manager - Status Report" Mr. Taylor reported the budget process has begun and he and Mr. Sanders are meeting with supervisors. The water and sewer department budgets will be discussed with the Council during the first meeting in March.

Mr. Taylor reported last week new radios were installed on the fire sirens. Testing has taken place and all sirens are now operational.

Councilman Foster questioned if the plugged drainage ditch noted by the saddle club has been investigated. Mr. Taylor commented that he discussed this matter with Mr. Charleston, but it has not yet been checked.

Councilman Foster also questioned if anything has been done about the poles and downed trees which were also noted by the saddle club. Mr. Taylor will be having the Street Department Supervisor look at cleaning up as much as possible.

Councilman Foster also questioned railroad crossing lights on S. Whittle Avenue. He mentioned once before about the possibility of taking down the lights and putting them in Bower Park. He questioned if there is a need to have them on Whittle Avenue. Mr. Taylor did not believe there was a need to have the lights on S. Whittle Avenue. Councilman Foster suggested taking the lights down.

Councilman Foster received a complaint about the brush dump. Last Saturday the complainant witnessed a city employee sitting in a running truck with the lights on while an older person struggled to unload brush from his vehicle. Councilman Foster thought employees should help older people unload their brush. The employee should also be talked to about leaving the truck running.

Councilwoman Thomas noted there are still no barricades on the empty lot on Main Street east of Wildwood Gallery. She questioned if the property owner has been contacted. This issue has been going on for more than six months. She did not believe barricades are that hard to put up.

Councilman Foster believes there are real problems with following up on demolitions and other remedial projects that the Council is trying to get done around the city. He believed the City is giving way too much time to comply. He believes this is something that needs to be addressed.

AGENDA #12 “COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS AND ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY” Councilman Brown moved to adjourn to closed session to discuss collective negotiating matters and acquisition of real property, seconded by Councilwoman Thomas. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

Councilmen Foster, Brown, Ferguson, Councilwoman Thomas, Mayor Lambird, City Manager Taylor, City Treasurer Sanders and City Clerk Henton left the Council Chambers at 8:30 p.m.

AGENDA #12 “RECONVENE OPEN SESSION” Upon the return of those who were in closed session to the Council Chambers, Councilwoman Thomas moved to enter back into open session, seconded by Councilman Foster. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Open session resumed at 10:02 p.m.

AGENDA #13 “ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION” No action was taken as a result of the close session.

AGENDA #14 “ADJOURN” Councilman Brown moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Foster. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

The meeting of the City Council adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Belinda C. Henton
City Clerk