

CITY OF OLNEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2014

AGENDA #1 "CALL TO ORDER" The January 27, 2014 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. Steve Wingert led the group in a prayer.

AGENDA #3 "ROLL CALL" The following Council members were present: John McLaughlin, Barb Thomas, Brad Brown and Ray Vaughn. Bob Ferguson was absent. Also present were City Manager Larry Taylor, City Treasurer Chuck Sanders, City Engineer Roger Charleston, City Clerk Belinda Henton and Deputy City Clerk Kelsie Sterchi.

AGENDA #4 "PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA"

4-A Approve Minutes of Council Meeting on January 13, 2014

4-B Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable January 28, 2014-Pooled Cash \$205,689.40, Manual Pooled Cash \$3,548.25, Water Deposit Refunds \$1,451.14, W. North Lift Station \$12,960.00, Tourism \$66.81 and Christmas Light Display \$447.00

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 Brown. A majority affirmative voice vote was received to approve the consent agenda.

AGENDA #7 "CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA" No consideration was necessary since no items were removed from the consent agenda.

AGENDA #8 "PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS"

8-A "Mayor, City Council Members, City Attorney, Police of Chief and OPD Officers-Official Misconduct & Not Enforcing Ordinances" Brian O'Neill, 818 E. Main, expressed his opinion that an ordinance Mayor Vaughn referred to during the last City Council meeting was unconstitutional. Mr. O'Neill believed the ordinance does not allow a person to express their view points. In the past kids in the audience at the Council meetings have distracted and disturbed him, but they were never removed from the meeting. According to Mr.

O'Neill, nowhere in the ordinance does it state if a person smells or how they look constitutes a disturbance. Mr. O'Neill believes he was falsely removed from a Council meeting. Mr. O'Neill went on to talk about hate crimes against persons with disabilities. He accused the City of allowing people to commit hate crimes against his property and his animal.

8-B "Request: Liquor License" This item was removed from the agenda.

The Council was provided with a recycling program proposal from Kenny Wilson. Mayor Vaughn invited him to attend the meeting to discuss this proposal. Mr. Wilson has been in the recycling business on and off for 20 years. Since 2005 he has been recycling in Noble. He proposes recycling everything except glass. According to Mr. Wilson, 4-H is wanting the paper and magazines back from what they have lost since the City started curbside recycling. Mr. Wilson would collect the paper products and deliver the products to 4-H.

Councilman McLaughlin questioned where Mr. Wilson plans to locate the public recycling containers. Mr. Wilson commented it would be up to the City. He has ordered 8' trailers to place at businesses. He will also be getting 20' trailers with sides for public recycling. He stated the public trailers could be switched out daily.

Councilman Brown questioned the collection of electronics such as computers. Mr. Wilson commented he had places to take electronics. Large items like refrigerators would require special arrangements for pickup. No furniture would be picked up.

Mayor Vaughn summarized in Mr. Wilson's business, he makes money from things that people would otherwise throw away. The fact that the City has between 800 and 1,000 curbside customers, Mr. Wilson would find an end user for the recycling. Mr. Wilson indicated that was correct. Mayor Vaughn continued to summarize Mr. Wilson's proposal by saying in addition to curbside recycling, Mr. Wilson proposes to add business recycling and public recycling for people who do not want to participate in curbside recycling. Mr. Wilson indicated he expected the public recycling location to be full every day and assured the Council it would be picked up when full. Councilwoman Thomas pointed out the last time a public recycling container was made available, it caused a problem. Mr. Wilson indicated it could be picked up quicker than it was before.

Mr. Wilson proposed picking up curbside recycling in two days, the north side on one day and the south side on the next.

Mr. Wilson explained he currently has four employees and expects to hire two more. Recyclables can be co-mingled for both residential and business. The proposed fee was \$3.50 with the City keeping \$.25 for billing and administration of the program. Mr. Wilson's

equipment and employees will be used. According to the proposal, if a reasonable number of people sign up for service, the monthly fee could be reduced.

Mr. Taylor explained the current contract with Secure Processors has expired. A reasonable notice would need to be given to Secure Processor if the recycling program is changed. A new contract would have to be entered into with Wilson Metals.

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

9-A “Resolution: Amend Budget for Addition of Deputy City Clerk” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution amending the budget by increasing the permanent employees and health and life insurance line items in the City Clerk’s department to include the new Deputy City Clerk’s salary and health and life insurance expenses through the end of the fiscal year.

Mayor Vaughn introduced Deputy City Clerk Kelsie Sterchi to the public.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve Resolution 2014-R-02, seconded by Councilwoman Thomas. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

9-B “Discussion: Establish Parks and Recreation Board” Councilman McLaughlin has been meeting with the sports groups and some civic groups concerning the parks. He would like to form an advisory park and recreation board for the purpose of putting together a new comprehensive plan for the parks. The last park and recreation comprehensive plan was included in the City’s 2000 comprehensive plan. Councilman McLaughlin provided the Council with a timeline for creating the board and completing the comprehensive plan. The first step would be to form an advisory board for the purpose of putting together the comprehensive plan. Once a comprehensive plan is drafted, he suggested arranging for two different public hearings. The second public hearing would be scheduled with the Plan Commission for a recommendation to be sent to the Council. He did not believe a lot of money needed to be spent with an outside firm to put together a comprehensive plan. The plans need to be realistic and geared toward what can be done within the next ten years.

Mayor Vaughn questioned why the former Park Board was disbanded. Mr. Taylor drafted the ordinance to repeal the Park Board in 1984, but he did not know why the board was disbanded. A comprehensive plan is needed if grants are pursued. Mr. Taylor believed it would be helpful to have a citizen board to help with the comprehensive plan. The board would report to the Plan Commission concerning the comprehensive plan, but for other issues they should work with the City Manger, Park Department Supervisor and the City Council.

Mayor Vaughn was in favor of creating a parks and recreation board. He believed the board needs to be given specific goals and parameters. The Council suggested seven or nine members. Mr. Taylor will draft some suggested language for the board for the Council's review at the next meeting.

9-C "Discussion: Use of IPRF Grant Funds" Mr. Taylor reported that the City is eligible for a grant of \$4,576 from the Illinois Public Risk Fund which provides the City's worker's compensation insurance. When applying for the grant, the use of the grant must be identified. Last year this grant was used to purchase 12 tasers for the Police Department. It was suggested that the grant be used to help purchase a thermal imaging camera for the Fire Department. A thermal imaging camera is included in the Fire Department's 5-year plan. The cost of a thermal imaging camera is between \$9,000 and \$10,000. The Fire Department has indicated the additional funds needed for this purchase could come from donations that have been made to the department without affecting the General Corporate fund.

Mayor Vaughn asked if the Fire Department already has a thermal image camera. Fire Chief Holmes indicated the department does have one camera, but they are having a lot of trouble with it. There would be a definite advantage to having one camera on the first out truck and another on the backup truck.

Chief Holmes explained that the camera is handheld with infrared technology. The camera is very temperature sensitive and can see through the smoke to find people in a fire. The camera could also be used outside a structure to find the location of a fire before it is seen.

The City will receive the grant, but a specific item has to be submitted along with bid quotes.

Councilman Brown questioned how it was determined to purchase a thermal imaging camera. Mr. Taylor explained the grant had to be used for safety-related items. Looking at the eligible items, the camera seemed the most practical that was needed.

Councilman Brown questioned if there was anything in this year's budget that would qualify. Chief Holmes did not believe so. The grant mentioned air packs, but did not know if cylinders would qualify because air packs are much more expensive. The purchase of a thermal imaging camera would be of benefit.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to apply for the IPRF grant for the purchase of a thermal imaging camera, seconded by Councilman Brown. Councilman Brown, Mayor Vaughn, Councilman McLaughlin and Councilwoman Thomas voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

AGENDA #10 "REPORTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS"

10-A "City Manager - Status Report" Mr. Taylor reported that the loan agreement was received today for the North Street Pumping Station grant from IEPA. The agreement will need to be executed by the Mayor. Ordinance 2013-40, which has been passed, authorizes the execution of the loan agreement. No further action will be needed by the Council. The original ordinance authorized a \$650,000 loan, but based on the construction costs, engineering and contingency, EPA has approved a loan for \$598,357.54 with 1.995% simple annual interest. The letter also indicates that EPA endorses the award of the construction contract to Haier Plumbing and Heating, Inc. for \$511,997.61. When the bids were opened, the Council authorized a Notice of Intent to Award to Haier which was contingent upon approval by EPA. Since EPA has given their approval, the City will enter into the contract.

Concerning the Main Street water main project, there was a pre-bid construction conference on January 22 with potential bidders. The bid opening for this project is February 5.

Mayor Vaughn asked for an update on the unfinished leaf pickup program. This program was severely delayed because of weather. Mr. Taylor explained the plan is to finish the program when the weather permits.

Mayor Vaughn also asked for an update on Glenwood. Councilman McLaughlin has received complaints from a couple of residents. Mr. Taylor commented according to the Street Department Supervisor Marty Nuss, he is planning to patch the street this week. The street will be re-oiled and chipped during the next program.

Mayor Vaughn requested a subjective analysis be put together for all the roads that were completed during the 2013 street maintenance program. There should be some type of grading the condition of the roads after this winter. This information can be used for future reference. The City purchased some expensive equipment on the promise that the street program would improve. There is additional equipment requested in the upcoming budget. Mayor Vaughn was concerned if the existing program is not up to par, the City might not be going in the right direction.

Councilman McLaughlin asked if there was a way to keep track of the man hours on repairing Glenwood for the second time so a true cost can be documented.

Mr. Charleston will look at Glenwood and evaluate the situation.

AGENDA #11 "CLOSED SESSION: SALE PRICE OF REAL PROPERTY AND APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND PERFORMANCE OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES"

Councilman Brown moved to adjourn to closed session to discuss the sale price of real property and appointment, employment and performance of specific employees, seconded by Mayor Vaughn. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

Councilmen McLaughlin, Brown, Councilwoman Thomas, Mayor Vaughn, City Manager Taylor, City Treasurer Sanders, City Clerk Henton and Deputy City Clerk Sterchi left the Council Chambers at 7:36 p.m.

AGENDA #12 "RECONVENE OPEN SESSION" Upon the return of those who were in closed session to the Council Chambers, Councilman Brown moved to enter back into open session, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Open session resumed at 8:29 p.m.

AGENDA #12 "RECONVENE OPEN SESSION" No action was taken as a result of the closed session.

Mayor Vaughn reported that he, Councilwoman Thomas, City Manager Taylor and City Treasurer Sanders met with Art Tepfer. He is an actuary that represents 120 communities. Mr. Tepfer was recommended to Mr. Sanders. When the City receives the annual State actuarial report, it does not give any explanation, feedback or detail. Mr. Tepfer can provide the City with detailed information and projections. According to Mr. Tepfer, the unfunded liability is not a real number. Mr. Tepfer also indicated the rules are changing and the term "underfunded" will not be used anymore. Mr. Sanders explained the rules that are changing are the disclosure rules in the financial statements. Currently, the funding status is disclosed as footnotes. When the new GASB rules become effective in 2016, the under funding will move from the footnote status to a liability on the balance sheet.

Mayor Vaughn heard encouraging information from Mr. Tepfer and believed the City would benefit from hiring an actuary.

Mr. Sanders also called another actuary firm. They seemed anxious to have the business, but Mr. Sanders got the impression they may be more expensive. Mr. Tepfer verbally indicated he charges \$2,200 for each plan.

Mr. Taylor commented it will help for someone to look at all of the assumptions and come up with more detailed information that is more group specific. Mayor Vaughn did not believe an actuary could resolve the pension problems, but he can provide more details.

Councilman Brown was interested in knowing how Olney is doing compared to other communities.

Mayor Vaughn commented the Council needs to make sure the Police and Fire Pension Boards have professional assistance to do their jobs.

Money has been included in the tax levy to provide for the hiring of an actuary. Mr. Taylor questioned if the pension boards should hire the actuary or the Council.

Mr. Sanders will request a proposal from Mr. Tepfer.

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

The meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Belinda C. Henton
City Clerk