

**CITY OF OLNEY  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 25, 2011**

**1, Call to Order** - The July 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.

**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.

**3. Roll Call** - The following Council members were present: Barb Thomas, Gary Foster, Brad Brown, Bob Ferguson and Mark Lambird. Also present were City Manager Randy Bukas, City Attorney Larry Taylor, City Engineer Roger Charleston and Deputy City Clerk Cindy Harlan. City Treasurer Brad Yockey was absent.

**4. Presentation of Consent Agenda**

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

4-B Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable July 26, 2011 - Pooled Cash \$252,560.88 and Water Deposit Refunds \$1,955.54

4-C Raffle License Application - Olney Central College - Cosmetology Club

4-D Raffle License Application - Shelter Friends

**5. Removal of Items from Consent Agenda** - There were no items removed from the consent agenda.

**6. Consideration of Consent Agenda** - Councilman Brown moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Thomas. The consent agenda was approved by a majority voice vote.

**7. Consideration of Items Removed From Consent Agenda** - There were no items removed from the consent agenda.

**8. Staff Reports**

**8-A City Manager - Status Report** - City Manager Bukas reported that an Annexation Agreement and Lease Agreement were given to Illini Wire Works. Illini Wire Works will contact the City when they are ready to proceed. They plan to lease 50' at a time of the right of way for parking.

Water got into the firing range building as a result of heavy rain. There were a number of trees knocked down and Hancock Logging Company is doing some clean up work in the area.

There was some damage at the City Park during fair week. The Fair Board is going to take care of fixing the damaged items.

The pump on the slide at the swimming pool is not working. August 14<sup>th</sup> has been determined to be the closing date of the pool.

Work began today on the Orchard and Willow sanitary sewer replacement project. An 8" line will be replaced with a 12" line.

Recent rain storms caused flooding at 516 N. Elliott St. The vacant lot on the corner of E. Locust and Sycamore was filled with water. The storm water leads to the Morgan/Boone Street area.

Bids are due August 3<sup>rd</sup> for the reconstruction of S. Van Street from E. Main St. to E. Chestnut St. as a concrete street. This item will be discussed at the August 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Staff is looking for a grant to widen Whittle Ave. from Route 50 to Route 130. There may be an opportunity to get federal funding for this project.

Staff is looking at STU funds to improve Holly Road by the elementary school. This would be a 2013 project.

An ad will be in this week's newspaper to accept bids for the Ludlow Communications Building. Bid results will be discussed at the August 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Alltel is constructing a cell tower on Golf Lane.

Mr. Bukas and Public Works Coordinator Frank Bradley gave an update on the S. East Street reconstruction project. Concrete was busted and removed and gravel laid on the first half of the project. The next step is setting forms and pouring concrete. Project is on schedule thus far.

**8-B City Treasurer - Financial Report** - City Treasurer Yockey was not present due to a family emergency. A report prepared by Mr. Yockey was in the Council packets. There were no questions at this time on the information submitted.

## **9. New Business**

**9-A Bid Opening: 418 E. Monroe St.** - City Manager Bukas opened the only bid submitted for the property at 418 E. Monroe St. The bid was from Marion Candi Messenger for \$500.00 to add to a current lot. A resolution will be submitted for Council action at the August 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting

**9-B Bid Opening: 402 W. Elm St.** - City Manager Bukas opened the only bid submitted for the property at 402 W. Elm St. The bid was from Loren Simen for \$350.00 to add to a current lot. A resolution will be submitted for Council action at the August 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

## **10. Old Business**

**10-A Boone Street Culvert Fence** - Mayor Lambird requested that the Council postpone discussion on this subject until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

**10-B Accept the Resignation of the City Treasurer** - Mayor Lambird stated he has not received a letter from Brad Yockey with his intent to resign. Since Mr. Yockey is not present this evening, it was requested to table this matter.

Councilman Foster moved to accept the resignation of City Treasurer Brad Yockey, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Councilmen Foster, Brown and Ferguson voted yes. Mayor Lambird and Councilwoman Thomas voted no. The motion carried.

## **11. Public Comments/Presentations**

**11-A Appearance of Olney** - Jack Fye, representing local citizens and businesses in Olney, stated the purpose for appearing before the City Council was to discuss concerns about the appearance of Olney. Mr. Fye and others feel that Olney has slipped a great deal in its appearance as far as the streets, curbing, and sidewalks. Banners are faded. The group feels that there is no pride in the City or the City workers. If you want the citizens of Olney to be proud of their community, the City fathers must lead and be an inspiration to the citizens. There are a lot of bike riders and walkers in the community. There are shrubs over sidewalks and blocking the view. Letters can be written to these homeowners. If the situation isn't taken care of, the City can do the work and bill the homeowner. Mr. Fye brought to the Council's attention a branch in the street by TrustBank that has been there for a month or more. He noticed a worker in a City truck stop and look at a plugged up storm sewer at Citizens National Bank and drive on. If employees aren't taking pride in Olney, get someone who will. If the people who are managing these employees don't have pride, get managers who will. Mr. Fye referenced the pictures provided to the Council members of various areas in the City. More than just spraying roundup needs to be down. Now there is just brown grass. Mr. Fye thanked the Council members for listening and said the community needed the Council to be leaders.

Herman Zuber, member of Friends of Downtown and Friends of Olney, stated the groups are looking for help from the Council in improving the overall appearance of Olney. The group fully anticipates the City's cooperation, but wants a commitment. He realizes there are budget constraints and things can't be corrected immediately. With the Council's help and leadership, these problems can be corrected. The question is whether there will be improvements in 60 days or by the end of the year, who will be responsible for this project and who is the "go to" person. The opportunity to speak was appreciated. Working together can produce positive results.

Sam Benson, a citizen of Olney and President of the Chamber of Commerce, stated the City needs its sales tax dollars. Citizens do not want to go to the City Park where a teeter totter was removed and the bolts are still there. Mulch was placed on top of leaves from last fall. Citizens need to do their part too. There was a pothole in the 600 block of W. Elm that resulted in two people losing tires. The pothole was eventually patched, but it was three or four months before anything was done about it. Mr. Benson said he wrote a letter about a year ago requesting that clean up be done downtown. Parking places on Whittle Avenue haven't been striped. Curbs were painted, but no scraping was done before it was painted and paint is not there now. Support is needed and the City is needed to take the lead. There are many events going on in town with people coming to visit and they want to proud of our community.

Mr. Fye stated this a year round commitment from the City which includes snow removal.

No one expects the City to do it all, but the City's support, leadership and pride is needed.

Mr. Benson asked that the items discussed this evening be carefully considered and stated that contact information would be appreciated.

Frank Bradley reported that it is possible the street sweeper will be delivered this week or the next.

Sandy Egleston stated that the owners of the businesses, offices and empty buildings downtown should be held responsible for cleaning up their buildings and the sidewalks.

Mr. Fye believes that the appearance of Olney has gotten worse in the last five to eight years.

Mayor Lambird expressed the Council's appreciation for all of the downtown businesses and stated that the City needs to do all it can to take care of the downtown area.

Councilman Foster thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and said he agreed there is a lot of work that needs to be done. Mr. Foster will commit to help get these things moved forward and thought the rest of the Council felt the same way.

Frank Bradley, Public Works Coordinator, reported that six new employees have been hired as a result of receiving a grant from IDNR. These employees will be working in the Park Department. It is his understanding that these employees will be doing some painting. The removal of the weeds in the downtown area is ongoing and will be completed in approximately two weeks. Mr. Bradley hopes to get some curbs repainted this year, but he is not sure how much money is available in the budget to do this work.

There was \$23,500 budgeted for improvements in the park. Some of that money has been spent for electric work. Mayor Lambird mentioned that work needs to be done around the tennis courts. Councilman Brown would like to see some playground equipment purchased for the park.

**12. Report from the Mayor** - Mayor Lambird reported that the psap will be moved to the Sheriff's Department on or around August 9, 2011. Mr. Lambird congratulated Bob Ferguson on his daughter being crowned Mis Richland County.

**13. Reports from City Council Members** - Councilman Foster received a complaint from a man who lives on Chelsea Lane about a street light not working on the corner of Chelsea Lane and Heather Lane that has been reported three times and is still not fixed. There have been three work orders completed on this complaint. Electron Electric has not had any calls about this problem.

Frank Bradley stated that the globes are broken on this street light and that the globes have been ordered, but not received. City personnel have tried to fix street lights that they can instead of paying a contractor to do the work.

Councilman Foster gave an update on the recent JEDS Board meeting. It appears there is a problem with the FOP Labor Council representative and their attorneys. It has something to do with the contract between the City and the County for a combined dispatch center. Apparently, they cannot come to an agreement because the FOP believes the JEDS Board is an employer also because the Board has the authority to determine how the joint dispatch center is operated even though the Board does not contribute funds to the operation. The Sheriff can't make an offer to the City dispatchers until this is settled and combined dispatch is scheduled to begin August 10<sup>th</sup>. If no agreement is reached, the City dispatchers may have to be hired in at the lowest rate on the wage scale. If the dispatchers don't accept, the Sheriff will have to advertise for new dispatchers. The State's Attorney is supposed to contact the FOP to discuss the possibility of changing some wording to make it acceptable. Currently, the JEDS Board designates the number of employees to be hired. The FOP believes that should be determined by the Sheriff or the County Board.

City Attorney Taylor explained that one of the issues is that the JEDS Board has the ability to designate a lead agency. The other issue is the staffing whereby the agreement provides for the JEDS Board to establish the number of employees. The Sheriff fills those positions. The FOP believes this is a significant management issue and wants the JEDS Board to be a party to the agreement with the FOP.

Mr. Foster pointed out the JEDS Board cannot change the lead agency without the consent of both the City and the County.

Mr. Taylor forwarded a copy of the JEDS agreement to the County's FOP representative. It is possible that the JEDS agreement can be modified in order to resolve this situation.

**14. Closed Session: Performance of Specific Employees and Compensation for Certain Classes of Employees** - Councilman Brown moved to enter into closed session to discuss the performance of specific employees and compensation for certain classes of employees, seconded by Councilman Foster. A majority voice vote was received.

Councilmen Foster, Brown and Ferguson, Councilwoman Thomas, Mayor Lambird, City Manager Bukas, City Attorney Taylor and Deputy City Clerk Harlan left the Council Chambers at 8:15 p.m.

**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 Brown. A majority voice vote was received. Open session resumed at 12:42 a.m. on July 26, 2011.

**16. Action on Closed Session** - Councilman Foster moved to have a special City Council meeting on August 1, 2011, at 8:00 p.m. with a closed session to discuss personnel issues, seconded by Councilman Brown. A majority voice vote was received.

**17. Adjourn** - Councilman Foster moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Brown. A majority voice vote was received. The meeting adjourned at 12:45 a.m. on July 26, 2011.

Cindy L. Harlan  
Deputy City Clerk