

CITY OF OLNEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 28, 2011

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The November 28, 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. Darrell Brame led the group in a prayer.

AGENDA #3 “ROLL CALL” The following Council members were present: Barb Thomas, Gary Foster, Brad Brown and Mark Lambird. Bob Ferguson was absent. Also present were City Attorney Larry Taylor, City Engineer Roger Charleston and City Clerk Belinda Henton.

AGENDA #4 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

4-A Approve Minutes of the Council Meeting on November 14, 2011

4-B Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable November 29, 2011-Pooled Cash \$78,825.51

4-C Ordinance: Sale of Personal Property-Ordinance 2011-57

4-D Raffle License Application-Olney Chamber of Commerce

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

AGENDA #6 “CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA” Councilman Brown moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Thomas. A majority 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 - Project Update” The Council was provided with a Musgrove Ball Diamond Complex expense report. Mr. Taylor summarized the report. Total expenses to date were \$117,391.78.

The Street Department is making progress on the Locust Street ditch project.

On December 5 a leaf vacuum will be demonstrated at the City Park.

Charles Sander will begin his duties as Treasurer on December 5.

Mr. Taylor requested input from the Council concerning a project grant from the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program. The grant is an 80/20 match. One aspect of funding can be for pedestrians or bike paths and sidewalks. There are certain conditions that have to be met.

Sidewalks have to be constructed from one destination to another destination and they have to be a part of a local, regional or state plan. The City's Comprehensive Plan includes some information about sidewalks, but it needs to be amended. Mr. Taylor suggested using the Safe Routes to School grant plan to make changes to the comprehensive plan. The Plan Commission will have to consider changes to the Comprehensive Plan. If these changes can be made in January, the grant application can be submitted between February and May.

Mayor Lambird suggested considering a new sidewalk along Route 130 to Wal-Mart. Councilwoman Thomas also suggested sidewalks along W. Mack Avenue between East Street and Route 130.

Mr. Taylor will proceed with changes to the Comprehensive Plan and will keep the Council advised.

AGENDA #9 "NEW BUSINESS"

9-A "Discussion: Tax Levy" Mr. Taylor presented a preliminary proposal regarding the 2011 tax levy. The combined tax levy for the City and Library is .04243% higher than last year's extensions with a proposed tax rate of 1.9232 up from 1.9140 last year. The net increase in the combined City/Library levy is \$7,772.

Mr. Taylor explained the estimated assessment was down approximately 1% from last year. The current estimated assessed valuation is \$95,650,000. The City attempted to keep the levy increase to a minimum, but the Library was not able to keep their rate unchanged because of IMRF increases.

Councilman Brown questioned how the Library works. Mr. Taylor explained the Library has a board with members appointed by the Mayor. They set their own budget, and their budget is included in the City's budget.

Councilman Foster moved to approve Resolution 2011-R-80, seconded by Councilman Brown. Councilmen Foster, Brown, Mayor Lambird and Councilwoman Thomas voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

AGENDA #10 "OLD BUSINESS"

10-A "Discussion: Insurance Proposals" The Council was provided with the insurance information presented at the last meeting. The two lowest bids were received from Arthur J Gallagher. Mr. Taylor recommended accepting the bid of \$158,300 from Arthur J Gallagher with the \$9,000,000 excess liability.

Councilman Foster thanked Mr. Taylor and Cindy Harlan for the work they have put into getting this information ready for the Council.

Councilman Foster moved to accept the bid for \$158,300 from Arthur J. Gallagher with the \$9,000,000 excess liability, seconded by Councilman Brown. Councilmen Brown, Mayor

Lambird, Councilwoman Thomas and Councilman Foster voted yes. There were no opposing votes. Resolution 2011-R-81 will be prepared.

10-B “Discussion: White Squirrel Saddle Club” Al Zellmer addressed the Council concerning the use of the firing range and horse arena area. Mr. Zellmer received a letter from Mr. Taylor concerning the use of these areas and the need to schedule activities.

Mr. Zellmer noted at the Council meeting on January 21, 2008 he was told nobody uses this area. They were also told overnight camp and boarding would be a good thing, but things have now changed. Mr. Zellmer commented the saddle club has spent almost \$30,000 and the City has spent close to \$10,000 making improvements to the range house and the horse arena area. The saddle club is three years into this project and now there is a conflict.

Mr. Zellmer stated the saddle club is currently working on a 2012 schedule for the arena, but then he stated the saddle club cannot give a plan for a year.

Concerning the arena and campground area, Mr. Zellmer commented people from the City were taken to the area and shown where everything would be located.

Mr. Zellmer asked for fair scheduling. If the firing range stays in the area, the saddle club should be allowed flexibility in scheduling since they have spent money on the facilities. In his opinion, the only answer may be to move the firing range.

Mayor Lambird thanked the saddle club for the work they have put into this area. Not all of the neighbors are happy with the current location of the firing range. A grant opportunity is available through the National Rifle Association. It was unknown how much it would cost to build a new firing range. Cost will be investigated.

Councilman Foster suggested a new firing range could be built on S. Whittle at the Fire Training Center.

The Olney Gun Club has had a use agreement for the firing range with the City since 1994. Mr. Zellmer stated the gun club usually only has four people to attend their functions. Mr. Zellmer felt the saddle club should have first right to use the area since they have spent money for improvements.

Councilman Foster suggested that everyone continue making reservations for the firing range and arena area for first part of 2012 and hopefully by fall arrangements for an alternative can be made.

Councilman Foster commented he believed the City should have been informed when the saddle club added camp sites and installed water lines and electricity. Mr. Zellmer stated plans were presented before Councilman Foster was on the Council. He met with the City Manager and discussed their plans.

Mrs. Zellmer commented the first \$10,000 grant that was received in 2011 included funding for water and electricity. City Manager Randy Bukas provided a letter of support for the grant.

Councilman Foster believed the Council should have been aware of where and how the water and electric lines would be run. Mr. Zellmer stated he informed Code Enforcement Officer Mike Mitchell about the water and electric lines and he inspected the lines.

Mr. Zellmer asked the City to talk to the Olney Gun Club for flexibility in scheduling saddle club events. Mr. Zellmer was told to make reservations with City Clerk Belinda Henton and if more flexibility is needed, Mr. Taylor can be consulted.

At the next meeting the Council will have an estimated cost to move the firing range.

Shelby Holder, 5279 N. Silver Road, addressed the Council with her concerns for safety at the firing range. She stated people shoot at the firing range when they want without having a reservation. The firing range was already in use at its current location when she purchased her property. She has witnessed shooting early in the morning and late at night. She felt the firing range needs to be moved.

10-C “Ordinance: Amend Sanitary Franchise Agreement” The Council was provided with a proposed sanitary franchise agreement along with an email from Republic Services concerning the delivery of waste carts to customers and information that will be given to the customers concerning the use of the waste carts.

The primary change to the proposed sanitary franchise agreement is the extension of the agreement for three years and the addition of an annual curb side cleanup conducted by Republic.

Councilman Foster stated he was opposed to the extension of the agreement.

The Council suggested delaying the extension of the franchise agreement until they see how the waste carts work out.

10-D “Discussion: Trees on Whittle Avenue” The Council was provided with a summary of the tree survey results. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources recommended replacing the Bradford pears trees with European hornbeams. The Council questioned problems concerning the removal of the current trees.

Councilman Foster commented if the trees cannot be removed, they should at least be thinned. Staff was also asked to investigate the cost of removing the trees and grinding stumps.

10-E “Discussion: Contract for Electric Rates” The Council was provided with electrical rate information from Ameren Energy Marketing. They also were provided with a chart detailing savings for City Hall, Sewer Plant and Water Plant. The estimated savings is approximately \$150,000 based on 42 accounts for 3 years.

Councilman Foster moved to approve Resolution 2011-R-82, seconded by Councilman Brown. Mayor Lambird, Councilwoman Thomas, Councilmen Foster and Brown voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

AGENDA #11 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS” There were no comments made by the public.

AGENDA #12 “REPORT FROM THE MAYOR”

12-A “Appointment to Various Boards and Commissions” Mayor Lambird made no appointments.

Mayor Lambird asked that the sirens be sounded and a moment of silence be observed on December 7, 2011 at 12:25 p.m. in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. The Council was in agreement.

Mayor Lambird contacted Steve Patterson concerning the use of the Community Building while Santa is there on Friday and Saturday nights by the Farmers’ Market vendors. Mr. Patterson will contact his vendors.

Mayor Lambird asked the Council to consider placing bronze markers in the sidewalk in front of historical locations when sidewalks are replaced. The markers could be used to organize a walking tour of historical locations.

Since this will be the last Council meeting Rick Chaplin attends as Police Chief, Mayor Lambird thanked him for his years of service.

AGENDA #13 “REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS”

Councilman Foster discussed the possibility of the County building a new dog pound. He questioned if the City has a parcel of land with utilities that might be given to the County for that use. There are grants available for this type of project, but the County would have to own the land. Councilman Foster questioned a location on W. Lafayette and asked for other suggestions. The Council was agreeable to talk about a location.

Mayor Lambird commented when he worked the bucket brigade at the Christmas Light Display, he noticed license plates from 12 different states. He thought this was a good indication of the success of the Christmas Light Display.

AGENDA #14 “CLOSED SESSION: APPOINTMENT, COMPENSATION AND PERFORMANCE OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES” Councilwoman Thomas moved to adjourn to closed session to discuss the appointment, compensation and performance of specific employees, seconded by Councilman Brown. A majority voice vote was received.

Councilmen Foster and Brown, Councilwoman Thomas, Mayor Lambird, City Attorney Taylor and City Clerk Henton left the Council Chambers at 9:02 p.m.

AGENDA #16 “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 Brown. A majority voice vote was received. Open session resumed at 9:47 p.m.

AGENDA #17 “ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION”

Mayor Lambird commented Police Chief Chaplin has served the City well and he wanted to present him with his service weapon on December 1 at his retirement party. He would like for this to become a tradition for officers and Police Chiefs. Mr. Taylor asked if Officer Parker will also be presented with his weapon. The Council was agreeable.

Councilman Foster moved to give Police Chief Rick Chaplin and Officer Kevin Parker their service weapons upon their retirement, seconded by Councilman Brown. A majority voice vote was received. Ordinance 2011-58 will be prepared.

AGENDA #18 “ADJOURN” Councilman Brown moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Foster. A majority voice vote was received.

The meeting of the City Council adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Belinda C. Henton
City Clerk