

CITY OF OLNEY  
CITY COUNCIL CLOSED SESSION  
MAY 9, 2011

The Olney City Council met in closed session for the purpose of discussing collective negotiating matters. The closed session began at 8:35 p.m. in the City Manager's Office at City Hall. Those present were: Councilmen Foster, Brown, Councilwoman Thomas, Mayor Lambird, City Manager Bukas, City Attorney Taylor and City Clerk Henton.

The Council was provided with a letter Mr. Bukas sent to FOP concerning the laying off of City telecommunicators as of June 8, 2011. The City has negotiated in good faith that the County would honor their present salaries. The County FOP group will be voting whether to approve the agreement with City telecommunicators on May 19.

An IBEW negotiations meeting took place on April 27. IBEW submitted a proposal to the City which did not include any wage considerations. Included in the proposal was additional compensation for unused sick days. They also wanted a clarification on how holidays are addressed when there are two holidays during a particular time frame. Staff is proposing if the holiday is on a Saturday, the holiday will be taken on Friday; if the holiday is on Sunday, the holiday will be taken on Monday; if the holidays fall on Friday and Saturday, Saturday and Sunday or Sunday and Monday, the holidays will be taken on Friday and Monday.

With respect to health insurance, the IBEW would like for the City to change the current prescription plan. Several employees have complained that it is taking too long to get their insurance reimbursements. This situation is being monitored. At this time staff does not recommend any changes to the health care plan. The IBEW is also asking for the addition of dental and eye care insurance. Quotes have been received from Blue Cross/Blue Shield on dental care and were provided to the Council.

The IBEW also wants to have some kind of language regarding supervisors doing bargaining unit member work.

Mr. Bukas had several suggestions for the City's proposal to the union. Concerning overtime, the current language states that vacation, personal leave, jury leave, sick leave or funeral leave will be counted as hours worked when calculating overtime. Mr. Bukas proposed that sick time not be counted toward hours worked.

Regarding lunch time, the current contract allows the employees to have 10 minutes to go to the Public Works Center or their base of employment to have their half hour lunch. Mr. Bukas proposed a change so that the employees only have 30 minutes for lunch.

Call in pay allows the employees to be paid for two hours overtime if they are called out and work one hour or less or if they work more than one hour, even if it is only five minutes, they get paid for four hours. Mr. Bukas suggested negotiating for a two-hour minimum rather than four hours. The Council agreed with this suggestion.

Mr. Bukas suggested clarifying funeral leave. Currently, one day of funeral leave is allowed when attending services for other relatives, including, but not limited to aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. Mr. Bukas suggested deleting "other relatives." Mayor Lambird strongly disagreed with this proposal. It was explained employees always have the option of using personal days or vacation days if they want to attend a funeral that is not allowed under funeral leave.

The Council discussed whether specialized equipment operators receive a stepped up pay. They were informed they do not.

Staff is negotiating for a three-year contract.

In general, the Council was agreeable with the proposals presented by Mr. Bukas.

The Council received a list of guns which the Police Department has obtained and would like to trade in for a rifle. The Council believed the guns need to be appraised by a dealer before they are traded to make sure the City receives a fair deal.

The Council unanimously approved the April 25, 2011 closed session minutes.

The closed session adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Belinda C. Henton  
City Clerk