

# Minutes: December 15, 2014

A MEETING OF THE OGLESBY CITY COUNCIL WAS HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2014, AT CITY HALL. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, MAYOR FINLEY, ATTORNEY JAMES ANDREONI AND CITY CLERK BECKY CLINARD.

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER DANEKAS

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY RIVARA to approve the regular meeting minutes from December 1, 2014 meeting. AYES: PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY RIVARA to approve the special meeting minutes from December 8, 2014 meeting. AYES: PORTER, RIVARA, FINLEY. ABSTAIN: YBORRA. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RIVARA, SECONDED BY YBORRA to approve the bills as presented Laura Houde, \$175.96; AEA, Inc., \$3,050.00; AFLAC, \$117.67; Ameren IP, \$1,593.97; Apple Press, \$578.00; Arthur J Gallagher, \$69,064.00; Batteries & Things, \$46.00; Comcast, \$330.36; Efficient Billing Systems, \$577.10; Envision Healthcare, \$238.00; Flink Snow Plows & Spreaders, \$38.74; Gasvoda & Associates, \$1,136.48; Grosenbach's, \$299.34; Halm's, \$584.71; Laura Houde, 218.88; Hygienic Institute, \$355.55; Ideal Environmental, \$2,321.25; IL Municipal Electric Agency, \$201,137.39; IL Valley Community Hospital, \$25.00; Illini State Bank – Police CC, \$398.96; Illinois Valley Cellular, \$776.20; Illinois Valley Excavating, \$330.00; Itron, Inc. \$2,272.12; John Senica Jr., \$1,170.46; Kendrick Pest Control, \$140.00; Kittilson's Commerical Power, \$1,268.85; Kittilson's Garage, \$795.13; Robert Kuhar, \$300.00; LaSalle Office Supply, \$221.23; Briana Mancini, \$131.69; Mautino Distributing, \$36.00; McClure Engineering, \$112.50; Menards, \$302.01; Alexandra Mercer, \$136.29; Midwest Testing, \$1,000.00; Morton Salt, Inc., \$14,657.77; Dollar General, \$29.65; NCPERS Life Insurance, \$48.00; Oriental Trading, \$31.98; Orkin Pest Control, \$73.71; Oscar's Automotive, \$394.54; Perona, Peterlin, Andreoni, \$2,051.00; Revere Electric, \$722.63; Secretary of State, \$101.00; SEICO, Inc., \$540.00; Nick Sell, \$190.14; Springfield Electric Supply, \$11,776.00; St. Margaret's, \$82.00; Staples, \$104.79; Sunrise Supply, \$30.24; TEST, \$80.00; University of Illinois, \$800.00; Vickers Consulting Service, \$550.00; Water Products Company, \$218.72. **TOTAL: \$323,410.09** AYES: PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

The Mayor then opened the floor to the public for questions concerning agenda items. Tod Misener then quizzed the council on a "long-term plan" to reduce property taxes. Attorney Andreoni explained that \$597,000 of the proposed levy was "employee salary generated expenses." With that, Misener questioned why council members would choose to participate in IMRF, which is a cost to the city. Commissioner Yborra, pointed out that the commissioners' salary — \$150 a month — would generate less than \$30 a month pension after 12 years of service, and questioned whether Misener had "any idea what we (commissioners) do." Yborra then said that Misener shouldn't be using city council meetings to campaign.

Resident Drew Merriman then questioned why Misener was allowed to speak longer than the 3-minute time limit.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY RIVARA to approve Ordinance No. 879-121514, which amends salaries for the chief and assistant chief of police. AYES: PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY YBORRA to pass Ordinance No. 883-121514, the FY 2014-15 tax levy. AYES: PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY YBORRA TO approve Ordinance No. 880-121514, which abates taxes on the 2013 Bond. AYES: PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY RIVARA to approve Ordinance No. 881-121514, which abates the taxes on the 2010A Bond. AYES: PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY YBORRA to approve Ordinance No. 882-121514, which abates the taxes on the 2010B Bond. AYES: PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY YBORRA, SECONDED BY RIVARA to seek bids for the demolition of the property at 211 E. Walnut, formerly known as the Shields property. AYES: RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. NAY: PORTER. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY YBORRA to place on file a letter from Tod Misener. AYES: PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Rivara then questioned why ambulance director Cathie Edens must "be available 24 hours." Rivara suggested that the city hire an outside consultant to determine if the ambulance service is being run in the most efficient manner. Rivara said the city "has to be able to afford (the level of service)and fund it." Rivara said the city needed to "get answers and closure to this issue."

Commissioner Porter responded that the ambulance department "is not your (Rivara's) department" and that he was "offended" by Rivara's lack of confidence in him to run the department. Porter reminded Rivara that the Illinois Municipal Code gives him (Porter) control over the department.

Rivara said he felt an outside consultant would "come in and get some answers." Porter responded that he was not in favor of bringing in an outside consultant and the discussion ended.

Rivara then talked about rising electric rates on the open market, but noted that city residents " shouldn't be seeing that type of increase" on their monthly bills.

The floor was then opened to the public:

Tony Dennett asked about the status of the grocery store. Finley told him that the site was not on County Market's building list for 2015, but that they continue to say that they are still planning to build in Oglesby. Dennett also asked about Advantage Logistics, with Finley noting that the company was hiring recently.

Drew Merriman asked if the city should look at the way the City of LaSalle's ambulance service is run, noting that "everything is going well." He suggested that there would be a "big savings" to the city. Commissioner Porter told Merriman that he had previously looked at the service, and they "couldn't come in and run the department as economically as our department."

Tod Misener then asked if electrical rates "may be going up." Rivara said that the "city should be able to hold its own" without raising rates. Misener then asked about the \$104,000 Ameren refund and why it wasn't being distributed to customers. Rivara explained that only a portion (\$40,000) of the overcharge was passed onto customers and that it would be a "nightmare" to figure out how to distribute the refund fairly. When Misener noted that Peru was giving the refund to its customers, Rivara pointed out that "Peru has \$14 million in reserves, The City of Oglesby has \$0."

Commissioners' and Mayor Reports:

Commissioner Rivara told the council that his department "was just trying to keep the lights on," noting the aging fleet of trucks his department has. He also told the council that, using a grant from the IMEA, street lights on Walnut Street "down to Ed Hand" highway were being replaced with energy efficient LED lights.

Commissioner Yborra reminded residents that they shouldn't park on the roadways after 2 inches of snowfall.

Commissioner Porter spoke about the annual "shop with a cop" program for local families and said the department was still taking donations.

Mayor Finley reminded residents about the Santa Open House at the Dickinson House on Sunday from 3 to 6:30 p.m.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER AND SECONDED BY RIVARA to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. AYES: PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

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Becky Clinard, City Clerk