

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE OGLESBY CITY COUNCIL WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2014 AT 5:15 P.M. AT CITY HALL. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:15 P.M.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS DANEKAS, PORTER, RIVARA, MAYOR FINLEY, ATTORNEY JAMES ANDREONI AND ASSISTANT CITY CLERK TERRY KAMNIKAR.

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER YBORRA

At this time Commissioner Rivara opened the meeting with his concerns regarding city finances. Commissioner Rivara stated that the city needs to either make cuts or increase income. Rivara stated that the Electric Fund cannot carry everyone like it has for the last 5-10 years. Rivara stated that there are too many "cherry-pickers" who benefit from the city's cheap water and sewer rates. He believes the residents of Oglesby who have electric service should not have to "subsidize" the individuals who choose not to annex into the city or decline to purchase the city's electric.

Commissioner Danekas stated when Buzzi was up and running at 100% the city still struggled. Before current council took office, the city had to transfer over a \$1 million to the General Fund to make ends meet. Danekas stressed that the city has always struggled but has always found a way to make ends meet. The line of credit has been a great help. Do we need to raise rates? Yes, but who wants to initiate it? Sewer and water rates need to be increased but Danekas stated that is not his department. If someone wanted to submit a reasonable increase, he would support it.

Danekas announced that the city is changing insurance carriers beginning Dec. 1st. With the current provider the city's increase would have been \$36,000 for 2015. With the new provider the city will pay an increase of \$12,000 for 2015.

The tax levy and the increased sales tax will help but it's not the fix for the big picture. Danekas explained that the biggest cost to the city is labor. He stated that the assessed value for the city is down \$4.6 million in the last 3 years. He posed this question, "How do we keep going to the citizens and asking them for more money when we turn around and give raises?" To cut costs the city has to either cut wages or start out-sourcing the work per department. Those are tough decisions and no one wants to tackle them.

In reply, Commissioner Rivara stated that the Electric Fund is helping pay majority of the bills. He would like to see a certain amount held for improvements, equipment and build reserves.

Regarding the labor issue, Commissioner Danekas stated that he has given it some thought of having the Clerk's Office open for only 4 days a week with 6 hour days. Residents would have to adjust. Commissioner Rivara questioned his concerns about work being completed in a timely manner. Commissioner Danekas stated that change has to start somewhere.

At this time Commissioner Porter stated the Oglesby residents will have to adjust when the regional dispatch center opens. The current operation of the city's police department is 24 hours a day and you are able to walk in at any time for service. However, in the near future, the current police department building will not be staffed 24/7. It will operate based on a day shift and staffed for administrative purposes only.

Commissioner Danekas offered to sit down with Commissioner Rivara and create a 5 year capital projects plan.

The next topic was the tax levy. Commissioner Danekas announced that the tax levy incentive for this year based on a 5% increase would be \$741,100 which would be a tax rate of \$2.67546. This reflects a

.15 increase per \$100 on tax bill. Certain funds can be levied with no maximum limit. These funds are IMRF, Police Pension, Audit, Liability Insurance, Band and Social Security.

Attorney Andreoni stated the levy needs to be on file for one week before it can be passed. The levy has to be filed with the County Clerk's Office no later than Tuesday, December 30, 2014.

The next item on the agenda was rates. Commissioner Rivara stated that he was not going to raise electric rates. No one else had a comment.

Next topic was gaming which was addressed by Commissioner Rivara. He's concerned about too many gaming sites opening within the city. Attorney Andreoni stated that the city could lower the amount of liquor licenses allowed to limit gaming sites. At this time there is one individual that has been given a liquor license to open a gaming site on E. Walnut Street. However, this gaming site has not opened yet. Commissioner Porter stated that he would support limiting liquor licenses so the council would have more control over gaming sites. Mayor Finley stated that he will contact the Liquor Commission department regarding revised rules and regulations for gaming sites.

Public Comments – None

Commissioners' Reports and Mayor's Report – None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RIVARA, SECONDED BY PORTER to adjourn at 6:05 p.m.

AYES: DANEKAS, PORTER, RIVARA, FINLEY. ABSENT: YBORRA. MOTION CARRIED.

Terry Kamnikar, Assistant Clerk