

Minutes: October 27, 2014, Special Meeting

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE OGLESBY CITY COUNCIL WAS HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2014, 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 CITY CLERK BECKY CLINARD.

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER YBORRA

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY RIVARA to appoint Gary Falassi to the Ambulance Board. Falassi replaces Rich Vollmer, who resigned in September. AYES: DANEKAS, PORTER, RIVARA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RIVARA, SECONDED BY PORTER to accept the bid of \$25,168.00 for a new transformer for Wire Mesh. Commissioner Rivara said he had consulted with the engineers and he believed this would fix the problem. There was some discussion about a "solution" that was proposed several years ago, that apparently did not do the job. Rivara said that the city owed the residents on the west end a solution to their blinking lights. AYES: DANEKAS, PORTER, RIVARA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RIVARA, SECONDED BY PORTER to accept an IDOT resolution that would allow smaller companies without their own asphalt plants to bid on city projects. This was a recommendation by AEA engineer Andy Washelesky, who briefed the council before the vote in Commissioner Yborra's absence. AYES: PORTER, DANEKAS, RIVARA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

The discussion then turned to the sales tax referendum, with Commissioner Danekas telling the council and audience that if the sales tax referendum did not pass, the city could possibly need to increase the levy by more than 5 percent. The 5 percent figure is noteworthy because a public hearing is required if the levy increase is 5 percent or more. Danekas noted that the city's EAV had decreased by another \$885,000.00 this year, so even if the levy didn't go up, residents would still see an increase on their tax bills. Increasing the sales tax revenue by about \$163,000 would lessen the burden on taxpayers, Danekas said. Danekas called the referendum a "barometer" of how the levy "is going to go." He stressed several times the importance of the increase passing. Porter, Rivara and Finley all agreed that they hadn't heard anything negative about the increase.

The Mayor then opened the floor for public comment on any item.

Greg Stein asked if the old Alliance Dental Building would be suitable for the recently announced regional 9-1-1 dispatch center. Porter called Stein's suggestion "not the worse location," but noted that the group was just in the beginning stages of assessing their needs for a building and equipment.

Tod Misener asked about the recent article in the newspaper concerning a settlement with Ameren and the city's share of the settlement. He asked when the money would be available to the city and how much it would be. Rivara said he expected that the city would receive almost \$100,000 over 4 months, but the details were yet to be announced as to when. Misener asked if the refund would be "passed along to the consumers." Rivara said that that was his intention.

Wanda Lent asked what the balance in the "Rainy Day Fund" was. City Clerk Clinard said that the balance hadn't changed since August, but that she believed it was near the \$58,000 mark. Porter told Lent that he believed she was under the misunderstanding that the money in the account belonged to the ambulance. He clarified for her that the money had been set aside for the purchase of an ambulance and that now that the city had received a grant for a large portion of the cost of the ambulance, the money would be earmarked for another need. Danekas agreed with Porter's explanation and noted that it would most likely be used for a truck for the electric department.

Commissioner Reports:

The commissioners and mayor urged residents to "get out and vote" for the sales tax increase.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RIVARA, SECONDED BY PORTER to adjourn at 5:347 p.m. AYES: DANEKAS, PORTER, RIVARA, MAYOR FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

Becky Clinard, City Clerk