

Minutes: September 2, 2014

A MEETING OF THE OGLESBY CITY COUNCIL WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2014, AT CITY HALL. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS DANEKAS, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, MAYOR FINLEY, ATTORNEY VINCE BROLLEY AND CITY CLERK BECKY CLINARD.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY RIVARA to approve the regular meeting minutes from August 18, 2014 meeting. AYES: DANEKAS, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY YBORRA to approve the special meeting minutes for the August 25, 2014, meeting. AYES: DANEKAS, PORTER, YBORRA, FINLEY. NAYS: RIVARA.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DANEKAS, SECONDED BY PORTER to approve the bills as presented for payment: A.S.K. Enterprises, \$1,815.60; AEA, Inc., \$4,347.53; AFLAC, \$117.67; Altec Industries, \$630.67; Ameren IP, \$718.70; Brad Anderson, \$31.36; BSN Sports, \$57.49; Call One, \$2,006.03; Comcast, \$63.45; D.J. Sickley Construction, \$67,172.95; Daley's Super Service, \$654.37; Cathie Edens, \$159.04; Emergency Medical Products, \$168.24; Fastenal, \$339.22; Feece Oil, \$1,606.50; Fleet Services, \$3,784.27; Fletcher-Reinhardt, \$555.00; Hoerr Construction, \$7,950.00; Hygienic Institute, \$355.55; Il Public Risk Fund, \$5,651.00; IVCH, \$18.60; Illinois Valley Community College, \$36,441.31; Illinois Valley Business Equipment, \$70.00; Illinois Valley Excavating, \$600.00; Jack's Gas and Service, \$22.00; John's Service and Sales, \$741.31; Knoblauch Advertising, \$890.00; Kramarsic Law Offices, \$150.00; Lafarge Aggregates, \$157.78; LaSalle First State Bank, \$65.13; LaSalle Office Supply, \$182.94; LPHS, \$77,143.61; Mautino Distributing, \$12.00; Menards, \$196.49; Mertel Gravel, \$346.88; Oglesby Elks Lodge, \$100.00; Oglesby Grade Schools, \$124,338.54; PDC Labs, \$2.00; Arlene Perucco, \$55.68; Cheryl Popurella, \$13.44; Quad City Electric, \$262.50; Ken Quick, \$226.25; Allied Waste, \$500.00; Dominic Rivara, \$142.41; Riverstone Group, \$267.98; Nicole Rockey, \$58.76; Service Master, \$1,517.34; Spring Valley Ford, \$774.97; Stevens Service Center, \$61.00; TEST, Inc., \$20.00; USA Bluebook, \$147.67; Amanda Williams, \$117.85. **TOTAL \$343,828.98** AYES: DANEKAS, PORTER, YBORRA, FINLEY. NAY: RIVARA. MOTION CARRIED.

There was no comment from the public at this time.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY YBORRA, SECONDED BY PORTER to table Ordinance No. 869-090214, which grants a special use permit to GTI for a cannabis cultivation facility. The ordinance is being tabled until after another parcel is rezoned. With the rezoning, the criteria for the special use permit for GTI will be met. AYES: DANEKAS, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DANEKAS, SECONDED BY YBORRA to approve Ordinance No. 870-090214, which changes the percentage of gross revenue generated by the Electric Department transferred to the General Fund from 5% to 10%. Before the vote Commissioner Rivara quizzed Commissioner Danekas about previous transfers. Danekas explained that the transfer was reflected on the unaudited financial reports for FY14, and could be reversed if necessary. Rivara complained that the ordinance would "bankrupt the electric department," leaving "no money to do improvements." Danekas maintained that it was necessary to be able to pay the city's bills. AYES: DANEKAS, PORTER, YBORRA, FINLEY. NAY: RIVARA. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY YBORRA, SECONDED BY RIVARA to approve Ordinance No. 871-090214, which authorizes the acquisition of real estate at 211 Walnut St., aka the Don Sheilds property. AYES: DANEKAS, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. NAY: PORTER. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY YBORRA to purchase two new Ford Inceptors at a cost of \$27,325.00 each for the police department. Before the vote, Rivara asked whether the city needed 5 police cars – to which Chief Knobluach noted that the department has four cars. Porter told Rivara, that if he “didn’t believe it, he wouldn’t have made the motion.” AYES: DANEKAS, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY YBORRA, SECONDED BY DANEKAS to award the bid to the lowest bidder for asbestos abatement at 211 E. Walnut St. The bid was \$18,250.00, which is less than the engineer’s estimate of \$24,000. AYES: DANEKAS, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. NAY: PORTER. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY YBORRA, SECONDED BY RIVARA to refer to the Zoning Board of Appeals a request by Eleanor Rapp to rezone her property at the NE corner of Walnut St., & Mallick Road from A-Single Family to E-Light Industrial. Finley said the meeting would be September 11, 2014, at 6 p.m. AYES: DANEKAS, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY RIVARA to grant a raffle license to John Urbino. AYES: DANEKAS, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY YBORRA to grant a request by the Starved Rock Runners Association to hold their annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot, which requires the closing of roads and traffic assistance by the police department. AYES: DANEKAS, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY YBORRA, to place on file a letter of recommendation from the Oglesby Ambulance Board regarding the purchase of an ambulance.

AYES: PORTER, DANEKAS, YBORRA, FINLEY. PASS: RIVARA.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY YBORRA to place on file a bid for an ambulance from Foster Coach for \$158,496.00. Porter explained that he had consulted with Attorney Andreoni and the “bidding” process was similar to the one used in the state buying program for police cars. Rivara asked about where the funding would come from to purchase the ambulance. Porter explained that \$123,500 would come from a grant which he had previously notified the council of and the remainder would come from the “rainy day” fund which had been set up for the purpose of replacing the aging ambulance fleet earlier in the year. A representative from Foster Coach Sales was on hand to answer any questions and told the council that the city “was very lucky” to have received this grant. Danekas said that the ambulance would be expensed through the TIF account when questioned by Rivara if the money was coming from the General Fund. Rivara said he couldn’t vote for the purchase after you (the council) just “raped” the electric fund. AYES: DANEKAS, PORTER, YBORRA, FINLEY. NAY: RIVARA. MOTION PASSED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DANEKAS, SECONDED BY PORTER to place the risk assessment from Illinois Municipal Insurance Co-op on file. City Clerk Clinard explained that the report was compiled after the risk insurer had visited with department heads in August. IMIC recommended that the report be placed on file. AYES: DANEKAS, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION PASSED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY YBORRA to approve the request from Holy Family School for street closings and police assistance for the Holy Family Shuffle on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014. AYES: DANEKAS, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Vern Seimers voiced his support for Commissioner Rivara and predicted the city would be "bankrupt" soon and that the city would just keep "raising rates." Seimers also noted that when schools and municipalities unionized – "that's where trouble starts."

A discussion then ensued about the city's finances, with Rivara reiterating that there needed to be monies set aside for improvements to the electrical system in the event of a catastrophe. Finley then told Rivara that he needed to stop talking about it and do something, noting that he has told the commissioners many times that they need to gather information on projects so that the city can apply for grants. "Just talking about it doesn't do anything," he said. Finley pointed to Commissioner Yborra, who is putting estimates together for a new pump that's needed in the water department so that he can seek state help with the cost.

Rivara then questioned how there was money for such things as festivals when all he had heard was that the "city was broke." Finley explained that hotel/motel funds were used for those events, and that Summer Fun Fest had actually made a profit of more than \$100,000 over four years. Rivara then questioned whether funding of the ambulance department and police pension was the root of the city's cash woes, which met with objections from both Porter and Police Chief Knoblauch. Knoblauch defended his department, noting the many cuts that have been made in the last couple of years. Knoblauch also noted that many line items in his budget hadn't increased in the last five years.

Sarah Cudlip asked about the rezoning request from Eleanor Rapp. Finley told her that Rapp had been asked to rezone the property and she agreed.

Commissioner Reports:

Yborra told the council that the state bid for salt was \$82/ton, which was up from previous years. He said he anticipated needing between 600 and 800 tons of the material this winter. Yborra then reminded the council that 8 years ago, when several of the council members first took office, they were told by the city clerk to "spend no money – we're broke." Yborra said the financial problems are "nothing new."

Porter "seconded" what Yborra said about the finances, providing the letter written by then-clerk Debbie Bibula.

Finley reminded residents that there were petitions and letters of support for GTI available to sign at City Hall. Finley said that he had been told that community support was a major component of the application and that "the more signatures we have – the better."

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY YBORRA to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. AYES: DANEKAS, PORTER, RIVARA, MAYOR FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

Becky Clinard, City Clerk