A MEETING OF THE OGLESBY CITY COUNCIL WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016, AT CITY HALL. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS CAREY, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, MAYOR FINLEY, ATTORNEY RICCO EATTONI, AND CITY CLERK CLINARD.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RIVARA, SECONDED BY CAREY to approve the regular meeting minutes from the February 1, 2016, meeting. AYES: CAREY, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RIVARA, SECONDED BY PORTER TO APPROVE THE INVOICES AS PRESENTED AFLAC, $35.90; Air One Equipment, $250.50; Airgas, $120.01; Arrow International, $250.10; Arrow Sales & Service, $198.00; Bound Tree Medical, $71.78; Brownstown Electrical Supply, $1,339.16; Comcast Cable, $151.84; Connecting Point, $310.00; D&M Landscaping, $650.00; Daley’ Super Service, $142.00;lDouble M Trucking, $350.00; Eagle Engraving, $52.00; Efficient Billing, $182.05; Emergency Medical Products, $676.34; Feece Oil, $988.34; Flags USA, $396.00; Foster Coach Sales, $290.02; Grainco FS, $8.03; Andrew Groleau, $195.00; Halm’s Auto Parts, $918.68; Hawkins, $1.191.20; Hygienic Institute, $355.55; Illini State Bank, $43.70; Illinois Valley Cellular, $782.36; Illinois Valley Excavating, $600.00; IVCH, $85.00; John Senica Jr., $219.33; John’s Sales & Service, $1,027.83; Kendrick Pest Control, $185.00; LaSalle Office Supply, $185.00; LaSalle Office Supply, $338.94; Jason Mancini, $138.17; Marco, Inc., $1,314.04; Mautino Distributing, $12.50; Menards, $487.53; Mertel Gravel Co., $331.00; MES/Global, $1,624.30; Midwest Mailing and Shipping, $1,341.00; Midwest Salt. $8,450.44; Morton Salt, $24,400.79; Dollar General, $215.65; MTCO, 286.74; NCICG, $800.00; NCPERS Group Life, $48.00; Oglesby Elks, $50.00; Oscar’s Automotive, $523.61; PDC Laboratories, $200.00; Perona, Peterlin, Andreoni, $1,332.00; Republic Waste, $18,618.50; Riverstone Group, $604.95; Smith’s Sales and Service, $260.00; St. Margaret’s Hospital, $82.00; Staples Credit Plan, $73.98; Stevens Service Center, $454.00; TEST, Inc., $96.00; Joseph Torres-Gumuski, $185.70; US Bank, $500.00; USA Bluebook, $1,094.29; Utica Fire Protection District, $800.00; Vermeer Sales & Service, $1,460.11; Jim Vohs, $475.20; Water Products Co., $814.54; Zoll Medical, $326.44; Economic Development Corporation, $4,745.00. **Total $84,550.93** AYES: CAREY, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

The Mayor then opened the floor to the public for comments on agenda items. Dorothy Debosik, a member of the city’s Plan Commission, asked why the Plan Commission wasn’t consulted about the bike path grant. Mayor Finley replied that the bike path was one of the items in the Comprehensive Plan which is written by the Plan Commission. He explained that it wasn’t necessary to bring the matter before the group.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY YBORRA, SECONDED BY CAREY to place Ordinance No. 917-030716, Increases Hotel/Motel tax from 4% to 5%. Mayor Finley explained that the increase would bring the city’s rate in line with other local communities and allow the city to continue promotions and events to attract overnight visitors. Finley said that the ordinance would take effect July 1, 2016, to give the hotels time to adjust their recordkeeping. AYES: CAREY, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CAREY, SECONDED BY PORTER to place Ordinance No. 918-030716, Sale of Property to Thomas and Beth Milby, on file. This ordinance will be the final step in selling the property known as the Jessen property to the neighbors, who then will tear down the dilapidated home. AYES: CAREY, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY YBORRA, SECONDED BY CAREY to authorize $32,115 in additional emergency repairs to Well No. 4. Commissioner Yborra explained before the vote that the additional work would restore the well to 1976 levels, and it made sense to do the work now since the equipment was already in place. AYES: CAREY, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RIVARA, without a second to authorize the city to apply to be a site for a solar facility. Commissioner Rivara said the facility would provide temporary construction jobs and provide a “green” power source option to businesses locating in Oglesby. However, when quizzed by the other council members, Rivara had no specific information about costs or benefits to the city. Commissioner Carey, saying “there’s no such thing as a free lunch,” asked why -- if the application deadline was almost a year ago -- Rivara was bringing it before the council now and questioned his authority to do so. Rivara said that he was the IMEA representative, to which Carey replied “for now.” When Rivara asked what he meant, Carey did not respond. Commissioner Porter said he would support whatever the electric commissioner (Carey) supported. Yborra read from the application a list of “big cost” items that the “member city shall provide,” saying that’s why he wouldn’t second the motion or approve the application. Rivara told the other council members that if “you don’t want to second it, you people bear it.” THE MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RIVARA to require council approval for any expenditure over $2,500 except in the case of an emergency. Rivara said the city must get its spending under control. A sometimes-heated discussion followed with Carey, Yborra, and Porter contending that they had initiated cost-cutting measures in their departments and taking offense to the implication that they hadn’t. Carey told Rivara that the only way to cut costs was “to cut people and cut services,” and he couldn’t see anyone on the council being in favor of that. Yborra went through a list of recent tax and rate increases, saying that he was not in favor of “putting more burden” on the taxpayer. “I don’t support it and I won’t second it,” he said. He challenged Rivara to present specific ideas to cut costs. THE MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

The discussion then turned to the river access landing, with Rivara suggesting that the park be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mayor Finley said that those decisions hadn’t been made yet and would be made in consultation with the park board and parks director. Finley said that he wouldn’t be doing any more work in the area until the state funding is restored.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY CAREY to approve a request from the Girl Scouts to sell cookies door-to-door. AYES: CAREY, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED

The mayor then opened the floor for comments on any topic. Jason Curran, an Oglesby resident, asked how many permanent jobs the solar facility would bring to the city. The answer was none, but Rivara said that the facility gave businesses looking to locate in Oglesby a “green” power alternative.

Commissioners & Mayor Reports:

Commissioner Yborra said the city was recently recognized by American Waterworks for 100 years of providing water to the city’s residents.

Mayor Finley then announced a public hearing for the bike path grant on Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 5:15 p.m.; a special meeting of the city council to follow at 5:30 and a Monday, Feb. 29, meeting of the Park Board.

A MOTION WAS MADE AT 7:32 P.M. TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF “the appointment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body” BY RIVARA, SECONDED BY CAREY. AYES: CAREY, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CAREY, SECONDED BY RIVARA to resume the regular portion of the Oglesby City Council at 7:39 p.m. AYES: CAREY, PORTER, RIVARA, YBOPRRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PORTER, SECONDED BY YBORRA to instruct Attorney Andreoni to petition to intervene in a line of duty disability pension hearing. AYES; CAREY, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RIVARA, SECONDED BY CAREY to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. AYES: CAREY, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MEETING ADJOURNED.

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Becky Clinard, City Clerk