A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE OGLESBY CITY COUNCIL WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2016, AT CITY HALL. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:30 P.M.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS CAREY, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY, ATTORNEY ANDREONI AND CITY CLERK CLINARD.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY YBORRA, SECONDED BY PORTER to authorize emergency repairs to the street department sweeper at a cost of $29,079.74. Yborra said that he hoped the repairs would buy another 5-6 years for the sweeper. AYES: CAREY, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

Talk then turned to the proposed rental property ordinance, with Mayor Finley saying that he felt that something needed to be done to address the mostly out-of-town landlords whose properties are ‘rat holes.’ There was an ensuing discussion about how the code would be enforced, how the inspections would be paid for, and who would be enforcing the code. It was agreed that Attorney Andreoni would put something together to address those concerns and serve as a starting point for further discussion.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY YBORRA, SECONDED BY PORTER to approve the board appointments presented by Mayor Finley. The appointments and term: Mike Bima and Rachel Lightle, Park Board, 2020; Pam Delvalle, Design & Review, 2019; Police Commission, TJ Templeton, 2019; Ken Sienza, Police Pension, 2018; Burton Lavens, Zoning Board of Appeals, 2019; Mike Kutz and Wally Marquardt, Zoning Board of Appeals, 2020. AYES: CAREY, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MOTION CARRIED.

Attorney Jim Andreoni then addressed the council about an ordinance on the books that requires an annual fee for mobile home parks. He explained that the ordinance has not been enforced for as long as anyone remembered. He suggested the council decide whether to start enforcing the ordinance or remove it from the books. The council quickly agreed that it would be unfair to begin enforcing something that hadn’t been enforced in the past. Andreoni was to prepare an ordinance rescinding the fee for the next council meeting.

The Mayor then began discussion on the proposed budget for FY17. Commissioner Rivara said he felt the budget was a step in the right direction. But Commissioners Porter and Yborra questioned the need for a budget when the city passes an appropriations budget. Porter said he felt a budget was a way to lessen a commissioner’s control over his department. Finley explained that the city’s auditor had recommended a budget and said he couldn’t understand why “we wouldn’t do it.”

“At least you have the figures in front of you,” Finley said. Finley said the budget “formalized what we’re already doing,” After more discussion, it was decided that Andreoni would draft an ordinance for the next meeting.

The council then discussed a proposed employee handbook. Finley explained that the handbook is necessary to meet the city’s risk insurance company’s requirements. Andreoni explained that if the city had a handbook that addressed certain areas, it would be a defense if the city was ever involved in a lawsuit. Commissioner Yborra and Porter said they were caught unaware of the scope of the handbook. Yborra questioned the section on employee reviews, saying that he believed that those reviews would be subject to the Freedom of Information Act. Porter was concerned that the “language pertains to straight day personnel” and not his departments, which are 24-hour services. It was agreed that the expedient thing to do was to pick those sections the insurance company requires and have Andreoni draft an ordinance for those sections.

The Mayor then asked the council members to address the list provided by the risk assessment officer for the city’s insurance company. The list was compiled two years ago, and the Mayor said little has been done to address the items in some departments. The city needs to complete the items to stay a part of the insurance cooperative.

The Mayor then told the council he was looking into having the city’s website redesigned. The current website was done more than 7 years ago and is not “user friendly.” The Mayor would like to see the city’s forms (such as building permits, shelter rental, etc) online. The city website also needs to be compliant with state transparency laws. He said that he and the clerk had started to look at other communities’ websites and designers. He expected a new website to cost between $10,000 and 20,000.

Commissioner and Mayor’s Reports:

The Mayor told the council that the memorial banner project was a success, with 160 banners sold. He also showed the council a proof of the banners that will be hung on City Hall listing the names of those area men who gave their life in war. He credited Commissioner Porter with coming up with the idea for the banner and said he looked forward to seeing it hanging in front of City Hall.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY YBORRA, SECONDED BY RIVARA to adjourn at 6:48 p.m. AYES; CAREY, PORTER, RIVARA, YBORRA, FINLEY. MEETING ADJOURNED.