

OGLESBY CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 2, 2023

A regular meeting of the Oglesby City Council was held on Monday, October 2, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Jason Curran.

PRESENT: Mayor Jason Curran, Commissioners Richard Baldrige, Terry Eutis, Gregory McDermott, Tony Stefanelli, City Clerk Becky Clinard and Attorney Robert Steele.

There was no public comment on agenda items.

Before voting to approve the minutes, Baldrige complained that he felt the minutes did not accurately reflect the previous meeting's discussion and that Curran had asked the clerk to change the minutes in a manner which favored Curran's position on an issue. Curran asserted that the changes he requested was information that was voiced during the meeting. A discussion ensued, with other council members weighing in. Stefanelli's opinion was that he felt it wrong for anyone to request changes to the minutes for other than factual errors.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, **SECONDED by** McDermott, to approve the minutes from the September 5, 2023, meeting. **AYES:** Curran **NAYS:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli. **MOTION FAILED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, **SECONDED by** Eutis to approve the bills presented for payment in the amount of \$132,451.39. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to approve the September 29, 2023, payroll in the amount of \$145,321.91. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Eutis, **SECONDED BY** McDermott, to approve Ordinance No. 1237-100223, which amends the burning ordinance. The new ordinance outlaws burn barrels, keeps Monday as a no-burn day and reduces the number of days that residents can burn, but lengthens the hours. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** Stefanelli, to approve the purchase of a \$27,000 transformer. The transformer is needed to replace a unit that will be installed in the near future. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermott, **SECONDED By** Baldrige to approve the bids for the Clark Street Sewer Separation Project. Gillan Construction LLC, was low bidder at a cost of \$267,127.00. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermott, **SECONDED By** Baldrige to approve the bids for the Clark Street and Hickory Avenue Culvert Replacement Project. Gillan Construction LLC, was low bidder at a cost of

\$221,127.00, which was \$139.00 over the engineer's estimate. Two hundred thousand of the cost will be paid with a grant from LaSalle County's ARPA funds. **AYES:** Baldridge, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** Eutis to place on file Ordinance No. 1238-101623, which approves the termination of TIF I. This is a necessary step in process of closing the books on TIF I. **AYES:** Baldridge, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Eutis to place on file Ordinance No. 1239-101623, a professional services agreement with Jacob and Klein to amend TIF VI to include the downtown business district. **AYES:** Baldridge, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to table Resolution No. R-100223, an agreement with North Central Illinois Council of Governments to administer the city's Strong Communities Grant. Stefanelli sought clarification on some wording. Curran will reach out to NCICG to clarify before the next meeting. **AYES:** Baldridge, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

The council did not act upon a possible contract with DesignWorkshop for grant discovery services. Curran proposed a \$5,000/month cap on services, noting that one grant could pay for their services. The council was concerned with the cost. Eutis said there might be a local person who could fill the position. Baldridge recommended looking in to the city's financial condition before moving forward and McDermott suggested using North Central Council of Governments more than the city does now. They agreed to revisit the proposal in the near future.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Baldridge to approve the request from Mr. Michael Pillion, Oglesby School Superintendent, to close a portion of the street in front of the school for the annual costume parade on October 31. **AYES:** Baldridge, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

OLD BUSINESS

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** Baldridge, to table discussion on the sewer valve reimbursement ordinance. Stefanelli said he thought the ordinance was well intentioned, but that it was "not a good time" due to budget concerns and questions about the program. Curran asked the council to consider addressing it sooner rather than later. **AYES:** Baldridge, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS

- Curran asked the council if they were open to an ordinance being used by Seneca that limits same-day approval of an ordinance to a unanimous vote. Curran said this would commission the ability to approve emergency items, but slow down and allow for public comment on items that could wait. Stefanelli pointed out that that was already the council's practice.
- Stefanelli then asked the council if there was interest in updating Oglesby Municipal Code Chapter 2.03.120 D, which outlines how the agenda should be ordered. He noted the code was outdated. The discussion then veered into who can put something on and who can pull

something off the agenda and when an agenda is considered the final agenda. The discussion continued for some time without resolution.

- Stefanelli then told the council of the need to “sharpen their pencils,” when it came to departmental budgets. He noted the appropriations ordinance is \$2.5 million in the red and suggested the commissioners consider a purchase order system for expenditures over a certain amount. Eutis said he felt that a \$2,500 limit would be acceptable. Curran said he thought a line-item budget was problematic. Stefanelli said that with some big expenditures coming up, these are discussions the council needs to have to prioritize spending.

Public Comments

Resident Drew Merriman addressed the council concerning an over-grown property on Second St. Curran told him the matter was being addressed.

Commissioner Updates

Tony Stefanelli, Commissioner of Accounts and Finance

- ❖ Expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to attend the IML conference
- ❖ Proposed that the city consider offering local students the opportunity to be a “council member for a day.”
- ❖ Said he’d like to see the city bring back ribbon-cutting ceremonies for new businesses

Terry Eutis, Commissioner of Public Safety

Gregory McDermott, Commissioner of Streets, Water and Sewer

- ❖ Thanked the city for giving him the chance to attend IML Conference in Chicago.
- ❖ Announced that hydrants will be flushed the week of Oct. 2
- ❖ Branch chipping starts Oct. 16th and leaf vac will begin Oct. 23rd.

Rich Baldrige, Commissioner of Public Property

- ❖ Said he found the IML Conference very informative and was appreciative of the chance to attend.
- ❖ Reported that the Electric Dept. has been busy trimming trees from power lines to limit power outages in the future.
- ❖ Announced that the newest member of the Electric Dept. would be undergoing training for two weeks.
- ❖ Announced the Parks and Recreation Dept. will be holding online registration for winter rec programs.
- ❖ Announced the We Are Oglesby Scarecrow contest, which will be judged Oct. 21

Mayor’s Report

- ❖ Invited residents to attend Harvest Fest on Oct. 21
- ❖ Encouraged residents to participate in the We Are Oglesby scarecrow contest.
- ❖ Announced the Bar Owners Association’s Zombie Pub Crawl on Oct. 21

- ❖ Told about his experience at the IML conference in the Mayors' Roundtable and how it made him realize how much safer our community is than others. He credited the citizens and the police department's community policing with making Oglesby a safer community.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Eutis, **SECONDED** by Baldrige to go into executive session at 8:04 pm for the purpose of discussing "collective negotiating matters or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees," **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE by McDermott, **SECONDED** by Baldrige to resume the regular meeting of the city council. At 9:42 pm. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE by Eutis, **SECONDED** by Stefanelli to send the Memorandum of Understanding with the FOP to the attorney for review. The MOU addresses an increase in police pay to remain competitive in attracting and retaining police officers. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE by Stefanelli, **SECONDED** by McDermott to adjourn at 8:45 pm. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

