**OGLESBY CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 20, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Oglesby City Council was held on Monday, November 20, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Jason Curran.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Jason Curran, Commissioners Richard Baldridge, Gregory McDermott, Tony

Stefanelli, City Clerk Becky Clinard and Attorney Pat Barry. Commissioner Terry Eutis.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items:**

There was no public comment.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED by** McDermott, to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2023, meeting. **AYES:** Baldridge, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED by** McDermott to approve the bills presented for payment in the amount of $696,130.43. **AYES:** Baldridge, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

**BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT TOTAL:** A & B Garage, $444.88; A&J Lawncare, $90.00; Ameren Illinois-7419559858, $27.76; Ameren Illinois-8218382099, $208.13; Benefit Planning Consultants, Inc, $621.00; Bhmg Engineers, $6,703.40; Bound Tree Medical Llc, $59.32; Card Service Center, $10.00; Chamlin & Associates Inc, $170,000.00; Clegg-Perkins Electric, $1,023.25; Clegg-Perkins Electric, -$1,911.25; Comcast Business, $605.88; Compass Minerals, $18,891.08; Connecting Point, $2,402.50; Core & Main, $285.66; Debo Ace Hardware, $473.52; Econo Signs, Llc, $535.00; Emergency Medical; Products Inc, $369.92; Grainco Fs Inc., $115.00; Grosenbach's Auto Repair, $114.00; Halm's Auto Parts, $864.16; Hawkins, Inc, $1,395.55; Heartland Bank Visa, $5,811.38; Imea, $372,830.25; Il Municipal League, $450.00; Il Valley Cellular, -$511.02; Jenkins, Cynthia, $129.27; Kittilson's Garage, $82.94; Knoblauch Advertising, $210.00; Mertel Gravel Co, $2,345.25; Mtco, $141.87; Northwest Lineman College, $114.00; Osf Medical Group -- Occupational Health, $145.00; Ottosen Dinolfo, $770.00; Police And Sheriffs Press, $63.05; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc., $1,339.72; Ro Pros, $16.80; Ruppert Concrete, $17,850.00; Salisbury Online, $900.00; Sbc Partners, $420.47; Sbc Partners, -$3,065.82; Smart Source Llc, $3,461.20; Smith's Sales And Service, $595.00; Starved Rock Media, Inc., $800.00; Std Farms, -$268.24; Superior Lighting, $22,760.00; T.E.S.T Inc., $25,042.16; Tnt Lawn & Snow Llc, $1,850.00; Toedter Oil Co Inc, $1,773.62; Tussey, Jeffery, $300.00; United Healthcare Insurance, $28,598.29; Universal Utility Supply, $1,388.78; Vermeer Sales & Service, $634.86; Wex Bank, $4,960.64; Willett Hofmann & Associates, $781.20; Wth Technology, Inc, $81.00; **TOTAL $696,130.43**

**$696,130.43.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to approve the November 10, 2023, payroll in the amount of $113,793.34. **AYES:** Baldridge, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

The council then discussed the three Building Improvement Grant applications before them. The grant committee had met earlier in the evening and discussed the applications. It was the committee’s recommendation that the three grants be awarded as presented. The council asked several questions about the how the grant is administered. Most concerns expressed by the council were that there were procedures in place to ensure the grant monies were awarded after the project is completed and that someone could not use the grant monies to solely increase the value of a property for personal gain. Commissioner Stefanelli told the council he was in support of approving the applications, but wanted an opportunity to review the grant guidelines before any final disbursements were made. The others agreed.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to approve the BIG grant applications for Bon Voyage Boat and RV Storage, $35,000; Greg Boggio, $4,630.25; and Zamin Insurance, $2,375.00. **AYES:** Baldridge, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

The next item on the agenda was a request by Kelly Waters (Bab’s Brew) for three variances relative to her proposed site at the corner of Walnut and Columbia. Waters had appeared at an earlier Design Review Board Meeting where she altered the site plan she had submitted, thus causing the DRB to table her request until a revised site plan was presented to the clerk’s office. After some discussion, Attorney Barry suggested the council approve her request to send the matter to the Zoning Board of Appeals, but noted that a meeting would not be scheduled until after the revised site plan had been submitted and the required variances were confirmed. The requirement would apply to her appearance before the Plan Commission as well.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Baldridge, to refer Kelly Waters’ variance request to the Zoning Board of Appeals, pending receipt of the final site plan. **AYES:** Baldridge, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** Baldridge, to refer Kelly Waters (Bab’s Brew) site plan to the Plan Commission for approval once the final site plan has been submitted to the clerk’s office and is reviewed by the Zoning Administrator and city engineer. **AYES:** Baldridge, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Stefanelli then told the council that the city’s liability insurance renewal figures came back much higher for 2024. The city experienced a renewal rate increase of 28.73% or $62,051.00. The largest increase is in workman’s comp, which increased from $68,971 to $99,929 ($30,958.00 increase). This is due in large part to the city’s claim history over the last four years. Most of the additional increases can be attributed to an increase in the city’s total insured value. The Clerk’s office and each city department went through the property schedules before renewal and updated them. IMIC also had appraisals done on the city’s top 5 buildings. This had not been done in at least 5-6 years and resulted in an increase of $35 million more in property values insured at an additional cost of more than $11,000.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** Baldridge, to approve the Illinois Municipal Insurance Cooperative renewal at a cost of $278,032. **AYES:** Baldridge, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Baldridge then asked the council to approve the high bid from V&S Schuler of $432,480 for equipment for the Mallick Substation project. These bids were placed on file at the last meeting

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldridge, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to approve the bid from V&S Schuler for $432,480.00. **AYES:** Baldridge, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Baldridge then asked the council for approval of a $18,200 bid from Five Star Flooring to replace the vinyl and carpeting in the city hall chambers and the mayor’s office. Baldridge explained that the flooring estimate was well within his power to accept without council approval, but that he felt it important to bring the matter before the council. Baldridge told the council his focus was on creating a conference room that was ADA compliant and provided easy access to both city officials and the public. He said he has reached out to a couple of Oglesby contractors for bids for the work to convert the mayor’s office into a conference room and to improve the council desk area, but did not have that information available for council review for this meeting. Baldridge explained, when questioned by Curran about an overall plan for city hall renovations, that he wasn’t a project manager and was therefore breaking the job into manageable sections based on priorities. Baldridge said his priority was to create a conference room that everyone could access without difficulty. McDermott said he appreciated Baldridge’s efforts to make city hall ADA accessible. Curran took offense with the piecemeal plan, noting that in Marseilles, the council has spent the last six months or more discussing changes to a building they are moving into. Curran said he felt that the council – and the public – deserved the opportunity to look at and comment on the overall plan. Baldridge responded by noting that the Marseilles project is a multi-million dollar project, and the changes Baldridge envisions for city hall will not surpass the $45,000 mark. Curran said he felt that enlarging the clerk’s office and converting the vault – not the mayor’s office – into a conference room made more sense.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldridge, **SECONDED BY** Stefanelli to approve the purchase of flooring for the council chambers and mayor’s office from Five Star Flooring for a total of $18,2000. **AYES:** Baldridge, McDermott, Stefanelli. **NAYS:** Curran.None **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldridge, **SECONDED BY** Stefanelli to table the request from We Are Oglesby to use the city’s walkie talkies during the Christmas Parade. Baldridge told the council that the group was offered devices by Troy Phones and would not need the city equipment. **AYES:** Baldridge, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldridge, **SECONDED BY** Stefanelli to rename the disc golf course “Starved Rock Disc Golf” after being asked by Wes Black not to name the course after him. Baldridge also said the name plays into the city’s marketing strategy to capitalize on the proximity to Starved Rock State Park. Black’s role in the development of the course will be not forgotten, Baldridge said he is planning to have a plaque made to acknowledge Black’s efforts. **AYES:** Baldridge, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Stefanelli then shared the details of the 2023 Tax Levy with the council. He told the council:

* the projected rate will be $2.105 per thousand, which is higher than last year’s $1.59, but lower than 2021’s rate of $2.38.
* The amount the city will receive is approximately $1,540,000, an increase over the $1,082,343 the city received last year.
* The increase can be attributed to TIF 1 expiring in 2021.
* Last year’s rate was artificially low because an error was made when the levy was prepared.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** Baldridge to place the 2023 Levy on file and to schedule a Truth in Taxation Meeting, which is required when the levy increase is more than 5 percent over the previous year. The meeting will be at 6:30 pm on December 4, before the regular council meeting. **AYES:** Baldridge, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldridge, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to reject and rescind all bids on the Electric Department’s Bucket Truck. **AYES:** Baldridge, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldridge, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to sell the Electric Department’s Bucket Truck at auction with a reserve of $5,500. **AYES:** Baldridge, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

The council received an update on the Open Meetings Violation inquiry by the Attorney General’s office, which was just that the AG shared the city’s response with the claimant and that the claimant could now respond to the city’s response. Attorney Barry said he didn’t think that the review would be a difficult one and that he thought the city would prevail.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Curran asked the council to consider making changes to the current liquor ordinance, noting that an item they thought they had addressed earlier in the year -- requiring owners and managers to live in the city -- was not corrected in a second reference in the ordinance. He also talked about the need to possibly expand the number of licenses available to be able to award one to Jorge’s Waffle House, the new restaurant coming to 210 N. Lewis Ave. Curran said he wanted to find out more about Jorge’s plans, especially if the plan was to have gaming machines. Baldridge questioned the need to award another liquor license, noting that doing so would cut into already established businesses’ revenue. The council also discussed that Cindy’s on 39 still holds a liquor license, despite the fire that destroyed the restaurant earlier in the year. Curran said he would try to reach out to Jenkins and see what her plans were.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to table discussion on liquor ordinance until more information is available. **AYES:** Baldridge, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Baldridge then asked the council to change the way the agenda is presented. Baldridge would like to see the name of the commissioner (or mayor) next to the action item on the agenda. This would allow all to know who placed an item on the agenda. He noted that Ottawa, who also has a commissioner form or government, does this.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldridge, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to add attribution to agenda items identifying who place the item on the agenda. **AYES:** Baldridge, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

* Dom Rivara asked the council to consider hosting an electronics recycling event this spring. Stefanelli told him that it’s already in the works. Rivara also found fault with the city’s minutes, calling them “bland” and questioning why the city wouldn’t embrace “transparency.” He then questioned why the council wanted to “take away the mayor’s authority,” when it comes to employee hiring or firing. Rivara referred to a specific employee discipline matter and accused the commissioners involved in violating the collective bargaining agreement between IBEW and the city. Commissioner Stefanelli corrected Rivara on several points and assured him that those involved had followed the proper procedures.
* Brandy Day, announced that We Are Oglesby was opening up the opportunity for another nonprofit to share in a planned fundraiser in the spring. The group would provide volunteers and receive a share of the monies raised.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

**Tony Stefanelli, Accounts and Finance**

* + Thanked Assistant Clerk Patty Eichelkraut for her efforts in setting up an employee online training portal.
  + Wished residents a happy Thanksgiving.

**Gregory McDermott, Streets, Water and Sewer**

* + Announced leaf vacuuming would continue until Dec. 1
  + Talked about the importance of residents participating in the lead line survey.

**Rich Baldridge, Public Property**

* + Talked about both the disc golf course and dog park – both are open and attracting visitors – both residents and out of towners. Ceremonial grand openings are being planned.
  + Encouraged residents to participate in the holiday lighting contest.
  + Reminded residents of the Christmas event on Dec. 9 in downtown Oglesby. Businesses and the city will host a variety of family friendly events from 2 to 4, with the We Are Oglesby parade stepping off at 4:30 p.m.
  + Wished residents a happy Thanksgiving

**MAYOR’S REPORT:**

* Encouraged residents to participate in the Starved Rock Runners Turkey Trot
* Voiced his support for the December 9th event in downtown Oglesby and the WAO parade.
* Wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Stefanelli to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. **AYES:** Baldridge, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**