

**OGLESBY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Oglesby City Council was held on Monday, December 18, 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 Pat Barry.

A Moment of Silence was observed for former mayor Jerry Scott.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Eutis, SECONDED by Baldrige to reverse the order of agenda items 12 & 13. AYES: Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

Dom Rivara:

- Asked the council to support the IMEA solar farm.
- Told the council that the mayor's office needs to stay where it's at and that the money spent on city hall renovations should instead be spent on the Mallick Substation.
- Questioned the need for a MOU with the Fraternal Order of Police concerning maternity leave and light duty assignments.
- Criticized the minutes of prior meetings as not being "transparent" and only being a listing of the action taken, not the discussion leading up to the votes. At this point, Commissioner Stefanelli pulled up a page from Roberts Rules of Order which supports the way the current minutes are being prepared. When Mayor Curran asked about the Open Meetings Act, Commissioner Baldrige responded that the act reads very much the same as the Roberts Rule of Order.

Greg Stein presented his own plans for renovating city hall and provided a mock-up of a piece of metal and a 2x4 that could be used between the council desks. He also suggested that the city look into an elevator to the basement, at a cost he estimated to be around \$50,000.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, **SECONDED by** Eutis, to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2023, meeting. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, 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 \$1,320,832.05. Stefanelli explained that the bills to be paid were high this period because of annual insurance renewals, two months of payments to the IMEA, and engineering costs associated with the waste water treatment plant. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT Aaa Tree Service, \$2,240.00; Ameren Illinois-7419559858, \$28.48; Ameren Illinois-8218382099, \$115.38; Arrow Sales & Service Inc, \$47.00; Battles, Alycia, \$80.82; Benefit Planning; Consultants, Inc, \$395.20; Bhmg Engineers, \$16,945.76; Blue Cardinal Chemical, \$692.86;

Bobs' Business Inc, \$47.07; Bound Tree Medical Llc, \$74.19; Cadegiani, Dominic, \$56.87; Casa Mia Restaurant, \$150.00; Chamlin & Associates Inc, \$133,147.50; Clegg-Perkins Electric, \$888.00; Columbia Pipe & Supply Co, \$1,665.37; Comcast Business, -\$173.81; Core & Main, \$5,103.20; Curran, Jason, \$168.30; De Lage Landen Financial Services, \$186.87; Debo Ace Hardware, \$321.44; De'vine Floral Designs & Gifts, \$176.00; Doll, Jamie, \$50.00; Edens, Cathie, \$4.27; Emergency Medical Products Inc, \$992.03; Foster Coach Sales Inc., \$68.69; Green Thumb Industries, -\$1,864.00; Halm's Auto Parts, \$108.95; Haskell Landscaping, -\$3,600.00; Hawkins, Inc, \$2,687.70; Heartland Bank Visa, \$6,233.30; Hfs Bureau Of Fiscal Operations-Gemt, \$56,147.49; Hometown National Bank, \$93,169.13; Il Department Of Innovation And Tech, \$518.49; Il Fiber Resources Group, Nfp, \$3,300.00; Il Municipal Insurance Cooperative, \$167,476.00; Il Valley Cellular, \$99.54; Illinois Municipal Electric Agency, \$723,690.46; Impact Networking Llc, \$93.78; Imua, \$100.00; John Senica Jr., \$1,360.23; King Tire, \$599.00; Knoblauch Advertising, \$77.50; Kramer, Kevin, \$150.00; Lexipol Llc., \$5,251.08; Lphs Choir Program, \$300.00; Mautino Distributing Co Inc, \$19.00; Menards, \$516.13; Miscowiec, Jane, \$50.00; Motorola Solutions, \$3,705.00; Mtco, \$161.87; News-Trib, \$611.13; Northern Illinois Ambulance Bi, Inc, \$1,936.14; Oglesby Library District, \$25,652.46; Osf Medical Group -- Occupational Health, \$580.00; Otter Creek Carriages, \$500.00; Quadient, Inc., \$167.97; Risk Program Administrators, \$10,357.00; Ro Pros, \$19.60; Smith's Sales And Service, \$1,316.50; Spring Valley Bakery, \$606.00; Springfield Electric Supply, \$190.76; Stryker Sales Corporation, \$385.42; Sultze, Alyssa, \$50.00; T & R Electric Supply Co., Inc, \$19,737.05; T.E.S.T Inc., \$20,236.16; Teleflex, Llc., \$194.50; Tesco-The Eastern Speciality Company, \$4,750.00; United States Postal Service, -\$869.02; United States Postal Service, -\$813.11; Universal Utility Supply, \$1,527.60; University Of Illinois, \$800.00; Verizon, \$166.02; Wallace, Riley, \$50.00; Water Products Company, \$2,992.00; Wex Bank, -\$6,141.20; Zermeno, Jennie, \$101.25. **TOTAL: \$1,320,558.87**

McDermott then spoke about the need for a new dump truck for the street department. The new truck would allow the department to replace a 32-year-old truck that is used to haul material from the waste water treatment plant to the landfill. The second-oldest truck would be used for that task and the new truck will be used for snowplowing, etc. The newest truck is at least ten years old. Curran explained that once the new WWTP is built, there may not be a need for a truck to haul the waste, so that may buy the city some time before they have to replace a truck. The truck would be purchased from Bonnell Industries (through a pre-bid process) for \$260,240.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Baldrige to purchase a new truck for the street department. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Baldrige then asked that the next item, a letter of support for the solar farm, be tabled. He said he had talked with the IMEA about coming to a meeting and providing the council with more information. Curran said that the last two administrations had signed letters of support, but that a problem developed with the original third-party solar farm builder which delayed construction. He said he felt the council had enough information, but was agreeable to waiting if the council would feel more comfortable.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to table discussion on the solar farm letter of support. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Curran then asks the council if anyone wants to discuss the next two items in closed session before voting. The council did not agree to do so. Eutis said that the two main sticking points in the personnel

policy -- who is in charge of discipline and who can fire an employee and the maternity leave policy-- have been reviewed so many times, he felt it was time to move on. Attorney Barry, who reviewed the section of the municipal code that covers the commissioners' roles, said that he believed that the language DOES grant the commissioners the sole authority to appoint and discharge employees, except those who are appointed to their positions. While Curran said he was not happy, Attorney Barry urged the council to "get past this point."

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Eutis, **SECONDED BY** Baldrige to approve the personnel policy as presented. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli **NAYS:** Curran. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The discussion then turned to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Fraternal Order of Police concerning maternity leave and light duty. Curran voiced his opposition, not to providing maternity leave, but to providing a benefit to the FOP without getting something in return. He also questioned whether giving the sole discretion to the commissioner on whether to grant or extend light duty could potentially put the city in a grievance situation. The others felt that a policy granting a paid maternity leave and light duty for those whose pregnancy may limit their ability to perform their job was long overdue. Barry noted a slight difference in the language in the FOP and the personnel policy and asked that the agreement be sent to the labor attorneys one last time to clear up the issue. Both Eutis and Curran were agreeable.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Eutis, **SECONDED BY** Baldrige to send the FOP Memorandum of Understanding on maternity leave and light duty to the labor attorney for review. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Talk then turned to the city hall renovations. Commissioner Baldrige asked the council for a vote of support to renovate the current mayor's office into an ADA accessible conference and move the mayor's office downstairs. He said his plan would not require extensive renovations and was the most economical of all plans put forth. Curran reiterated his strong opposition to the switch, calling it a terrible idea and questioned why the council would move an office that is used daily to the basement, thus making that office ADA noncompliant. He suggested that the Dickenson House could be used for large meetings that required privacy. Stefanelli then read a portion of the municipal code which grants the Commissioner of Public Property power over the use of all buildings and said he appreciated Baldrige's attempts to cut costs. McDermott voiced his support for Baldrige's plan.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** Stefanelli to support the plan to renovate the current mayor's office into an ADA accessible conference room and to relocate the mayor's office downstairs. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli **NAYS:** Curran. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The council then addressed some apparent confusion about the motion made last meeting about adding attribution to agenda items. Attorney Barry said that he and Clerk Clinard had discussed the matter and questioned why it was necessary to amend the municipal code to make a change in how the agenda is presented. He said they both agreed that a council should be able to decide how an agenda is presented, without amending code. He urged the council to try it for awhile to see if it works for them. Commissioner Stefanelli presented the two options from the last meeting, calling up the examples provided by the clerk on the video screen.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to approve the format that lists the name of the commissioner after the agenda item with the understanding that the person who first asks

for the item to be placed on the agenda, is the first to speak about it when brought to the council table. **AYES:** Baldridge, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Greg Stein commented on the minutes, noting that if the Roberts Rule of Order was followed the minutes would be merely the agenda with votes recorded. He also mentioned that he thought that cubbies or kitchen cabinets could be in the conference room, allowing each commissioner to personalize the space when using the conference room. He also said that with the city having \$69 million in EAV, he thought the council could spend the money to create an upstairs office for the Mayor. He then said he felt that a possible recall should be held, but said that he doubted anyone would run for the positions. He said he felt that the council had made the Mayor position “a pointless seat.” Stein also questioned a couple of bills on the invoice register.
- Drew Merriman voiced his concerns about a particular bar patron who had punched him in the shoulder the weekend before. He also questioned the city’s oversight of work that requires a flagger. Merriman volunteered to check flaggers’ certifications for the city, to keep the city safer.
- Rich Greening told the council that homes on the first two blocks of Dale Avenue are unable to get SURF internet. He said he was told that the infrastructure was not in place. He also mentioned his concerns about the conduit containing SURF wires on several streets. Curran told Greening he would check on it. Greening also asked about the electric truck that was to be put up for auction, after the bids were denied.
- Dom Rivara thanked the council for its “hard work” -- making renovations to city hall and making removing the mayor from his office space a bigger priority than the Mallick Substation upgrade. He also questioned the council on the status of the coffee truck at the corner of Walnut and Columbia. He was told that the city was waiting for the owners to provide the necessary information to move the project forward.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Tony Stefanelli, Accounts and Finance

- ❖ Expressed his admiration for former Mayor Jerry Scott, noting that anyone who sat at the council table for 20 years deserved recognition for the sacrifice both they and their family made for the city.
- ❖ Recognized Erin Quick for her help at city events.

Terry Eutis, Public Health and Safety

- ❖ Thanked the donors and volunteers for their support of the Shop with a Cop program.

Gregory McDermott, Streets, Water and Sewer

- ❖ Expressed his sympathy to the Scott family

Rich Baldrige, Public Property

- ❖ Extended his sympathy to former Mayor Jerry Scott's family
- ❖ Told residents that the dog park would remain closed until further notice. Baldrige closed the park to thwart the spread of a potentially deadly canine virus.
- ❖ Thanked the electric and parks departments, the volunteers and We Are Oglesby for their efforts on the holiday parade.
- ❖ Discussed the power outage on December 11.
- ❖ Reminded residents of the lighting contest.
- ❖ Said that SURF internet told Mark Marincic that they are about 4 weeks behind and hope to be in Oglesby soon to finish their work here.
- ❖ Wished everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- ❖ Said he would look into the problems with SURF internet.
- ❖ Announced OSF medical offices will open January 16 in Oglesby
- ❖ Thanked We Are Oglesby for the parade and all of the hard work and effort it takes to put on such a successful event.
- ❖ Gave a Year-in-Review summary.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Clinard, City Clerk