

**TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING
DECEMBER 4, 2023**

The truth in taxation hearing was called to order at 6:30 by Mayor Jason Curran.

PRESENT: Commissioners Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Mayor Curran and Assistant City Clerk Patty Eichelkraut. **ABSENT WITH PRIOR NOTICE:** Stefanelli.

The mayor opened the floor for public comments.

John Fisher, a resident of Oglesby, questioned why the need to increase the levy enough to hold a truth in taxation meeting. Curran explained that the hearing would have been necessary last year because TIF 1 expired. He explained that the city did not use the correct numbers when preparing the levy. Fisher pressed for more details, asking why it wasn't discovered by Jacob & Klein. Curran, noting that Jacob and Klein does not prepare the city's levy, said he wasn't aware if they had alerted the clerk to the need to add back in the TIF EAV or not. He said that there were several entities involved who shared in the blame: the clerk, the commissioner, the treasurer and the accounting firm who prepared the levy. "Somebody probably should have caught it," Curran agreed. Curran said last year's mistake by the city was a "huge break" for the taxpayers and "that's why it looks like it's up so high (this year)."

Greg Stein took the opportunity to correct Curran, noting that TIF1 was extended to the full 35 years, not 37 as the mayor had said.

The mayor then pointed to the rates, noting that this year's rate was still "13 to 15 percent" lower than 2021's rate.

With no further comments from the public, **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Eutis, **SECONDED** by McDermott to adjourn the public hearing at 6:35 p.m. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Curran. **HEARING ADJOURNED.**

**OGLESBY CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 4, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Oglesby City Council was held on Monday, December 4, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Jason Curran.

PRESENT: Mayor Jason Curran, Commissioners Richard Baldrige, Gregory McDermott, Terry Eutis, Assistant City Clerk Patty Eichelkraut and Attorney Pat Barry. **ABSENT WITH PRIOR NOTICE:** Tony Stefanelli.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:
There was no public comment.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermott **SECONDED by** Eutis, to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2023, meeting. Curran commented that the minutes “look quite detailed.” **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Curran. **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Baldrige, **SECONDED by** McDermott to approve the bills presented for payment in the amount of \$346,482.25. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT: A&J Lawncare, \$45.00; Ameren Ip-01159-82892, \$2,174.93; American Express, \$2,968.66; Ascap, \$448.75; Bhmg Engineers, \$5,018.04; Comcast Business, \$294.85; De Lage Landen Financial Services, \$344.44; Eso Solutions Inc., \$1,295.00; Feece Oil Co, \$1,327.41; Grubich, Jason, \$50.00; Hallam, Michelle, \$50.00; Halm's Auto Parts, \$365.42; Hawkins, Inc, \$586.35; Holloway's Portable Restrooms, \$1,070.00; Hy-Vee, Inc, \$91.01; Il Public Risk Fund, \$8,332.00; Il Valley Regional Dispatch, \$7,210.56; Kendrick Pest Control Inc., \$260.00; Knoblauch Advertising, \$286.00; Macqueen Emergency, \$234,162.00; Mautino Distributing Co Inc, \$8.25; Menards, \$460.39; Mississippi Valley Pump, Inc, \$3,095.00; Mp Automotive Repair, \$2,051.32; Ncpers Group Life Ins, \$16.00; Nick's Emergency Lighting & More, \$3,743.18; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc., \$507.48; Republic Services -- Allied Waste, \$31,635.60; Springfield Electric Supply, \$358.60; Standard Insurance-Life, \$881.58; Sunbelt Solomon, \$28,683.49; T.E.S.T Inc., \$125.00; Universal Utility Supply, \$3,438.05; University Of Illinois, \$1,000.00; Verizon, \$2,089.62; Wintroy Supply Llc, \$2,008.27 **TOTAL \$346,482.25**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Eutis, **SECONDED BY** Baldrige, to approve the November 20, 2023, payroll in the amount of \$110,769.21. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Eutis, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to renewal the employee health insurance with United Healthcare. Lora Gramer, a representative with Suarez and Associates, said the increase amounted to about 4 percent over last year’s cost. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Eutis, **SECONDED BY** Baldrige, to approve Ordinance No. 1241-120423, 2023 Tax Levy. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** McDermott, to approve Ordinance No. 1242-120423, which abates taxes on the General Obligation 2013 Series Bonds. Attorney Barry clairified comments Curran made about the ordinance. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Eutis then told the council about the offer from Flock Cameras if the city signs up for a 5-year term. The city would save \$25,000 over the term. Eutis said the police use the cameras on “a daily basis.”

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Eutis, **SECONDED BY** Baldrige, to approve the contract with Flock for 5-years. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Eutis, **SECONDED BY** Baldrige to approve the 2024 City Council Meeting schedule. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to approve the purchase of Equipment for Mallick Road Substation upgrade for \$713,225.00. Baldrige told the council the BHMG, after not receiving bids for portions of the previous bid package, combined the six packages into one and received one bid, from Fletcher Reinhardt, which represented an overall savings for the city. Baldrige said that the lead times for some of the equipment is great, so it was necessary to move forward ASAP. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Baldrige then explained his plans for City Hall Renovations, noting that at this time, he is only interested in converting the office used by the mayor into an ADA-compliant conference room. Baldrige said that he still expected the cost to be less than \$25,000. Curran pushed for creating a conference room within the city clerk's office – thereby meeting ADA requirements, but allowing him to keep his office on the first floor. He also cited several other uses the conference room could serve. He also said he believed that his plan would be less costly. Curran questioned where he would meet with residents if his office was moved to the basement. Baldrige said the conference room would serve that purpose for those unable to go downstairs and did not agree that there would be more work or cost involved.

Eutis then threw out the idea of utilizing the Dickinson House for offices for the mayor and commissioners. He said the Dickinson House was under-utilized, and felt that putting the mayor and commissioners' offices there was a "win, win." Curran mentioned that the restrooms were not handicapped accessible. McDermott said he felt it was worth looking into. Curran said that although the DH is not used as much as it could be, it does serve as the city's community center.

Baldrige said that he could not support spending more money than necessary, especially since the city had just raised taxes. Curran suggested that more work be done and the ideas be presented at a future council meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Baldrige, to authorize renovations to replace the current mayor's office into an ADA compliant conference room and to move the mayor and commissioner offices to be basement. Curran again spoke against the idea, then paused Then declared the motion dead for lack of a second.

McDermott then **SECONDED THE MOTION** ... then said that he thought "it needed to be look into further." Curran questioned McDermott on whether he had seconded the motion. "I think we should table this," McDermott answered.

Eutis said he would like to know more about the costs associated with renovating the Dickenson House and Curran continued to push the idea of using the space in the clerk's office. "It appears we have three options here," said Curran.

Baldrige plead his case that the other options could still be considered, that the action he asked for did not preclude those alternatives from being considered, but did address the immediate need for a handicapped-accessible conference room. Baldrige said the conference room would

A MOTION WAS MADE BY EUTIS to get a quote on what it would cost to renovate Dickenson House, saying that he felt it was the best answer. The motion died for a lack of a second.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Walters spoke on the subject of city hall renovations, he called the suggestion of moving city offices to Dickenson House “idiotic.” He said the taxpayers would be paying twice for the same result. Walters said that he agreed with Baldrige, that that option appeared to be the less expensive and questioned whether anyone had any idea how much it would cost to put a bathroom in the Dickenson House. Eutis said that he didn’t know if renovating the Dickenson House was feasible, but thought that it should be considered.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Terry Eutis, Public Health and Safety

- ❖ Reminded the public about the Ambulance board meeting on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. to discuss staffing issues

Gregory McDermott, Streets, Water and Sewer

- ❖ Announced that leaf vac has ended.

Rich Baldrige, Public Property

- ❖ Announced the dog park is closed until more information is known about the canine virus.
- ❖ Said the transformer for the Mallick substation upgrade will arrive in late May.
- ❖ Encouraged residents to volunteer for
- ❖ Thanked We are Oglesby for their efforts on the second annual parade.
- ❖ Announced the lighting context and urged residents to participate.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

- ❖ Announced the Turkey Trot had more than 1,100 participants.
- ❖ Encouraged residents to attend the Hometown Christmas Event.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Baldrige to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**