

**OGLESBY CITY COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Oglesby City Council was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 7 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.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:** (None)

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2024, city council meeting and executive session. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** Eutis to approve the invoices presented for payment in the amount of \$546,490.37. Stefanelli noted the invoices included the IMEA bill. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT:**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** Baldrige to approve the February 16, 2024, payroll in the amount of \$105,581.12 **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** Eutis to approve the contract services of Hopkins and Associates for the annual audit and that all directives and oversight be performed by and presented to the council by accounts and finance as is required by municipal code. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

McDermott then asked Ross Baker, Chamlin and Associates, to brief the board on the engineering agreements to be placed on file. Baker explained that he had been asked to prepare the agreements for projects identified by the city as priorities. He said the four projects were estimated separately to allow the council to choose which ones they wanted to proceed with. He noted that to have the best chance at outside funding, the city needed to have the necessary permits and bid-ready plans. Curran questioned whether the projects were necessary, saying he believed the city had other projects that were bid-ready. Clinard told the council that he knew of two projects that were bid-ready – the Dry Bridge water main, which will be built this year and a project on North School that the city hadn't been able to obtain funding for. Clinard said that he did not have plans for the other Durant St. project which Curran spoke of. Lance Greathouse, TEST, Inc., who manages the city's water and wastewater

plants, explained that three of the projects fall into the low/moderate income list, for which grants are available. Baker said the East Main Street watermain is a priority as well.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Baldrige to place the engineering agreements on file. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

McDermott then asked the council for approval to go out to bid for the Dry Bridge water main project. Clinard explained that the project has to be completed before the County begins work on the Dry Bridge. Curran said the water main is strapped to the bridge deck.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Baldrige seek bids for the Dry Bridge water main project. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The discussion then turned to the proposed coffee trailer at the corner of Walnut St. and Columbia Ave. Lindsey Finley, a co-owner of the venture, showed the council the plans which were presented to the Design Review Board and Plan Commission at a meeting on February 15th. Earlier on February 12<sup>th</sup>, KNZB & Wesbecker had asked the Zoning Board of Appeals for variances to waive the requirement to plant trees, approve a sub-ordinate accessory structure and waive the requirement for storm-water management facilities. The ZBA had recommended that the city grant the variances.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Eutis, **SECONDED BY** Stefanelli to place on file and approve the recommendations of the Zoning Board of Appeals to grant the variances as requested. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** Eutis to place on file and approve the recommendations of the Design Review Board. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Waters then asked the council for assistance bringing water and sewer hookups to the site. She said estimates she had from John Pohar were for \$27,000 -- \$21,000 to tap onto the main and bring the line to the corner and another \$6,000 - \$7,000 more to run the lines to the trailer. Waters said she had done some research on other TIF agreements. Curran noted that the matter was not on the agenda and that the area is not presently in a TIF District, although he indicated a willingness to work with her towards some solution. Curran said he thought the matter would likely appear on the next agenda.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** McDermott, to approve the raffle license for the American Legion. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The matter of a letter of support for the IMEA Solar Farm hit a snag when Baldrige questioned whether the city could legally use the property for a solar farm. He asked if Attorney Barry could look into the language on the deed to determine if the use by the IMEA could revert the property back to Buzzi Unicem. Barry said he would have to look at it. Baldrige also asked if residents near the proposed solar farm weighed in.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to table the discussion on the IMEA Solar Farm letter of support until the questions are addressed. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Curran then took Commissioner Baldrige to task for putting up “Authorized Personnel Only” signs on the doors leading to the basement. Curran said he “hated to bring it up” but he felt the signs were put up to keep residents from visiting with him, noting that he’s seen a lot less people since his office was moved to the basement. Baldrige explained that the signs were put up after the former mayor, Dom Rivara, came into city hall to see Curran. A staff member offered to call Curran and let him know that Rivara wished to speak to him. Rivara was asked to wait in the conference room, but refused, telling the staff member that he’d go downstairs and if he fell, he’d sue the city. Rivara was intercepted by the clerk, who escorted him into the conference room where he met with Curran. Baldrige said that after learning about the incident, he put the signs up to protect the city. He accused Curran of committing several criminal acts when he removed the sign. After a heated discussion, Curran issued a “proclamation” that anyone who wanted to enter the basement to see him could.

#### **Public Comments:**

- Rich Greening, a resident of Dale Avenue, asked if the matter he asked about earlier had been resolved with Surf (internet fiber service). Curran told him that the company was supposed to be in town next week and the issue would be taken care of. He also questioned when the company would come back and clean up the staging area by the old substation and address the conduit that was held up with black tape.
- Dom Rivara apologized for the incident at city hall, saying that “he was pissed” about the mayor’s office being moved downstairs, and when you’re upset, you make angry remarks.” He also contended that the new conference room, which is supposed to be ADA compliant, isn’t. He also spoke on behalf of the solar farm, and the need for it to protect the city from “load shedding.”

#### **Commissioner Reports:**

##### **Tony Stefanelli, Accounts & Finance:**

- Congratulated the Washington Bulldogs on their season and second place finish in the state basketball tournament – “you made the city proud.”
- Apologized to residents, saying that the council should handle some of this stuff differently – and that it needs to stop.

**Terry Eutis, Public Health & Safety:**

- Also congratulated the Washington Bulldogs.

**Gregory McDermott, Water, Streets and Sewers**

- Congratulated the Washington Bulldogs.
- Encouraged residents to let him know if they know of a street sign that needs replaced.
- Echoed Stefanelli's sentiments on the council and encouraged all to work together.

**Rich Baldrige, Parks and Public Property**

- Acknowledged Rivara's apology, calling him a "good man."
- Congratulated the Washington Bulldogs, saying he was looking forward to next year
- Wished Terry Essl, Oglesby Pool Manager, a happy retirement. Essl has decided to retire to spend more time with her new grandson

**Mayor's Report:**

- Talked about the Washington Bulldog's championship run, noting that the exciting game was decided in double overtime. He also mentioned the support from the coaches, parents and community was great.
- Said that the next city newsletter would focus on volunteer opportunities within our community.
- Announced that the next showing of the Starved Rock documentary "Ice Climbers" will be Sunday, March 3, at 11 am and 3 pm at the Starved Rock Visitor Center.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Eutis, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to enter into executive session at 8:02 pm to discuss "*collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning the salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).*" **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Eutis, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to resume the regular city council meeting. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Eutis, **SECONDED BY** Stefanelli, to approve the buyback of vacation time from members of the Oglesby Police Department. The officers will be allowed a one-time opportunity to sell back 42 hours of unused vacation time before May 1, 2024. This will limit the amount of overtime the city would have to pay to allow officers to use their time before May 1. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Stefanelli to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.  
**MEETING ADJOURNED.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Becky Clinard, City Clerk