

**OGLESBY CITY COUNCIL  
MARCH 18, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Oglesby City Council was held on Monday, March 18, 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** McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Eutis to approve the minutes from the March 4, 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** McDermott to approve the invoices presented for payment in the amount of \$485,124.15. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT:** Aqua Smart, Inc., \$11,120.77; Bhmg Engineers, \$15,440.08; Budach, Wesley, \$50.00; Cely, Sebastian, \$91.83; Chamlin & Associates Inc, \$55,624.50; Cintas First Aid & Safety, \$88.24; Columbia Pipe & Supply Co, \$2,964.23; Comcast Business, \$478.63; Connecting Point, \$2,402.50; Curran, Jason, \$193.34; Daley's Super Service, \$362.20; De Lage Landen Financial Services, \$192.83; Debo Ace Hardware, \$157.88; De'vine Floral Designs & Gifts, \$104.00; Dresbach Distributing, \$1,016.95; Edens, Cathie, \$85.75; Feece Oil Co, \$2,405.29; First Impression, \$1,775.20; Gordon Electric Supply, \$387.69; Grainco Fs Inc., \$844.65; Halm's Auto Parts, \$822.80; Hawkins, Inc, \$736.00; Heartland Bank Visa, \$7,806.35; Holloway's Portable Restrooms, \$1,280.00; Illinois Municipal Electric Agency, \$339,457.77; Inman Electric Co Inc, \$958.22; Joan's Trophy & Plaque Co, \$169.10; John's Service & Sales, \$505.00; Kazin, Jason, \$243.78; Kendrick Pest Control Inc., \$180.00; Kittilson's Garage, \$2,322.58; Knoblauch Advertising, \$387.76; Mautino Distributing Co Inc, \$23.25; Menards, \$946.97; Mertel Gravel Co, \$1,077.42; Midwest Mailing & Shipping, \$104.74; Mp Automotive Repair, \$897.98; Mtco, \$161.87; Northern Illinois Ambulance Bi, Inc, \$1,753.19; OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center, \$811.24; Ottosen Dinolfo, \$440.00; Petersen, Paul, \$1,087.00; Ro Pros, \$27.45; Smart Source Llc, \$3,427.20; Smith's Sales And Service, \$16.00; Spires, Vivian, \$113.17; Springfield Electric Supply, \$321.33; St Paul Medical Center, \$476.00; Stryker Sales, Llc, \$721.50; Superior Lighting, \$347.50; T.E.S.T Inc., \$20,042.16; Trotsky Investigative Polygrap, Inc., \$195.00; Usa Bluebook, \$1,422.26; Watts, Richard, \$55.00. **Total \$485,124.15**

Baldrige congratulated the Oglesby Washington 7th grade boys basketball team for their second place finish at state. Parks Director JP Rose then presented a trophy and an autograph ball to the team and introduced the coaches and team. Coach Gary Ghighi thanked the city for their support and assured the council the plaque and ball would be displayed in a prominent place at the school.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** Eutis to approve the March 15, 2024, payroll in the amount of \$88,914.70 **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to approve the 2024 Tag Day requests. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Eutis then swore in Oglesby's newest police officer Spencer Shaw. Shaw's girlfriend pinned his badge on him. Members of the council congratulated him.

Baldrige then presented the lease agreement for the electric bike concession. This was discussed last fall and Attorney Barry had put the agreement in the form of a two year lease. Curran called it "a great thing," noting the possibility of economic development.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to approve the lease agreement with Adventure E-Bike. The lease is for two years. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Baldrige then asked the council to approve the extension of the IMEA contract for electric sales through 2055, noting that the city has benefitted greatly from its agreement with the IMEA. Barry said that if the council approves it, he will draft an ordinance. Curran told the council that the IMEA had originally expressed an interest in presenting the contract to its member cities, but he said he was unsure if that was necessary for the council to approve it.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** Stefanelli to authorize Barry to draft an ordinance approving the extension of the IMEA Power Sales Contract through 2055. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The council then addressed the letter of support for the Solar Farm. Curran explained that the letter just confirmed the city's support for the solar farm and was needed to ensure the project moved forward. Baldrige asked that the approval be contingent on the agreement with Buzzi to allow a solar farm. Stefanelli said he thought that was fair.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to approve the letter of support for the IMEA solar farm contingent on receiving the signed agreement from Buzzi. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Baldrige then asked the council to approve the purchase of BHMG Bid Package No. 5 for Mallick Substation at a cost of \$24,989.19. He explained that this is for more materials needed for the upgrade. He said the original bid letting did not result in any bids, but because the equipment was still needed, BHMG reached out to vendors to get a price. Stefanelli said that he and Baldrige had been monitoring these costs, and while he was all for the project, at some point the city will have to determine whether the city can still afford the project. He mentioned other "pet projects" the city has and a limited source of funds. Curran concurred, saying that the project initially was estimated to cost about \$1 - \$1.5 million. He said the city needed to consider that the upgrade to Mallick substation HAS to happen. He said the city would be unable to attract a larger industry without the upgrade. Curran said the second feed could be considered optional, but that it would provide a reliable source of power to the city.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to approve the purchase of BHMG Bid Package #5 in the amount of \$24,989.19 for Mallick Substation. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** Eutis to approve the Certificate of Authority by Vote to allow Curran to enter into agreements with the State of Illinois to purchase road salt from the state. McDermott explained that this was a new requirement. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** Eutis, to approve Ordinance No. 1245-031824, which establishes a date for a public hearing (May 6, 6 p.m.) on amendments to TIF VI. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Curran then said that the next 8 items were items he felt needed to be discussed. Curran said there were probably many more, but he chose these eight items because of the need for action soon on these items.

The first item Curran addressed was the bucket truck. The council voted on Nov. 20, 2023, to reject the bids for the truck and to send the truck to auction. Curran says he has had one of the bidders ask him about the truck. The truck has not gone to auction and Curran asked why. Baldrige said the electric department has reached out to auctioneer, he read a letter from the auctioneer that provided estimated values of the truck which ranged from \$9,000 to \$12,500 if the truck is in good condition. Baldrige said that the timetable is dependent upon the auction house at this point.

Curran then asked about movement on the signs at the canoe landing. Curran reasoned that the signs are related to economic development, and therefore he wanted to be updated or he “would start on the signs tomorrow.” Stefanelli asked if he had a sign to propose, Curran said that he had a draft prepared by the former clerk. Eutis acknowledged that the issue had become a point of contention between the city and We Are Oglesby. Baldrige told the council that he had started on the project. Curran offered his assistance.

Curran then asked the council about putting a small stage in Seneca Square. He mentioned that the city already spends \$3,000 for stage rental for the two events the city holds. He asserted that the stage would pay for itself in a matter of years. He wants the stage to be available to others to use. Baldrige said that matter had been addressed at a recent park meeting. He read from the minutes, in which a member of the board said that he felt a stage at Seneca Square was a “total waste of money.” Baldrige also noted a Facebook post in which the LeHigh Park Stage was mentioned. Baldrige said it was his opinion that a stage was not needed in Seneca Square. Stefanelli said he felt a better use of the money would be to use it with a possible OSLAD grant to make improvements to LeHigh Park. The council continued to discuss the matter without resolution. Baldrige said he felt the matter “should be put to bed.” Stefanelli asked that the council be polled. The four commissioners expressed their desire that money be spent at Le High Park, not on a stage in Seneca Square. After more discussion without resolution, Curran moved on to the next item.

He then asked about whether any work had been done promoting or organizing tournaments for the disc golf course. Eutis questioned whether the course was regulation size and able to host tournaments. Curran expressed his concerns at that assertion and vowed to find out if it was true. Baldrige read an

email from Wes Black, which talked about the many things in the works. Black also expressed a need for someone to run the tournaments, noting that he wasn't that guy.

The talk then turned to the replacement of the city worker who is responsible for running the Dickinson House bowling alley. Curran wanted to know what the plan was for replacing that person. Stefanelli that the personnel issue is a matter for closed session and a matter of contract negotiations. Curran countered that Attorney Barry had told him the matter wasn't closed session material. Baldrige, who is in charge of the department and the hiring of its employees, said that he, Stefanelli and the clerk had met and had a plan, but he didn't feel it was necessary to discuss it in public. Curran continued to push for details, but Baldrige said that he would not discuss his plans in public. Curran said the person would be gone in approximately 72 days and asked who would train the person on "how to do this stuff because I'm told these are older type machines ..." Baldrige said that if the Mayor was concerned about Dickinson House, "it will be fixed, we will have someone there."

Curran then asked the same question about the other duties this employee performs. He again asked Baldrige if he had a plan. Baldrige responded "this simple answer is yes."

The next item on Curran's list was to discuss putting a sign up in Courtyard Park for the Oglesby Washington 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys basketball team. He asked for council input. Eutis said he felt it was a great idea. Baldrige said he didn't feel it necessary, noting the plaque presented to the team tonight was sufficient along with the many other things the city did to show support for the team during its championship run. He also noted that the park was going to be redone at some point in the near future and that the signs would have to be moved. "I'm not in favor of signs in the parks," Baldrige said. McDermott said that he was for it, but questioned what the criteria would be for a sign. After some discussion, they agreed that if a team would go to a state championship. Curran noted that he had a consensus. Baldrige noted that the agenda said discussion only. Barry suggested that Curran get an estimate and bring it back to the council.

Curran then asked about changes to the junior/senior field that he believed needed to be made to ensure the city is able to host tourneys here. Baldrige asked JP Rose, Parks Director, to respond. Rose told Curran that the proposed changes were voted down earlier in the year, so they would not be needed.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Jay Querigrossa said he was not in favor of a stage at Seneca Square, and mentioned a place in Streater that doesn't have a stage (the band plays on the concrete) that "draws in more people than we've ever drawn ...."
- Drew Merriman urged for the use of more local talent at city events and suggested the stage at LeHigh Park be burned. He also noted that the door to the basement (also to the Mayor's office) be closed, noting that it was a safety concern.
- Eddie Sadnick told the council he felt like he "got shafted" with the bid process for the electric truck, saying that he didn't feel the council had the right to reject all bids.
- Austin Cullinan also weighed in on the stage at Seneca Square, saying he didn't think it was necessary. Cullinan also said that he felt many of the items on the agenda should have been addressed internally. And, he questioned Curran's Facebook page, noting that the page (once it

became the Mayor's page, and not a candidate page) is considered a matter of public record. Cullinan noted that his mother is blocked from commenting on the Mayor's posts, which would be illegal

#### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

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

- Extended his sympathy to longtime businessman Arnie Daley's family,
- Announced that the city had received a refund of \$6,918 from the Public Risk Fund.

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

- Told the council the asbestos removal at the wastewater treatment plant has been removed.
- Thanked those who wrote letters of support for two projects submitted to area lawmakers for funding.
- Reminded residents that ATV licenses expire April 30th.

##### **Rich Baldrige, Parks and Public Property**

##### **Terry Eutis, Public Safety**

##### **Mayor's Report:**

- Thanked Baldrige and Stefanelli for their efforts on the city's new conference room and tech/video upgrades.
- Noted that Jorge's Waffle House is now open
- Said that while the city hasn't landed any new major businesses or industry, there were several small projects in the works.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to enter into executive session at 8:03 pm to discuss "the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees ... " 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). And "litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent ... " 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

**AYES:** Baldrige, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Oglesby City Council resumes the regular city council meeting at 8:55 pm

**PRESENT:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran, Barry and Clinard.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Eutis to adjourn at 8:57 p.m. **MEETING ADJOURNED.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Becky Clinard, City Clerk