

**OGLESBY CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024**

The Oglesby City Council meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Mayor Jason Curran.

PRESENT: Commissioners Rich Baldrige, Don Finley, Gregory McDermott, Tony Stefanelli and Mayor Jason Curran. City Attorney Pat Barry and City Clerk Becky Clinard were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS (None)

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** McDermott, to approve the July 1, 2024, regular and executive session minutes. **AYES:** Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Baldrige questioned an item on the invoice register, asking for more detail about charges on a city credit card that were listed without explanation. Discussion ensued about how accounts payable invoices should be handled, whether travel expenses are required to be approved beforehand, and who should sign off on the city's credit card bills. Stefanelli told the council he had already addressed the items pertaining to the clerk's office's handling of invoices. Baldrige asked Attorney Barry to look into the requirements for official travel and asked that the next meeting include an item on the agenda regarding travel expenses. Curran told the council he agreed that each department -- and not him -- should be signing off on the credit card charges and that he had discussed this with the clerk on Friday. After some discussion about approving all but the credit card bill, the council decided that it was best to pay all the bills.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Stefanelli, to approve the bills presented for payment in the amount of \$1,194,367.35. **AYES:** Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT: A & B Garage, \$330.36; Air One Equipment Inc., \$165.00; Axon Enterprise, \$231.66; Bhmg Engineers, \$70,720.57; Bound Tree Medical Llc, \$307.58; Chamlin & Associates Inc, \$87,931.50; Chard Snyder, \$153.90; Civic Systems, Llc, \$3,271.00; Comcast Business, \$134.90; Connecting Point, \$2,642.75; Continental Research Corp, \$1,702.60; Core & Main, \$9,841.07; Cosgrove Distributors, \$1,093.36; De Lage Landen Financial Services, \$376.47; Debo Ace Hardware, \$622.54; De'vine Floral Designs & Gifts, \$62.99; Dresbach Distributing, \$200.80; Edens, Cathie, \$4.28; Feece Oil Co, \$3,639.65; First Impression, \$2,892.50; Flags Usa, \$258.00; Fletcher; Reinhardt Co, \$1,975.00; Gaeta, Marissa, \$122.36; Gillan Construction, Llc, \$24,483.80; Gillan Construction, Llc, \$98,348.81; Halberg, Vickie, \$26.75; Hawkins, Inc, \$3,220.52; Heartland Bank Visa, \$15,246.21; Holcim-Mamr Inc., \$317.99; Hopkins & Associates, \$14,000.00; Il Epa, \$8,500.00; Il Department Of Innovation And Tech, \$447.72; Il Valley Regional Dispatch, \$7,210.56; Illinois Municipal Electric Agency, \$459,840.79; Jacob & Klein, Ltd., \$334.60; Kittilson's Garage, \$1,467.73; Knoblauch Advertising, \$156.71; Macro Logic, Inc, \$1,060.00; Mautino Distributing Co Inc, \$15.50; Menards, \$157.65; Mertel Gravel Co, \$625.88; Mp Automotive Repair, \$80.00; Mtco, \$16.71; Ncicg, \$1,113.60; News-Trib, \$766.99; Northern Illinois Ambulance Bi, Inc, \$1,883.20; Osf Medical Group -- Occupational Health, \$89.00; Ro Pros, \$38.39; Rush Power Systems, \$3,907.90; Shaw Media, \$5,280.30; Showen, Alex, \$50.00; Smith, Jacqueline, \$21.34; Smith's Sales And Service, \$982.99; Starved Rock Media, Inc., \$2,183.00; Subsurface Solutions, \$431.12; Sunbelt Solomon, \$13,511.62; T & R Electric Supply Co., Inc, \$9,650.84; T.E.S.T Inc., \$20,092.16; The Economic Development Group, \$1,338.40; Thurman Truevalue Hardware, \$223.37; Virginia Transformer Co., \$308,609.20; Wendinger, Rene, \$186.82. **TOTAL: \$1,194,367.35**

Debb Ladgenski, Illinois River Road Scenic Highway, gave a short presentation on the group's goals and initiatives. Curran has asked the council to approve joining the group to promote the area. She told the council of the benefits the group offers in marketing and tourism and stressed that the city needs to be an active partner in the Byway. The city will have to provide the information for inclusion in the group's social media and website. She offered to provide Google analytics that will show the group's reach. The council thanked her for her presentation.

The council then discussed solicitor permit applications from E-Equals Solar and Surf Internet. Baldrige said that he was in favor of approving the application from SURF because the city has a partnership with them, but that he did not favor approving the applications from E-Equals Solar. Curran said he'd never had a resident reached out to him and ask about solar installers and that he wasn't a fan of solicitors. Stefanelli said he concurred with Baldrige.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Baldrige, SECONDED BY McDermott to deny E-Equals Solar's solicitor permits and to approve SURF's permit. AYES: Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Dickinson Foundation president Gary Peterlin addressed the board about the foundation's plans to install an accessible bathroom at the Dickinson House using a \$25,000 grant from the county and another \$55,000 of their own funds. Curran told the council that the DH Foundation didn't have a recent estimate of costs, but he was in support of using funds if the cost was reasonable. Baldrige took the time to "set the record straight," saying that the council was willing to work with the Foundation, but was not willing to make any promises until the costs were known. Peterlin said that the restroom was a city project, and that the board was "available to meet with you soon to discuss it." Stefanelli asked what the long-term plan for the Dickinson House was, and said he was willing to meet privately, but that he believed the discussions should be held publicly. Peterlin then went over a list of improvements the DH has either fully or partially funded from proceeds of fundraising events. He noted that they were "looking for taxpayers support too."

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Baldrige, SECONDED BY McDermott to approve the use of Dickinson House Foundation funds and the \$25,000 LaSalle County ARPA Grant funds for the installation of an ADA compliant bathroom in the Dickinson House building, subject to available quotes or bids, with the Commissioner of Public Property maintaining oversight. AYES: Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, SECONDED BY Baldrige to approve Ordinance No. 1261-071524, FY25 Appropriations. AYES: Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Baldrige, SECONDED BY Finley to approve Ordinance No. 1262-071524, Changes Council Meeting Time to 6 p.m. Curran told the council before the vote that he hadn't heard of any objections to the time change and he agreed with Commissioner Baldrige's statement that it could always be changed back to 7 p.m. if it didn't work out. AYES: Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, SECONDED BY Baldrige to place the Second Quarter Building Permits on file. AYES: Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

New Business

Curran then briefed the council on the Building Improvement Grant committee meeting held to discuss the proposed changes to the façade grant and the proposed utility abatement and new home property tax rebate programs. He said the group recommended that the city strike out any restrictive language pertaining the number of times a business could apply for a grant and that the property tax rebate on new home builds be separated from the business grants. There were also some minor language changes. Curran said that he wanted to place the items on file to gather more input from the public.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to place the proposed incentive programs on file. **AYES:** Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Baldrige then told the council about his plan to bring wi-fi to the parks through SURF internet. He told the council that Faith Rumpf of SURF had done her “absolute best” to bring the best services to the city. Curran said that Baldrige was downplaying his work on the matter, and noted the savings the switch to SURF would bring to the city for similar or improved internet services.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to approve the SURF internet proposal for service to LeHigh Park, Seneca Square and the Pool grounds. **AYES:** Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Stefanelli, Accounts and Finance

- ❖ Talked about meetings with city departments to discuss the FY25 budget. Stefanelli said some “pencil sharpening” was necessary to keep the city in good financial standing.
- ❖ Congratulated both the baseball and softball for successful seasons

Commissioner Finley, Public Health and Safety

- ❖ Announced that City Hall was available for those residents without air conditioning and encouraged neighbors to check on each other during this heat wave.

Commissioner McDermott, Streets, Water and Sewer

- ❖ Asked for a special meeting on July 22nd to place the bids for the Dry Bridge Water Main Loop project on file. The bids will be opened Monday, July 22 and could then be awarded at the first meeting in August.
- ❖ Gave updates on the many projects around town, including the Clark and Hickory Street culvert replacement, Clark Street Stormwater Sewer project, Safe Route to Schools sidewalk project slated for next year; Dry Bridge water main loop, etc.

Commissioner Baldrige, Electric and Public Property

- ❖ Congratulated the boys and girls teams on successful seasons
- ❖ Applauded the efforts of JP Rose, Parks Director, and his crew for their work on the baseball and softball diamonds in town. He noted that there were no rainouts this season for either league, saying that that was proof that the former water issues at Memorial Park had been resolved.
- ❖ Noted that the city had hosted 35 all star games this year, 84 baseball and 72 softball games this season – a record for Oglesby.

- ❖ Again thanked JP Rose and members of the Boys Baseball League for their efforts in preparing the field for two Central States games on Sunday. They were asked at the last minute if Oglesby could host the final two Central States games because the fields in Peru were not usable.
- ❖ Reminded residents to fill out the survey for the housing rehab grant
- ❖ Aqua Zumba continues on Wednesday mornings.

Mayor's Report

- ❖ Again voiced his appreciation for everyone involved in the success of the boys baseball and girls softball programs.
- ❖ Announced that the municipal band would perform on July 25 at the Dickinson House.
- ❖ Told residents to “batten down the hatches” as a big storm was approaching.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. **AYES:** Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MEETING ADJOURNED.**