

**OGLESBY CITY COUNCIL**  
**MONDAY, September 16, 2024**

The Oglesby City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Jason Curran.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Richard 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)**

Curran asked for a motion to approve the September 3, 2024 regular meeting and the September 9, 2024 special meeting minutes if there were no changes or corrections necessary. Baldrige said he wanted a summarization of Curran's prepared speech from the Sept. 9, 2024, special meeting deleted from the minutes. Baldrige said he didn't believe it was "necessary or true."

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldrige to strike the last paragraph of the Sept. 9, 2024, special meeting minutes and to then approve the revised minutes. The motion died for lack of a second. Curran then called for a motion to approve the minutes.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Finley to approve the minutes of the Sept. 9, 2024, special meeting. The motion died for a lack of a second. Curran then asked for a motion to table the minutes.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to table the (Sept. 3, 2024, regular meeting and Sept. 9, 2024, special meeting) minutes. **AYES:** Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** Finley to approve the bills presented for payment in the amount of \$721,689.95. Stefanelli explained that the higher amount included payments to the IMEA and other infrastructure expenditures. **AYES:** Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT TOTAL:** 25/8 Xtreme, \$1,355.00; Aaa Tree Service, \$4,500.00; Alleman, Candice, \$149.69; Altec Industries Inc., \$2,798.58; Andy's Karpet Kleaning, \$440.00; Barnes, Jack, \$20.00; Bernadoni, Meghan, \$180.22; Bhmg Engineers, \$3,160.00; Brownlee Data Systems, \$2,340.00; Chamlin & Associates Inc, \$24,806.00; Chard Snyder, \$189.30; Comcast, \$1,619.34; Connecting Point, \$2,642.75; Core & Main, \$2,054.84; Debo Ace Hardware, \$181.53; Dinges Fire Company, \$629.30; Dinner Bell Productions, \$1,500.00; Dresbach Distributing, \$236.75; Euclid Beverage, \$0.00; Euclid Beverage, \$2,886.00; Gallagher Materials Inc, \$3,591.28; Gerace, Taylor, \$250.00; Heartland Bank Visa, \$6,378.45; I V Net Llp, \$159.95; Il Valley Regional Dispatch, \$7,461.12; Mary Jauch, \$30.00; Illinois Municipal Electric Agency, \$494,978.69; John's Service & Sales, \$349.99; Kendrick Pest Control Inc., \$197.50; Knoblauch Advertising, \$537.87; Koenig, Michael, \$97.40; Mautino Distributing Co Inc, \$16.50; Menards, \$43.96; Mertel Gravel Co, \$3,766.63; Mtco, \$164.87; News-Trib, \$1,894.00; Oldcastle Infastructure, Inc, \$67,596.48; Otter Creek Carriages, \$800.00; Quadient, Inc., \$176.97; Ro Pros, \$24.40; Seico Inc., \$1,105.00; Shaw, Spencer, \$20.00; Smart Source Llc, \$3,442.16; Smith's Sales And Service, \$1,722.97; Solitude Lake Management, \$1,734.85; Springfield Electric Supply, \$164.94; Starved Rock Media, Inc., \$1,430.00; Sunbelt Solomon, \$8,946.06; Surf, \$85.00; T & R Electric Supply Co., Inc, \$19,547.81; T.E.S.T Inc., \$250.00; Tesco-The Eastern Speciality Company, \$4,449.16; Thurman Truevalue Hardware, \$214.90; Tri Cty Opportunities Council, \$398.58; Uline, \$12,221.61; Usa Bluebook, \$206.42; Verizon, \$1,545.13; Wright Excavating, \$24,000.00; **Total, \$724,219.22**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to approve the September 13, 2024, payroll in the amount of \$67,468.17. **AYES:** Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Baldrige to award the demolition bids for the properties at 314 California Avenue and 620 S. Columbia as part of the Strong Communities Grant program. **AYES:** Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to “instruct the attorney to draft a travel ordinance that prohibits elected officials from collecting any reimbursement without prior council approval. This includes travel, meals and any other expenditure an elected official can choose to use taxpayer money for reimbursement or pay back to themselves.”

Stefanelli said he felt it was appropriate for an elected official to approve expenses for an employee, but not for themselves. Barry pointed out that the ordinance that Baldrige had provided from Marseilles attempted to follow state statute, but then “goes on to talk about things not part of the state statute: like preapproval for both employees and elected officials,” noting that the ordinance makes mention that entertainment and alcohol are permitted reimbursable expenses if preapproved. Barry said those are absolutely not permitted under state law. Barry said that he could adopt the ordinance to require preapproval of expenses if that was the goal. Curran said he felt the current state was adequate and expressed his concerns that it would limit the ability of an official to travel when needed. Finley and Curran asked for clarification, asking if Baldrige wanted the attorney to create a new ordinance or amend the current one. Baldrige said he wanted a new one and handed Barry a copy of an ordinance which he felt addressed the concerns of the Marseilles ordinance. He then repeated his motion.

**SECONDED BY** McDermott. **AYES:** Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli. **NAYS:** Curran. **MOTION CARRIED.**

McDermott then told the council the next ordinance would allow the city to apply for a low interest loan from the state for the new wastewater treatment plant. Barry explained that there was a whole process necessary that included publication and that the public could petition to require a referendum. After 30 days, Barry certifies that the process has been done legally. Curran added that the city was still pursuing other grant opportunities.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Stefanelli to approve Ordinance No. 1268-0916+24, which authorizes a loan agreement for the wastewater treatment plan. **AYES:** Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** Baldrige to grant Kevin Dutkiewicz a variance on the front setback of his property at 218 W. Third Street from 25’ to 15’ to allow for an addition to his house. The zoning board of appeals had recommended the request be granted. **AYES:** Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Baldrige to approve Resolution R-091624, which approved an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program grant. The city is seeking a grant to replace sidewalks, lighting, and curbs in a one-block area of the downtown. Baldrige spoke to the condition of the sidewalks and the need for new electrical in the downtown area. Baldrige said he would like to eventually expand the improvements into other blocks. McDermott said the grant would make the downtown look more presentable and would address some safety concerns. The grant is 80/20 for most improvements and 50/50 for lighting. Curran expressed his concerns, but noted that it was a

good thing for Oglesby. **AYES:** Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Stefanelli, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to approve Starved Rock Runners request to host the annual Turkey Trot in Oglesby. **AYES:** Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Stefanelli to approve the funding Resolution for the Safe Routes to School. The state pays 75% of the cost of the project to put sidewalks in neighborhoods near Lincoln School. McDermott asked City Engineer Jim Clinard to explain the program. Curran asked about the recent concern that costs would have made the project cost-prohibitive. Clinard said that that wasn't the case. **AYES:** Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Public Comments (None)**

## **Commissioner Updates**

### **Commissioner Stefanelli, Accounts and Finance**

- ❖ Big thanks to clerk's office, police and fire department for work at Boots Brew & BBQ. Stefanelli said he appreciated their efforts, acknowledging that they are more than "merely employees."
- ❖ Congratulated the Quilts of Honor recipients, Dom Rivara and Wayne Lance.

### **Commissioner Finley, Public Safety**

- ❖ Clarified that the incident on 300 Block of East Walnut Street did not happen at Carrico's, as was reported on the radio. He noted that the radio has corrected the mistake.

### **Commissioner McDermott, Streets, Water and Sewer**

- ❖ Thanked the council for approving the ITEP and Safe Routes to school resolutions.

### **Commissioner Baldrige, Public Property**

- ❖ Mentioned the new garbage cans in the downtown area and said he hoped to add matching benches next year.
- ❖ Thanked the Elks for their recent donation of a handicap-accessible swing for Memorial Park and the many good things they do in the Illinois Valley.
- ❖ Announced that the OSLAD grant application was approved at the September 9, 2024, meeting. Baldrige thank his fellow commissioners for their support. He also thanked resident Sara Egan, who donated her time to creating the preliminary concept plan and pushing the project forward. He also mentioned Parks Director JP Rose, The Park Board, Clerk Clinard, Jim and Dan from Chamlin & Associates for their work on the project.
- ❖ Announced that NCICG and the clerk's office were able to get enough surveys to qualify for the HUD Housing Grant. This does not ensure the city will receive the grant, and if the city does get the grant, applications will need to be filled out. He also said the city is looking for local contractors to do the work and encouraged them to call city hall.

## Mayor's Report

- ❖ Thanked the Police and Fire Department for volunteering at Boots Brews and BBQ.
- ❖ Noted that there is a lot of things going on with grants lately and thanked the many involved in putting together the applications.
- ❖ Announced that Harvest Fest is Oct. 19 and The Scramble is back.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Stefanelli to enter into executive session at 6:35 p.m. for the discussion of

- *“The operation by a municipality of a municipal utility or the operation of a municipal power agency or municipal natural gas agency when the discussion involves contracts relating to the purchase, sale, or delivery of electricity or natural gas .... 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(23).”*
- *The selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in the OMA, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given the power to appoint under law or ordinance ... 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3).*
- *The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).* **AYES:** Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The council reentered regular session at 7:30 p.m.

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

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Baldrige to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. **AYES:** Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MEETING AJOURNED.**