

**OGLESBY CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2025**

The Oglesby City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Jason Curran at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 3, 2025.

**ROLL CALL:** Commissioners Richard Baldrige, Hilary Moyle, Gregory McDermott, Austin Cullinan and Mayor Jason Curran were present. Attorney Pat Barry and City Clerk Becky Clinard were in attendance as well.

**Public comment (agenda items only)**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Moyle to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2025, meeting. **AYES:** Baldrige, Cullinan, McDermott, Moyle, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Moyle, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2025, executive session. **AYES:** Baldrige, Cullinan, McDermott, Moyle, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** Cullinan to approve the bills presented for payment in the amount of \$160,060.55. **AYES:** Baldrige, Cullinan, McDermott, Moyle, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT:** AMEREN ILLINOIS-7419559858, \$39.04; AMEREN ILLINOIS-8218382099, \$186.89; BOUND TREE MEDICAL LLC, \$428.93; BRENNEMAN, VICTORIA, \$180.37; CHARLENE DALEY, NEAL TOMSHA, \$300.00; CIVIC SYSTEMS, LLC - MADISON, \$11,650.00; CONNECTING POINT, \$1,111.75; D&S PERFORMANCE AUTOBODY, \$2,816.27; DALEY'S SUPER SERVICE, \$1,885.00; DE'VINE FLORAL DESIGNS & GIFTS, \$68.20; DRESBACH DISTRIBUTING, \$69.95; FENDER MENDERS, \$125.00; FICEK ELECTRIC, \$169.00; GRAINCO FS INC., \$115.00; GRAINGER, \$1,235.25; GUERRERO, ELVIRA, \$50.00; HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES, \$43.97; HY-VEE, INC, \$128.95; IL PUBLIC RISK FUND, \$18,070.00; IL VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, \$1,435.00; ILLINI LOUNGE, \$160.00; ILLINOIS VALLEY BASEBALL LEAGUE, LLC, \$300.00; JOHN'S SERVICE & SALES, \$448.00; KITTILSON'S GARAGE, \$696.23; MARCO, INC, \$178.00; MARINCIC, ROBERT, \$25,000.00; MARKETGUIDE, \$455.00; MAUTINO DISTRIBUTING CO INC, \$27.50; MENARDS, \$295.29; MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PUMP, INC, \$10,200.00; NCPERS GROUP LIFE INS, \$16.00; NICK'S EMERGENCY LIGHTING & MORE, \$32,009.00; OGLESBY GIRLS SOFTBALL, \$300.00; OTTOSEN DINOLFO, \$112.81; P.F. PETTIBONE & CO., \$310.50; QUADIENT, INC., \$185.11; ROBINSON ENGINEERING, \$44,390.00; SALAZAR, BRITTANY, \$50.00; SHEET WISE, \$475.00; TENSION ENVELOPE CORP, \$534.98; UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, \$959.56; UTILITY EQUIPMENT CO., \$1,260.52; VERIZON, \$332.08; WESTERN SAND & GRAVEL, \$906.50; WROBLESKI, DANIEL K. AND BRENDA K., \$300.00; ZEITZ, JORDAN, \$50.00; **TOTAL, \$160,060.65**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Moyle, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to approve the February 28, 2025, payroll in the amount of \$65,292.98. **AYES:** Baldrige, Cullinan, McDermott, Moyle, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Leah Erickson, representing KEI, and the CFO Paul Knobelsdorf (by phone), answered questions about the new business locating in the old Badge-A-Minit building. Erickson told the council that KEI would be investing about \$6.7 million in the building and was looking for the TIF agreement to supplement their investment. KEI is an energy/solar business established in Minnesota looking to expand into the Illinois market. KEI currently hires approximately 530 employees who work out of two offices in Minnesota.

Said they would have a number of employees working in the building and in the yard and would be expanding their solar and EPC operations into Illinois.

Cullinan asked how many employees would be working at the Oglesby location. Knobelsdorf said they would have a number of employees working in the Oglesby location and people in the field. He told the council that the company could expand its corporate staff in either Minnesota or Illinois and was looking for TIF financing to enable the move to Oglesby. Barry pointed out that item 7 (a) in the agreement says the developer agrees to employ a minimum of 20 fulltime employees as of January 1, 2026, with a total of 100 employees as of January 1, 2031. Barry said that the developer must certify the number of employees each year and if they fall short of the requirement, they would not receive TIF monies. Cullinan said it didn't mean that the employees would be necessarily working out of the Oglesby location and Barry agreed.

Moyle asked about the other two locations and how many employees were at each location. Knobelsdorf said that in the headquarters in Goodhue, there are about 120 fulltime office positions and there's 30 in the smaller Egan office. The remaining 350-400 employees are out in the field working on projects.

McDermott asked if the 100 employees who would be hired would be hired locally. Erickson said that the employees would be from Illinois. Knobelsdorf confirmed that the employees would be coming from Illinois.

Curran said that the company's projections are 150 employees, but the agreement is based on 100 employees. Curran said the benefit to Oglesby is the number of jobs and the improvements to the location.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY Cullinan, SECONDED BY Moyle to place on file the redevelopment agreement with KEI. AYES: Baldrige, Cullinan, McDermott, Moyle, Curran. NAYS: None. MOTION CARRIED.**

The council then addressed the request to increase the number of liquor licenses to accommodate a new liquor store on North Columbia Avenue. Curran pointed out that, as liquor commissioner, there was a liquor license available after he revoked the license held by Jorge's and he could grant the license without council approval, But, Curran said, he preferred to give the council the opportunity to weigh in on the decision. The prospective owners did send in drawings that show their plans to expand the building and how the building will be set up.

Discussion centered on the need for an "A" license, which is a "pour" license. Cullinan said he thought the decision would be easier if it was just for a "B" license which is for consumption off the premises. An "A" license is needed to meet the state requirements to have gaming in the facility. Moyle explained that previous councils had set the ordinance up to scontrol over what type of businesses receive licenses. "We

don't want a lot of gaming parlors in Oglesby," said Moyle. Moyle said she was hoping that they could have a B license and still have gaming. She said she had talked to a lot of people in Lostant and Tonica who were looking forward to not having to drive to LaSalle or Peru. McDermott echoed her comments, saying he was all for giving them a B license.

Baldrige asked what the intention of the business was, citing the definitions of the different classes and noting that the license doesn't match their plans. Baldrige said that the city should look at the classes because "these aren't working out." Cullinan noted that the plans don't show an intention to have a bar in the store.

Curran said that he thought the market would take care of itself and agreed that the licenses needed to be reworked. He said he knew the council was taking a lot of heat from bar owners who are worried that the new facility will take business away from them.

McDermott said he was in favor of the B license, and didn't see the proposed liquor store as fitting the requirements of the A license. Barry told him that the liquor store, which plans to sell alcoholic beverages consumed on the premises, would in fact, be a bar. McDermott expressed his concern about a patron coming in, consuming a 12 pack and driving off. Barry said "If you want to break the law, you'll break the law."

Curran reiterated that he could have granted the license without council approval, noting that there is one license available. In answer to a question from Cullinan, he said the reason the city needed an additional license is for 2 Brothers restaurant. Moyle asked if the classifications are changed, would the present holders be grandfathered in. Barry said they would be until the next renewal date.

Baldrige then asked for clarification on what license they were approving A or B?. Curran disagreed, saying that the vote is to expand the number of licenses, not determine the class of license issued. After more discussion

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to expand the number of liquor licenses from 20 to 21. **AYES:** Baldrige, Cullinan, McDermott, Moyle, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** McDermott, **SECONDED BY** Cullinan to renew the contract with Republic Services. Before the vote, Cullinan told the council that the increase was minimal. **AYES:** Baldrige, Cullinan, McDermott, Moyle, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** Moyle to approve the solicitor's permit applications from Custom Home Services/SURF Internet. **AYES:** Baldrige, Cullinan, McDermott, Moyle, Curran. **NAYS:** None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Public Comments:

Mary Jo Credi, Illinois Valley Food Pantry, asked the council to consider donating to the Food Pantry. Credit talked about the organization's work in the area and the need for support.

## Commissioners Reports:

### ❖ **Austin Cullinan, Accounts and Finance**

- Told the council that a recent IPRF audit resulted in an additional \$18,000 in costs. An October across-the-board increase in officers wages, accumulated sick leave payouts to two long-time employees who retired in 2024, and the reclassification of an employee were reasons behind the increase.
- Thanked former Commissioner Tony Stefanelli for his service to the city and the clerks office for their assistance.
- Read from a prepared statement saying that he was “incredibly honored” to be serving the city and he hoped to be a “mediating voice” on the council.

### ❖ **Commissioner Hilary Moyle, Public Safety**

- Recognized the police department for completing CPR training and thanked Brad Anderson from the Ambulance Department for leading the training efforts.
- Said the Fire Department was in need of new rescue airbags
- Noted the new markings on Oglesby’s police department vehicles.
- Gave a report on the number of calls the different departments responded to in February.

## Mayor’s Report:

- Welcomed Commissioner Cullinan
- Announced tag day requests are due March 15
- IMEA scholarship deadline is March 14
- Talked about a couple of meetings to discuss the referendum that would change the city’s form of government.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** Cullinan to go into executive session at 6:55 p.m. to discuss *“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, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3) and “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 (i) contracts relating to the purchase, sale, or delivery of electricity or natural gas ... 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(23) and “the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees....” 5 ILCS 120/(2c* **AYES:** Baldrige, Moyle, McDermott, Cullinan, Curran. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Curran said the council would be voting on the parttime position after executive session.

The council reentered regular session at 8:20 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Commissioners Baldrige, Moyle, McDermott, Cullinan, Mayor Curran.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Cullinan, **SECONDED BY** McDermott to approve Ordinance No. 1281-030325, Establishes Parttime Administrative Assistant at a rate of pay of up to \$25/hour in the Clerk's office. **AYES:** Baldrige, Finley, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Baldrige, **SECONDED BY** Moyle to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. **AYES:** Baldrige, Cullinan, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **MEETING ADJOURNED.**