

Regular Meeting Minutes: April 20, 2020

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OGLESBY CITY COUNCIL WAS HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2020 AT CITY HALL. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. (The meeting was not open to the public, it was live-streamed on Facebook).

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS ARGUBRIGHT, CULLINAN, CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, MAYOR RIVARA, ATTORNEY JIM ANDREONI AND CITY CLERK EITUTIS.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LIJEWSKI, SECONDED BY ARGUBRIGHT to approve the regular meeting minutes from April 8, 2020. AYES: ARGUBRIGHT, CULLINAN, CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, RIVARA

Public comments on agenda items only: none

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LIJEWSKI, SECONDED BY CURRAN to approve bills as presented. AYES: CULLINAN, CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, RIVARA. NAYS: ARGUBRIGHT

Mary-Batty Jasper \$100.00; BPC \$ 213.15; Chamlin's \$ 2,145.00; Clegg-Perkins \$ 5,543.08; Comcast Business \$ 68.40; Connecting Point \$ 1,367.93; Cops 4 Cancer \$ 500.00; Core & Main \$ 3,270.00; Dollar General \$ 35.00; Fastenal \$ 197.05; Charles Harloff \$ 227.90; Hawkins, Inc \$ 450.50; Holloway's Portable Restrooms \$ 240.00; Il Public risk Fund \$ 4,480.00; IV Cellular \$,1252.35; Il Valley Excavating \$ 900.00; IVRD \$ 5,865.00; Impact Network \$ 26.99; IPMA-HR \$ 292.00; JW Turf \$ 784.38; John Deere Financial \$ 263.95; John Senica Jr. \$ 432.10; Kendrick Pest Control \$ 185.00; Landcomp Landfill \$ 556.18; Lavens, Burton \$ 371.63; Menards \$ 174.45; Nighthawk Total Control \$ 1,728.00; Schweitzer Engineering \$ 5,123.50; Springfield Electric Supply \$ 456.96; Standard Life Insurance \$ 816.20; Staples Credit Plan \$ 330.41, TEST \$ 36.00; USPS \$ 711.62; USA Bluebook \$ 169.81; Utility Equipment \$ 168.00; Vickers Consulting Services \$ 100.00; WEX Fleet \$ 2,914.50 **TOTALS \$ 49,169.09**

Mayor Rivara acknowledges the official retirement of Police Chief James Knoblauch. Commissioner Carrie Lijewski recognizes Chief Knoblauch for his 30 years of service to the city of Oglesby and presents him with a plaque in his honor. Chief Knoblauch addresses the Mayor and council members. Chief Knoblauch thanks many people he has dealt with throughout his career.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LIJEWSKI, SECONDED BY CURRAN to approve Ordinance 1114-042020 establishing the salary & benefits of the interim Chief of Police. AYES: ARGUBRIGHT, CULLINAN, CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, RIVARA. Commissioner Lijewski gives details in regards to the Ordinance.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ARGUBRIGHT SECONDED BY CURRAN not to develop and to return the Seneca Square grant money to the state of Illinois. AYES: ARGUBRIGHT, CULLINAN, CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, RIVARA Mayor Rivara states the committee recommends not to proceed as they would have to spend \$ 551,000.

A council discussion is held in regards to the possibly of canceling Summer fun Fest. Commissioner Lijewski asks the council to consider making the decision by the first or second council meeting in May. Commissioner Curran agrees waiting until May. Commissioner Lijewski encourages the selling of 50/50 tickets. Mayor Rivara agrees that the odds of it being canceled are pretty good.

Old Business: Commissioner Cullinan questions grievances that were filed within the Police Department. Commissioner Curran suggests not discussing it in open session as he is not aware of them. Commissioner Cullinan asks why grievances are being filed? Commissioner Lijewski states that one instance is in regards to an officer being moved to TRIDENT. Commissioner Cullinan responds that nothing has changed since Commissioner Lijewski has taken over and there are still problems. Commissioner Lijewski states that she took over the department January 20, 2020 and some changes have taken place and now because of the shelter in place it has been more difficult. Commissioner Cullinan states he disagrees and feels that Commissioner Lijewski is competent. Commissioner Cullinan feels Commissioner Lijewski has not done her job to which Commissioner Lijewski questions what Commissioner Cullinan had accomplished during his time as Commissioner? Commissioner Cullinan feels he did and that the council reversed his decision. Mayor Rivara asks Commissioner Cullinan if he supported the efforts on mediation to bring the department together to which commissioner Cullinan replies he did support it and that the department is still in chaos. Commissioner Curran feels the good news is that there is a new Chief set to take over. Commissioner Cullinan is hoping for the best too. Commissioner Cullinan states people come up to him and ask him what's going on. Chief Knoblauch asks "what people?" Chief Knoblauch states that Commissioner Cullinan has accomplished nothing in nine months. Chief Knoblauch states that in 3 ½ months of working with Commissioner Lijewski a lot has been accomplished versus the nine months he worked with Commissioner Cullinan. Chief Knoblauch goes on to explain the procedure for putting an officer in TRIDENT. It was a unanimous decision made the administrative team to which the officer filed a grievance, according to Chief Knoblauch he had every right to do so. The grievance is going to arbitration. The second grievance Chief Knoblauch states happened under Commissioner Cullinan and is just now getting to the point of a grievance. Commissioner Cullinan asks if it is Klinefelter? Chief Knoblauch responds he is not mentioning anyone's name. Mayor Rivara tries to cut off the discussion between Commissioner Cullinan and Chief Knoblauch. Commissioner Cullinan continues to speak. Mayor Rivara continues to try and stop the arguing between the Cullinan and Knoblauch and bangs his gavel. Chief Knoblauch continues to give examples of what he feels are examples of mistruths Commissioner Cullinan has stated. Mayor Rivara urges Commissioner Cullinan not to "wash his laundry in front of everyone here tonight." Commissioner Cullinan argues with Mayor Rivara. Commissioner Cullinan states he is tired of people not knowing the truth and having people tell him that. Commissioner Lijewski questions who Commissioner Cullinan is out talking to since there is a shelter in place in effect and she feels tonight's actions are shameful and that he should high let Chief Knoblauch go out on a high note rather than speak about half truths.

Public Comments: none. Commissioner Cullinan states that he has been told by other people that there are non-essential businesses still operating. Mayor Rivara asks which businesses they are? Commissioner Cullinan doesn't want to say the names. Commissioner Curran asks if Commissioner Cullinan has reported it? Commissioner Cullinan states he just found about it. Commissioner Curran states that if there is a potential crime being committed then discussing it during a council meeting is not right, because if the accusations are false it becomes slander. Commissioner Cullinan feels the matter should be looked into.

Commissioner's Reports:

Argubright: none

Lijewski: none

Curran: May 4-8th will be branch chipping. April 27th will be hydrant flushing start. Reminder that yard waste bags need to go in dumpsters, Commissioner Curran explains there are gates and to check both. There will be an electrical shut down at 2:00 a.m. Tuesday morning and that a code red will/has gone out and is expected to last approximately 2 hours.

Cullinan: none

Mayor's Report: The boat access grant is almost complete and once done the city will be reimbursed for \$58,000. The council must decide what to do with the newly acquired Schmidt property. NCICG is looking into grants for abandoned buildings in the downtown area. Mayor is looking for discussion about having liquor license waiving of fees. Dog tags will be extended to July 31, 2020. City parks will remain closed until further notice. Revenue from gaming machines in the city were \$100,513.20. The city is looking at ways to recognize graduates of 2020. A banner at city hall will be displayed. Residents are reminded that bulk items are not currently being picked up and yard waste should be dropped off at the electric department. The Mayor recognized Erin Quick for filling the micro pantry on the weekend. The Mayor welcomes interim Chief Doug Hayse and asks for everyone's cooperation and support. The Mayor states the Mayor is having a difficult time getting masks. Commissioner Lijewski states he is not in favor of waiving the liquor license fees altogether but possibly prorating them. Commissioner Curran asks when the liquor license renewals are due. April 30, 2020 he is told. However, the state has pushed the date back to July 31, 2020 he is told. Attorney Andreoni says the city has the control in regards to the collections of the license fees. Commissioner Argubright suggests delayed it until the next council meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ARGUBRIGHT, SECONDED BY CURRAN to adjourn the regular city council meeting. AYES: ARGUBRIGHT, CULLIANN, CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, RIVARA

Amy Eitutis, City Clerk