

# Meeting Minutes September 3, 2019

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OGLESBY CITY COUNCIL WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019, AT CITY HALL. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M.

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 August 19, 2019. AYES: ARGUBRIGHT, CULLINAN, CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, RIVARA.

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

AEA \$5,175.00; AFLAC \$35.90; Airgaas, \$5.58; Amern IP \$159.75; Aqua Smart \$3,763.85; ASK Enterprises \$ 1,737.00; Benefit Planning Consultant , Inc. \$252.90; Blue Cross/BlueShield \$ 36,083.53; Brownlee Data Systems \$ 880.00; BSN Sports \$ 325.65; Charles Carroll Jr. \$ 118.33; Columbia Pipe & Supply \$ 2,187.02; Comcast Business \$ 495.35; Controlled F.O.R.C.E. \$ 670.00; Core & Main \$ 5,308.00; De Lage Financial Services \$ 292.12; Dresbach Distributing \$ 296.70; Eagle Engraving \$ 43.40; Efficient Billing Systems, Inc. \$ 1,487.25; Electro Industries \$ 2,520.00; Electronic Supply \$ 2,520.00; Emergency Medical Products \$ 674.94; Fastenal Company \$ 74.48; Fletcher-Reinhardt Co. \$ 1,949.40; Grainco FS \$ 458.00; Grosenbach's Auto Repair \$ 256.46; Hawkins Inc \$ 915.60; Hygienic Institute \$ 355.55; Hy-Vee Inc. \$ 325.02; Il Labor Law \$ 79.50; Il Public Risk Fund \$ 4,488.00; ILEAS \$ 60.00; Illini State Bank \$ 1,367.12; IVCH \$ 7.85; John Senica Jr. \$ 4.99; Anna Johnson \$ 409.80; Kendrick Pest Control \$ 105.00; Kilday, Baxter & Assoc. \$ 2,515.00; King Tire \$ 30.00; Kittlison's Garage \$ 341.50; Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins \$ 79.50; Jonathan Klinefelter 475.40; Knoblauch Advertising \$ 1,553.28; Kramarsic Law Office \$ 450.00; Lafarge Aggregates IL \$ 51.35; Lasalle Office Supply \$ 258.02; Mautino Distributing \$ 13.00; Maze Lumber \$ 133.80; Menards \$ 116.08; Mertel Gravel Co. \$ 394.44; Mississippi Valley Pump \$ 3,004.00; Myer Equipment & Repair \$ 1,029.06; NCPERS Group Life Ins. \$ 16.00; Nighthawk Total Control \$ 2,424.96; Pomp's Tire \$ 568.36; Republic Services \$ 27,315.68; Chuck Reynolds (Cruisin' Against Cancer) \$500.00; Rush Power Systems \$ 650.00; Stevens Service Center \$ 420.00; Sunrise Supply \$ 60.15; TEST \$ 212.00; The Standard \$ 1,395.24; United Rentals \$ 158.83; USA Bluebook \$ 49.90; Wex Fleet Services \$ 3,574.19; Witmer Public Safety \$ 709.47  
~~ **Totals : \$ 127,187.94.**

Public comments on agenda items only. Drew Merriman asks if we are on item #6. Mayor Rivara responds, not yet. Mayor Rivara addresses the Council and Public. He asks that anyone wishing to speak come to the podium and limit their time. Mayor Rivara reads a prepared statement regarding issues. Mayor Rivara references an e-mail from Commissioner Cullinan to Chief Knoblauch. Argubright comments that "he thought it was a debate and that it is pretty one-sided." Drew Merriman addresses the Council, he discusses the Ordinances placed on the agenda and also his concerns regarding Officer Brett Valle. Greg Stein addresses the Council

regarding changes duties of the Council Members and asked to have specific Ordinances placed on file he also mentions current job openings within the City. Julie Ajster states that she is not aware of an Ordinance regarding a time limit to public speaking. Ajster cites her reasons as to why she has concerns with passing Ordinances that are listed on the agenda. Kathy Frederick addresses the Council and gives her opinions about Tom Porter, Jim Cullinan and Chief Knoblauch. Kathy Frederick questions Commissioner Lijewski how she would handle the situation if it were her department. She states that it is a travesty. Mayor Rivara gives explanations about how the proposed Ordinances came to be. Discussion continues back and forth between Kathy Frederick and Mayor Rivara. Commissioner Lijewski also offers some explanation/examples that have lead up to the proposed Ordinances. Commissioner Cullinan talks about how he handled the proposed policy changes and how they came about. He talks about intimidation, the 10-6 checking in and building checks. He speaks about the morale within the Police Department. He states how he had to fight to get on the ballot and is now fighting to run his department. Mayor Rivara questions Commissioner Cullinan about policy changes and how to resolve them. Cullinan goes on to give his thoughts and how no one wants to come to Oglesby. Cullinan said the Officers don't have to be scolded; Mayor asked who has? As to which Cullinan responded "no one yet, give it time." Amy Stone (Officer Bob Stone's wife) addresses the Council as to why Cullinan is a good fit as the Commissioner. She went on to continue about how Commissioner Cullinan has been involved within the Department since he took office. Ms. Stone states that no one has looked into the issues within the Police Department. Commissioner Lijewski responds to that by stating that she did, in fact, try and meet with Cullinan with no response from him. Cullinan responds saying that HR doesn't work. Discussion between Cullinan & Lijewski continues. Tom Porter addresses the Council. He discusses how the Mayor has the power to bring issues within the department to the Council. He then gives explanation regarding Brett Valle. Julie Ajster addresses the Council with concerns regarding violating the OMA, policy changes, fears of retaliation within the Police department and what the issues are in her opinion. Flossie Argubright speaks regarding business checks. Wendy Baima addresses the Council. She expresses her concerns for the discord happening within the City and asks for it to stop and for the Chief Knoblauch and Commissioner to work together. Ms. Baima gives her opinion about the state of the town and how it is deterring people from living/opening businesses here. George Cullinan addresses the Council regarding the business checks on how the numbers do not matter, that the quality of them does.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LIJEWSKI, SECONDED BY CURRAN to approve Ordinance 1074-090319 amending ordinance 1063-050619 amending various provisions of Chapter 2.03, Council of Title 2 Administration and personnel of the Oglesby city code. AYES: CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, RIVARA. NAYS: ARGUBRIGHT, CULLINAN.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CURRAN, SECONDED BY LIJEWSKI to approve Ordinance 1078-090319 authorizing the execution of a water easement and agreement. AYES: ARGUBRIGHT, CULLINAN, CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, RIVARA.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CURRAN, SECONDED BY ARGUBRIGHT to approve Ordinance 1079-090319 authorizing the execution of a storm water sewer & easement agreement. AYES: ARGUBRIGHT, CULLINAN, CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, RIVARA.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LIJEWSKI, CURRAN recommends a discussion be held in regards to approve Ordinance 1082-090319 Amending Ordinance 1063-050619 Entitled an Ordinance Amending Various Provisions of Chapter 2.03 Council Title 2, Administration and Personnel of the Oglesby City Code.

Mayor Rivara explains his hopes are to have the Chief and Commissioner be able to work together that there is no line of communication. Lijewski explains how everyone needs to work together to bring the department together (Chief, Cullinas and Officers). Cullinan discusses the lack of communication between him and Chief Knoblauch. Lijewski states there needs to be respect to which Cullinan replies there is none. Argubright gives his opinion on the matter. Curran speaks about the issues. Cullinan interjects. Curran gives his thoughts about how the Council decided which authority each Commissioner should have based on their skill sets. Curran states that he believes the Commissioners should be going to each other. Mayor Rivara discusses how a meeting was held with the officers and how past issues were brought up. Mayor Rivara said he will do whatever it takes to fix the issues and how to move forward. Cullinan states how doesn't feel that he is getting help from the other Council members and how he feels it is unfair the way the agenda set and that he had no knowledge of the proposed Ordinance. Curran discusses a 06/01/2019 meeting he had with Cullinan and an officer in which he suggested calling Chief Knoblauch and that didn't happen. Cullinan stated at the time he didn't want to bother the Chief. Discussion between Curran & Cullinan continues regarding giving help to him with matters within the Police Department. Curran states that he has offered help and suggestions to which Cullinan did not take. Cullinan said something has to be done. Curran asks for a solution from Cullinan. Mayor Rivara voices his concerns about the Police Department and why there are issues with policies in place. Cullinan said the Officers are now refusing to meet with anyone because nothing is being done. Discussion between Cullinan and Mayor Rivara continues. Lijewski states how she would have asked for help. Discussion continues between Cullinan and Lijewski. Lijewski discusses the use of social media in regards to Cullinan. Argubright speaks up about needing to take action. Mayor Rivara addresses Officers in the crowd specifically Padilla, Stone and Margis. Cullinan feels all officers should be involved. Mayor Rivara asks those specific officers to help give input on how to work the issues out. Officer Padilla addresses the Mayor and states that they will be willing to try and gather information and report back with it. Arguments continue between Cullinan and Mayor Rivara. Again a MOTION WAS MADE BY LIJEWSKI SECONDED BY ARGUBRIGHT to table the Ordinance. AYES: ARGUBRIGHT, CULLINAN, CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, RIVARA.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ARGUBRIGHTI, to table the Ordinance. CURRAN Amending Chapter 2.33 Police Department of Title 2, Administration and Personnel of the Oglesby City Code. AYES: ARGUBRIGHT, CULLINAN, CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, RIVARA. The Mayor asks for a commitment from everyone involved to table this and that no action will be taken on this matter.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ARGUBRIGHT SECONDED BY CURRAN to place on file Ordinance 1080-091619 Approving and Adopting and Extension for the Completion of the Oglesby Tax Increment Financing District V Redevelopment Project Area, Plan, Projects and Obligations. AYES: ARGUBRIGHT, CULLINAN, CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, RIVARA.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LIJEWSKI, SECONDED BY ARGUBRIGHTI to place on file Ordinance 1081-091619 Authorizing Golf Carts/Neighborhood Vehicles for Use Within the Corporate Limits

of the City of Oglesby. AYES: ARGUBRIGHT, CULLINAN, CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, RIVARA. Mayor Rivara explains that the City is trying to get a jump start on the West gate to Starved Rock. Argubright also gives explanation in regards that this is a start to that as well. Curran agrees, and says that he has some concerns about some of the items in the Ordinance. Lijewski gives her opinion too.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CURRAN, SECONDED BY ARGUBRIGHT to place on file Ordinance 1084-091619 Establishing Fees for Provisions for Disposal of Tree Branches and Lawn Care Refuse. AYES: ARGUBRIGHT, CULLINAN, CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, RIVARA. Mayor Rivara notes that the Ordinance reads a \$35.00 fee; it will be changed to \$50.00. Curran states that there is a previous Ordinance that addresses part of the areas in the new Ordinance; Atty. Andreoni notes the change in the fee from \$35.00 to \$50.00.

A MOTION WAS BY CURRAN, SECONDED BY LIJEWSKI to place on file bids for Park Road Improvement Project. AYES: ARGUBRIGHT, CULLINAN, CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, RIVARA. Curran gives the bid figures of \$74,300.00 and \$85,600.00. The bid was awarded to Advanced Asphalt.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CURRAN SECONDED BY LIJEWSKI to place on file bids for North 25<sup>th</sup> Road Improvement Project. AYES: ARGUBRIGHT, CULLINAN, CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, RIVARA. Atty. Andreoni reminds that it will need to be awarded at the next Council meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CURRAN SECONDED BY ARGUBRIGHT to draft a discussion regarding letters to residents discussing sanitary sewer illegal storm water connections drafter by Attorney Andreoni. AYES: ARGUBRIGHT, CULLINAN, CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, RIVARA.

Curran gives explanation as to what led to the drafting of said letter. Rick Rigazio asks what the City will do if the City finds an illegal hookup? Curran explains they can fix it or be fined. Discussion between Mr. Rigazio and Curran continue.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LIJEWSKI SECONDED BY ARGUBRIGHT to approve Starved Rock Runners Club to use the city streets on 11/28/2019 for the annual Turkey Trot.

AYES: ARGUBRIGHT, CULLINAN, CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, RIVARA.

Old Business: none.

Public Comment: Greg Stein comments about how certain personnel matters should be held behind closed doors. He suggests the PD officers vote on how to handle. Stein goes on to give his opinion about how to handle personnel issues. Stein always gives his opinions about how the meeting was handled. Rick Rigazio gives his opinions on the election and the current state of the Police Department. Comments are made from the crowd. Julie Ajster addresses the Council in regards to Ordinances and also discusses FOIA requests and lack of communication.

Commissioner's Reports:

Argubright- none.

Lijewski- discusses the mileage concerns about the ambulance and repairs, the number of call outs, and the completion of the tiling of Gandolfi Field which should help with flooding

Curran- electric lines & poles have been repaired. Wire Mesh issues were discussed in regards to the flickering lights and that that will be fixed soon, the fixing of the transformer will fix the issue. There is a generator at the Waste Water plant that will be moved over to the Electric Dept. for their use (once fixed \$ 17,000.00). It will help when having to turn power off to keep some homes up and running. Curran discussed utility bills also, nighthawk readers and how information is collected. A water rate study is going to be conducted by Chamlin's. There will be a water shut off on 10/14/19 (Mormon & Columbia). GATA portal was discussed and that the City has access to it in regards to grant information.

Cullinan-discusses the detailing of the police cars and installation of lights on the running boards. The police officers feel it is more effective.

Mayor Rivara-talks about the utility bills and the energy cuts and how it will effect Oglesby. That 32% of base load energy is being shut down. The Mayor thanks everyone for coming and acting in a professional manner.

A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE AT 9:00 pm by ARGUBRIGHT, SECONDED BY CURRAN.  
AYES: ARGUBRIGHT, CULLINAN, CURRAN, LIJEWSKI, RIVARA.

Amy Eitutis, City Clerk