

**OGLESBY CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Oglesby City Council was held on Monday, June 6, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Jason Curran.

PRESENT: Mayor Jason Curran, Commissioners Richard Baldrige, Terry Eutis, Gregory McDermott, Tony Stefanelli, City Clerk Becky Clinard and Attorney Pat Barry.

There was no public comment on agenda items.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, SECONDED by McDermott to approve the minutes from the May 15 and May 18, 2023, meetings. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Baldrige, SECONDED by Stefanelli to approve bills in the amount of \$202,273.31 as presented for payment. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

The council then discussed at great length the maintenance contract prepared by Connecting Point Computer Center (CPCC) for the city's technology needs. Commissioner Stefanelli questioned whether the proposal included new emails for the city. Stefanelli said he felt that if the city was paying \$25,000 a year, the contract should include emails. Mayor Curran countered that the contract before them did not include email, and that that would be a separate contract presented at a later date. Stefanelli also wanted clarification on whether the maintenance agreement would include equipment that was not purchased from CPCC. Tom Hancock, CPCC, said that although most of the equipment on the list had been purchased from CPCC, there was equipment on the list (for example, the computers at the fire department) that had not been and they were included in the maintenance agreement. Stefanelli was steadfast in his insistence that the council address the city's email needs at the same time, saying that the issue needed to be addressed "sooner than later." A MOTION WAS MADE BY Eutis, SECONDED by McDermott to approve table the discussion until the next meeting. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermott, SECONDED by Stefanelli to table RESOLUTION 060523R, which grants ComEd a temporary easement to use a portion of city property as a staging area for a week-long construction project which will occur sometime between August and January, 2024. While the council is willing to grant the easement, Attorney Barry sought more specific language concerning being named as an additional insured on ComEd's liability policy. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Eutis, SECONDED by Eutis to refer a request by Adam Lemrise to vacate land originally intended for the extension of Bennett Avenue to the Plan Commission. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, SECONDED by Baldrige, to approve an agreement with JLN Holdings, Inc., (Trovero) to use the old Buzzi property for parking for Summer Fun Fest. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Baldrige, SECONDED by Eutis to earmark \$7,500 of Electric Efficiency grant monies from the IMEA for private entities. Curran explained that this represented about half of the total monies received and would be offered to businesses to improve efficiency. If no one applies for the grant monies in 90 days, the city will use the funds to upgrade lights, etc. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Curran told the council about a potential business coming to Oglesby that may require approval by the Plan Commission or Design Review Board. While not giving any specifics, Curran asked that the matter be referred to the Plan Commission, noting that he expected that the permit and details would be forthcoming. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Eutis, SECONDED BY Stefanelli, to refer the matter to the plan commission. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Attorney Barry then reiterated that the matter could not be addressed until the process was initiated by the business owner, noting that depending upon what they wanted to do, a variance or special use permit may be required. Both of these actions require public notice. Plan Commission member Jim Clinard, then suggested the city include a referral to the Zoning Board at the same time, in order to save time if it is determined that a special use permit is required. (The Plan Commission has authority over special use permits).

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Eutis, SECONDED By Stefanelli, to modify the previous request to include both the Plan Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Eutis then updated the council on his discussions with the Oglesby Fire Protection District (OFPD). Eutis explained that the current tender truck needs replacing. The truck, used to haul water to fires outside of the city limits, poses a safety issue for the firefighters. Eutis called the truck “the most dangerous vehicle in our equipment,” and noted that only a couple of firefighters are able to drive the old 13-speed truck. The City has the opportunity to order a truck with a lead time of only one year, if they act by July 1. Otherwise, the lead time would be two years.

Eutis told the council the OFPD was agreeable to paying for their share of the \$432,800 truck, but would need the city to take out a loan for their portion. The OFPD would pay the city back over a 10- or 15-year term including interest. The City would pay 10% of the cost, \$43,280 and an ARPA grant from the County of \$200,000 would be utilized, leaving the remainder the responsibility of the OFPD. Details are still being worked out, so Eutis did not ask for a vote on the matter. The matter will be addressed at the June 19, 2023, meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Eutis, SECONDED by Baldrige to approve the purchase of body and car cameras for \$104,479, which are mandated by the State of Illinois. Eutis told the council that the city was prequalified for a grant of \$55,861.00 to fund the purchase, but that they city must purchase the cameras before the grant monies are received. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, SECONDED by Eutis to approve the request from Bulldogs Bard to close a portion of Glen St. on Saturday, June 3. The street will be closed from Walnut St. south to the first alley. Commissioner Baldrige owns Bulldogs. **AYES:** Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **ABSTAIN:** Baldrige **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Eutis then presented the city a check from the Police Department's Money Laundering Fund for \$242,000. The amount represents an informal agreement between former Commissioner Carrie Lijewski and former Police Chief Doug Hayse. Hayse agreed to reimburse the city an amount equal to the 3-year salary of an additional officer if Lijewski approved the hiring.

Eutis then updated the council on the impact the closing of St. Margaret's Hospital will have on the ambulance service. He recognized the staff in a prepared statement for their dedication, professionalism and diligence. The staff must learn and retain over 400 pages of new EMS protocols and undergo testing. Eutis noted the excessive amount of stress placed on the staff and wished to thank them for always "going above and beyond" in their commitment to the city.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, SECONDED BY Baldrige to change the next meeting date to July 5th. There was concern that a meeting on the 3rd, the night before the July 4th holiday, would not be well attended. **AYES:** Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **ABSTAIN:** Baldrige **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Public Comment:

Drew Merriman asked the council about enforcing the rules regarding golf cart and utility vehicles, noting that he's seen a mother driving a cart with an infant in her arms, carts driving without lights, etc. He worries that "it's just a matter of time" before an accident occurs. Eutis told him that he would be addressing the issue in his commissioner report.

Commissioners' Reports

- **Stefanelli (Accounts & Finance)**
 - ❖ Informed residents that yard waste stickers are no longer required.
 - ❖ Assured the residents that the clean up of the Cindy's restaurant is a top priority.
 - ❖ He continues to work with the staff to create better process.

- **Eutis (Public Health & Safety)**
 - ❖ Told the council that the police department has received several complaints about the operation of golf carts and utility vehicles on city streets. He reminded residents that the operator must abide by all rules of the road including;
 - Wearing a properly adjusted seatbelt, except that a child less than 8 years of age, must be protected in the same manner as when riding in a motor vehicle.
 - Not driving on sidewalks or in parks.
 - Can not operate on streets and highways under the jurisdiction of IDOT, except to cross the street or highway.
 - Must have a valid Illinois Driver's License.

- **McDermott (Streets, Sewer & Water)**
 - ❖ Work on the fire hydrant project will start June 9

- ❖ Work on the parking lot on Walnut St. starts tomorrow (June 6)
- ❖ Work on striping lanes from Orlando Smith to Route 215 should be completed this week.

- **Baldrige (Electric & Parks)**

- ❖ Thanked former Mayor and John's Service and Sales employee Don Finley for providing "at a greatly reduced price" a new refrigerator and freezer for the pool department. Both went out during the weekend and Finley was able to provide new equipment quickly so that the contents were not lost.
- ❖ Thanked all the participants of the Memorial Day ceremony in Memorial Park.
- ❖ Thanked a small group of volunteers who joined We Are Oglesby to clean up the monuments at Memorial Park.
- ❖ Addressed complaints about the drainage at the Memorial Park softball field, noting that the Park Dept. was looking at options and that the issue will be fixed.
- ❖ Announced that the Clark St. electric project is about 99% complete.
- ❖ Reminded residents about the Ducky Derby presented by WAO on Sunday, June 11.

Mayor's Report:

- ❖ Talked about the upcoming Summer Fun Fest and the Red, White and Bike parade. Curran encouraged residents to participate in the safe, free, good family entertainment.
- ❖ Told residents about a plan to test the siren's audible feature in the future and a test of the Code Red system.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermott, SECONDED by Stefanelli to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

AYES: Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MEETING ADJOURNED.**

PREPARED BY:

Becky Clinard, Oglesby City Clerk

