

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY24 APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE
WENDESDAY, JULY 26, 2023**

Mayor Curran opened the meeting at 7 p.m. The entire council was present. Curran asked for any public comments on the FY24 appropriations ordinance. There were no public comments. Curran adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

**OGLESBY CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Oglesby City Council was held on Wednesday, July 26, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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 Eutis, **SECONDED** by Baldrige to approve the minutes from the June 28 and July 5, 2023 meetings. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, **SECONDED** by McDermott to approve the bills presented payment. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT A & B GARAGE, \$840.06; AIRGAS USA, LLC, \$140.08; ALTORFER INDUSTRIES, INC, \$651.27; AMEREN ILLINOIS-7419559858, \$27.72; ANDERSON, AVERY \$125.00; ANIXTER INC, \$1,098.00; APPLE PRESS, \$289.70; AQUA SMART, INC., \$10,786.87; BHMG ENGINEERS, \$13,067.60; BLUE CARDINAL CHEMICAL, \$195.81; BOOKER, BILL, \$250.00; BOUND TREE MEDICAL LLC, \$838.16; BRODRICK, CONNER, \$400.00; BUDACH, WESLEY, \$925.00; CARD SERVICE CENTER, \$16,924.75; CARD SERVICE CENTER-POLICE, \$252.27; CHAMLIN & ASSOCIATES INC, \$18,815.00; CINTAS FIRST AID & SAFETY, \$188.98; CITY OF OGLESBY, \$84.23; CIVIC SYSTEMS, LLC, \$3,203.00; CONNECTING POINT, \$666.83; CONSERV FS, INC., \$535.00; CONWAY SHIELD, \$21,790.94; COSGROVE DISTRIBUTORS, \$2,048.37; CURRAN JR., JASON, \$100.00; CURRAN, JASON, \$358.94; DALEY'S SUPER SERVICE, \$814.43; DANCHRIS NURSERY, \$2,300.00; DE LAGE LANDEN FINANCIAL SERVICES, \$192.83; DEBO ACE HARDWARE, \$794.29; DE'VINE FLORAL DESIGNS & GIFTS, \$50.00; DRESBACH DISTRIBUTING, \$615.35; DUTTLINGER, ADDISON, \$125.00; DZIK, HAILEY, \$125.00; ECONO SIGNS, LLC, \$722.19; EDENS, CATHIE, \$237.11; EMERGENCY MEDICAL PRODUCTS INC, \$1,715.08; EMLING CANVAS PRODUCTS, \$1,875.00; FEECE OIL CO, \$2,340.42; FLETCHER-REINHARDT CO, \$1,370.52; FLETCHER-REINHARDT CO, \$627.74; FLETCHER-REINHARDT SERVICE CO, \$6,168.00; GASVODA & ASSOCIATES, \$14,721.00; GLOBE LIFE LIBERTY NATIONAL DIVISION, \$976.37; GRAINCO FS INC., \$425.52; GROSENBACH'S AUTO REPAIR, \$30.00; GUSTAFSON, LISA, \$12.15; HALM'S AUTO PARTS, \$2,199.78; HAWKINS, INC, \$2,847.21; HEARTLAND BANK VISA, \$16,377.64; HILL, JAMESON, \$125.00; HOMER TREE SERVICE, \$73,498.97; HYVEE, INC, \$54.47; IL EPA, \$8,500.00; IL DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION AND TECH, \$518.49; IL RURAL WATER, \$521.44; IL VALLEY REGIONAL DISPATCH, \$6,963.09; J.F. ELECTRIC, \$9,244.00; JACK'S GAS & SERVICE INC, \$150.00; JACOB & KLEIN, LTD., \$3,354.20; JD'S LOCK & KEY, \$120.00; JOHN'S SERVICE & SALES, \$950.00; JORDAN, LAVON, \$104.51; KENDRICK PEST CONTROL INC., \$180.00; KINZER, BRADY,

\$697.00; KNOBLAUCH ADVERTISING, \$1,071.64; LASALLE OFFICE SUPPLY, \$354.82; MAUTINO DISTRIBUTING CO INC, \$78.50; MCS ADVERTISING, \$272.00; MENARDS, \$553.13; MERTEL REPAIR, \$461.00; MERTEL GRAVEL CO, \$496.13; MIDAMERICA BASEMENT & FOUNDATION, \$18,310.28; MOTOROLA, \$89,349.00; MTCO, \$3,441.97; NATIONAL HOSE TESTING SPECIALTIES. INC, \$3,680.00; NCPERS GROUP LIFE INS, \$16.00; NEWS-TRIB, \$510.75; NICHOLSON1 COMMUNICATIONS, \$4,305.00; NORTHERN ILLINOIS AMBULANCE BI, INC, \$4,550.84; OSF MEDICAL GROUP -- OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, \$43.00; OTTOSEN DINOLFO, \$1,592.50; RIZZO, SAMUEL, \$84.48; RO PROS, \$49.79; SBC PARTNERS, \$857.74; SENICA INTERSTATE TOWING, \$450.00; SHAW LOCAL MEDIA CO., \$4,280.00; SISLER'S DAIRY PRODUCTS, \$975.00; SMART SOURCE LLC, \$11,133.19; SMITH'S SALES AND SERVICE, \$1,096.00; SPRINGFIELD ELECTRIC SUPPLY, \$384.56; ST. MARGARET'S HEALTH, \$188.03; STARVED ROCK MEDIA, INC., \$1,987.00; SUBSURFACE SOLUTIONS, \$512.17; T.E.S.T INC., \$20,120.65; TELEFLEX, LLC, \$562.50; THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP, \$1,280.80; UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, \$821.83; UNIVERSAL ASPHALT & EXCAVATING, \$69,580.00; UNIVERSAL UTILITY SUPPLY, \$498.04; U.S. TREASURY, \$2,232.02; UTILITY EQUIPMENT CO., \$6,354.16; VERIZON, \$108.03; VILLIAGE OF UTICA, \$198.00; VIRGINIA TRANSFORMER CO., \$231,456.90; XYLEM LTD, \$3,771.00; YOUNG, LAUREN, \$50.00 **TOTAL - \$737,473.13**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, **SECONDED** by Eutis to approve the July 21 payroll of \$126,111.04. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, **SECONDED** by Baldrige to approve a memorandum of Understanding with IBEW Local 51. The agreement changes the hours of the city clerk office staff to 7 to 4:30 – allowing the office to add an extra hour to serve residents. Stefanelli told the council that he and IBEW Business Agent Jed Dooley were able to agree on the terms, which did not change the working conditions of the employees. Curran called the agreement a “good thing.” **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mayor Curran told the council about the Coronavirus Resiliency Grant Program, which will reimburse local businesses for items purchased to be able to remain in business during the COVID outbreak. Ottawa will administer the grant for the county. And while the application is lengthy, Curran said some businesses might benefit from the grant. Eutis urged local businesses to look into the grant, noting that it was a “win-win” for local businesses and that the grant was “truly, free money.” The City will have packets available at City Hall.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Eutis, **SECONDED** BY McDermott to approve the intergovernmental with Ottawa for grant administration. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermott, **SECONDED** by Baldrige to forward a request from John and Lacey Bellino to vacate a portion of Watson Street. Curran asked city engineer Jim Clinard if he had any concerns about the vacation, and Clinard said he did not believe there to be an issue with access by others, but was still waiting on information about underground utilities. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, **SECONDED** by Baldrige to go into executive session at 7:08 pm to review previous closed session minutes. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

(The council retreats to the downstairs meeting room for executive session. Facebook live video continues.)

A MOTION WAS MADE by Stefanelli, **SECONDED** by Baldrige resume the normal meeting at 7:30 p.m. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Baldrige, **SECONDED** by McDermott to approve executive session minutes from June 19 and July 5. Curran tells the council that he believes “significant” quotes were omitted from the minutes. Stefanelli remarks that the minutes were shared with all council members and only Curran had changes. He said he felt the minutes accurately reflected the conversation. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli **NAYS:** Curran **MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Eutis, **SECONDED** by Baldrige to release the minutes from the March 16, 2020; August 3, 2022; September 12, 2020; September 23, 2020; December 7, 2020; January 4, 2021; September 7, 2021, January 24, 2022; June 6, 2022; September 6, 2022; February 21, 2023; June 19, 2023 and July 5, 2023 closed session minutes. Minutes from Nov. 29, 2021, April 18, 2022, December 19, 2022, February 6, 2022 meetings will remain closed until further review. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli. **NAYS:** Curran. **MOTION CARRIED.**

OLD BUSINESS

Curran then asked if there was an update on the sale of the electric department bucket truck. Attorney Barry said that he had done further research and had found case law that made him believe that both Commissioner Baldrige and the city’s electric inspector, Burton Lavens, would be considered “officers of the city” and therefore ineligible to purchase surplus city property. That would mean that the third bidder, Eddie Sadnick, would have the only acceptable bid. Curran pressed for some sort of action, noting that he believed the city did not need the truck and that it was costing the city money. Baldrige asked to table the matter, because it was being investigated by the Attorney General’s office. He said he preferred to wait for a ruling before a decision was made.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Stefanelli, **SECONDED** by Eutis to table the bids on the bucket truck pending a ruling by the State’s Attorney’s office. **AYES:** Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **ABSTAIN:** Baldrige **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Curran explained that city code required a “new business” item on the agenda and he thought it was a way for commissioners to discuss items that they wanted on the agenda. Curran said he did not have details on the items listed under new business, but believed commissioners should have a means of getting items on the agenda.

The first item listed was revising the City of Oglesby Municipal Code Chapter 2.03 and Ordinance No. 1220-050123. Attorney Barry told the council that he had done some research on the subject of who controls the agenda, and found no state statute or city code that specifically mentions who has that authority. He did note that the council has adopted Roberts Rule of Order, and in that, the presiding officer controls the agenda. Barry noted that that would then mean, in his opinion, that the mayor is in charge of the agenda.

Curran then read a prepared statement which urged the commissioners to work together to accomplish their goals for Oglesby. Curran said he choose not to dwell on the past issues, but that he wasn't going to allow new problems to hinder the important work ahead. He said he accepted responsibility for some of the commissioners' "overstepping" because he had given them "too much leeway on Day 1" which led to some of the problems. He called the situation "dangerous" and said that would change going forward.

Stefanelli responded by pointing out that statutes generally place all important decisions with "the council" – not one commissioner or one mayor. In regards to the mayor's stance that the mayor was in control of the city attorney, and only he could initiate discussion with the attorney, Stefanelli said he felt that the attorney should be treated like the city clerk – the entire council should have some access to the city attorney. He also agreed that the commissioners should keep the mayor informed. Eutis agreed, saying that he couldn't do the job he was elected to do without the ability to put things on the agenda and have access to the city attorney. Without those, Eutis said, it "almost makes us a dictatorship."

Baldrige agreed, saying he felt all commissioners should have access to the attorney's knowledge and professionalism. He questioned what was more dangerous -- only one person having access to the attorney, or all having access.

McDermott asked what happened when two commissioners disagreed and both reached out to the attorney. Barry said his recommendation to the council was that "I shouldn't do anything until the council members come to a decision ... I don't think any one of you should call me and have me prepare and ordinance until it's been discussed by all of you ... it's going to be a complete waste of time and resources."

Curran said that it was not his intent to prevent commissioners from getting legal advice, he just wanted to the council to be in agreement before asking the attorneys to prepare an ordinance to change municipal code.

Curran said that he was in agreement with what was being said by the commissioners, but said that that wasn't what was being done. "I'm not going to allow someone to sneak something on to the agenda," he said. He said a commissioner tried to put something on the agenda that had not been discussed – restoring a previous ordinance that gave the power of appointing the police chief to the commissioner of public health and safety. Curran charged that the commissioners did not fully understand the issue and pointed to an opinion penned by former city attorney Jim Andreoni when the issue with a former commissioner arose.

Eutis said he felt that the Commissioner of Public Health and Safety was the best person to make that recommendation to the council and was looking to restore what was taken away in the last council's term.

Curran said he felt the council is going down the wrong path, and was going to change something that had been fixed in the last council's term. He argued that having the mayor make the appointment took the politics out of the decision, noting that commissioners aren't elected to run a specific department.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Eutis, **SECONDED** by Stefanelli to close discussion on the topic. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli **NAYS:** Curran **DISCUSSION CLOSED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE by Stefanelli, **SECONDED** by Baldrige, that an ordinance be drafted and ready by the August 7th meeting to eliminate Section C of Chapter 2.03.030 of the City of Oglesby Municipal Code and that the new language be placed in Powers Generally, Chapter 2.03.020, stating that the council shall have control and supervision over the city attorney and/or corporation counsel. AYES: Baldrige, Eutis, McDermott, Stefanelli NAYS: Curran MOTION CARRIED

Baldrige then told the council about a reserved parking sign that appeared in the city parking lot recently that did not have council approval. Baldrige said that he did not feel that a reserved spot was necessary. Curran told the council that the reserved spot was “a tradition” created by the previous mayor. He said he felt the tradition had some merit, as it allows residents to know if the Mayor is at City Hall. But that if some felt that it was an issue, he was fine with that. Commissioners Stefanelli and Eutis both agreed with Baldrige that they felt it was unnecessary.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Drew Merriman says he has “trust issues” with the “TEST guy.” Merriman, a self-described card-carrying flagger since 1977, is not happy with the contractor who installed the fire hydrants. Merriman wants someone to check all the credentials of all the union people coming into town to work. He also mentioned that Spring Valley recently passed a burn ban.

Greg Stein voiced his concerns about the “ribbons” at First and Spring Streets. He also complained that the Oglesby logo disappeared at 7:35 from the television screen. He suggested making the logo the screensaver to avoid that. He again expressed his desire to see the city clerk on the Facebook videos. He also weighed in on the attorney issue, telling the commissioners “to not use him very much” because of his \$175/hr fee. He also suggested that the council “nominate” rather than “appoint” officials.

Austin Cullinan said he didn’t think the Mayor should “gatekeep” the services of the city attorney. He also pointed out that who appoints the police chief is not an issue, since the council approves the appointment. Cullinan said that as a matter of principle, it should be the commissioner who appoints the chief and that he felt it possible to address any conflict in the ordinance.

Dominic Rivara said he’s sorry that the council hasn’t learned from the past when it comes to the police chief (appointment). He said he felt that “the last time they appointed a police chief, they took the politics out of it.” He also commented on the parking spot issue, saying that it made it easy for people to know when he was in the office and they could “come on in.”

Jim Cullinan, former commissioner, weighed in on the police chief issue, accusing the former city attorney of lying to him. He also accused Curran of scheming against him with former Mayor Rivara. Cullinan said he was disgusted being on the former council.

Tom Argubright, a former commissioner, asked why the current mayor let go of an IBEW union employee without council approval and asked why it was different with an appointed official. Curran pointed out that the employee let was on probation and that Argubright knew the answers to his questions.

COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS

Stefanelli, Finance Commissioner

- ❖ Thanked Commissioner Baldrige for his help with the presentation monitor and also thanked Brian Spelich, Mark Marincic, Rich Watts and Erin Quick for their assistance.
- ❖ Talked about why bills were higher than normal this period (2nd payment for transformer, tree removal at new waste water treatment plant, new alarms for lift stations, police department body and car cameras)
- ❖ Reported on a Department Meeting on July 7 which included training on new procedures for the building permit process
- ❖ Noted that the city had received 46% of the tax levy to date
- ❖ Announced that city hall would open at 7 a.m. starting tomorrow – noting that this will allow residents an additional hour to pay bills, get permits, etc.

Eutis, Public Health & Safety Commissioner

- ❖ Nothing to report

McDermott, Streets, Water & Sewer Commissioner

- ❖ Thanked Drew Merriman for his concerns
- ❖ Said the work on the fire hydrants is complete

Baldrige, Public Property Commissioner

- ❖ Said LeHigh Shelter concrete pad has been leveled, eliminating a safety concern
- ❖ Announced the dog park is nearing completion
- ❖ Thanked We Are Oglesby for the successful Movie Night
- ❖ Noted that work continues on the disc golf course and told residents that it is going to be a beautiful course.
- ❖ Told the council that the Electric department has been short staffed for more than five years, but hopes that a new employee will be hired in the next week or so.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- ❖ Commented on the improvements to the council chambers
- ❖ The micro pantry has been moved to the Police Dept. and is open
- ❖ .Gov domain has been secured, emails and website next
- ❖ Discussed cooling center guidelines with the impending heat wave
- ❖ Thanked and congratulated We Are Oglesby for a great movie night
- ❖ Congratulated Major League Baseball and Softball teams for their respective third place state finishes.

- ❖ Said that while he wasn't in favor of some of the decisions made tonight, he appreciated the professional decorum of the council and hoped it would continue moving forward.

A MOTION WAS MADE By Baldrige , **SECONDED by** Stefanelli to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. **AYES:** Baldrige, Eu2s, McDermott, Stefanelli, Curran. **NAYS:** None **MEETING ADJOURNED.**

Becky Clinard, City Clerk