

# Journal of Proceedings

OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLEAN, N.Y.

March 29, 2011

**COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
COUNTY OF CATTARAUGUS  
STATE OF NEW YORK**

*A Special Meeting of the Olean Common Council of the City of Olean was held on Tuesday, March 29, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.*

PRESENT: *Aldermen Brady, McLaughlin, Kamery, Williams, Jones, and Steffen*

ABSENT: *Alderman Finch*

OFFICIALS: *Mayor Linda Witte; Alexander Utecht, City Clerk; Fred Saradin, City Auditor; Tom Windus, Public Works Director and Bob Bell, Fire Chief*

**RESOLUTION #15-11  
PL NONE**

By Alderman \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by Alderman \_\_\_\_\_

**2011-2012 BUDGET**

*RESOLVED, that the 2011-2012 Budget as submitted be accepted and that the total amount of said budget be reduced in writing and entered on the minutes of the proceedings of this meeting, to wit: The total Budget for the fiscal year 2011-2012 shall be \$22,963,947 inclusive of the General, Water, and Sewer, Funds, subject to legal opinion.*

*RESOLVED, that this resolution will be effective immediately.*

*Mayor Witte stated that the original budget created several months ago, after hearing from our department heads, called for a tax increase of over 9%. After reviewing their proposals and meeting with the City Auditor and several department heads, cuts of over \$500,000 from the budget had been made to arrive at the currently proposed 1.64% increase. These cuts include many capital expenditures that will be paid out of the current 2010-2011 budget through our remaining Contingency Account balance. The auditor specifically outlined these items in a memo to you yesterday.*

*Mayor Witte continued in that the budget does not include any increases in the water and sewer rates. Additionally, any excess surpluses in these funds will be reserved specifically for future projects as determined by the Five Year Plan currently being designed.*

*She had repeatedly asked that the budget include several unknown factors. Mayor Witte noted that she is very concerned with the impact of decisions coming out of Albany in the future that may impact our city's fiscal well-being. Also, the City is in the process of re-negotiating labor contracts with all four of our labor unions. The outcome of these negotiations will not be*

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*known for many months. Issues such as future pension costs and health care costs, for example, may also affect future budgets.*

*Mayor Witte stated that she has made a very conscious effort to contain costs. She thanked the department heads for submitting budget requests that are reasonable and have the taxpayers in mind. The total appropriations show an increase of about \$108,000 over last year. Had pension costs, which we have no control over, and debt service costs not increased by a total of nearly \$400,000 from last year, we would have decreased operating costs by nearly \$300,000.*

*In closing, Mayor Witte mentioned that she believes that this budget is very reasonable and attainable, and will not cause additional severe hardships to the taxpayers of the City of Olean. It provides for continued excellent services, while keeping a watchful eye on the future. As an important reminder, the budget has been reviewed by The New York State Comptrollers Office and has been deemed "favorable" in their eyes.*

*Alderman Jones stated that the original budget had included a ½% increase in the water and sewer rates and the Mayor had agreed to remove that increase. He is now requesting that the funding for a full-time administrative assistant in Code Enforcement be removed. This would be a reduction of \$20,000.*

*Alderman Kamery questioned the removal of the capital expenses as she still sees them in the budget. Mr. Saradin responded that ten line items labeled Capital Outlay had been removed from the budget. Alderman Kamery then questioned the Vehicle Replacement Fund and Mayor Witte responded that that item is not included in the City's budget as it is a Capital Fund.*

*There was discussion on the funding of the Vehicle Replacement Fund including its creation. There was no final conclusion to the discussion.*

*A motion was made by Alderman McLaughlin seconded by Alderman Jones to amend the proposed budget by reducing the General Fund expenditures in the amount of \$20,000, by decreasing the same amount in line item 3620.100. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.*

### **RESOLUTION #15-11**

#### **PL NONE**

*By Alderman McLaughlin Seconded by Alderman Jones*

### **2011-2012 BUDGET**

**RESOLVED**, that the 2011-2012 Budget as submitted be accepted and that the total amount of said budget be reduced in writing and entered on the minutes of the proceedings of this meeting, to wit: The total Budget for the fiscal year 2011-2012 shall be \$22,943,947 inclusive of the General, Water, and Sewer, Funds, subject to legal opinion.

**RESOLVED**, that this resolution will be effective immediately.

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*Alderman Brady noted that there was only a change in the Debt Service line. He questioned what changes had been made to the proposed budget. The document shows a reduction in expenses which in turn should reduce taxes. Mr. Saradin noted that funds that were reduced in some line items were offset in the water and sewer lines to maintain a zero increase for water and sewer rates.*

*After a brief discussion on the removal of certain funds and the unintentional omission of others Mr. Saradin stated that the tax increase would be 1.35%.*

*Alderman Brady requested the floor to make a brief statement after Alderman Jones had called the question. Alderman Steffen denied the request and noted that the question had been called and that Alderman Brady shall now cast his vote. Alderman Brady raised a point of order which was denied by the Chair, Alderman Steffen.*

**ROLL CALL, AYES ALDERMAN MCLAUGHLIN, ALDERMAN WILLIAMS, ALDERMAN JONES, AND ALDERMAN STEFFEN. NAYES, ALDERMAN BRADY, AND ALDERMAN KAMERY. MOTION CARRIED.**

*A motion was made by Alderman Steffen, seconded by Alderman McLaughlin to enter into executive session to discuss current litigation. Voice vote, Ayes all. Motion carried. Executive Session was called to order at approximately 7:10 p.m.*

*A motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Williams to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call, Ayes all. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.*

*A motion was made by Alderman Williams, seconded by Alderman McLaughlin to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call, Ayes all. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.*

### ADJOURNMENT

*A motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Williams to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call, Ayes all. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.*

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*City Clerk*

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*Mayor*

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March 29, 2011

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*Council President Wangelin*

*I hereby approve the foregoing minutes  
Dated: April 11, 2011*

**STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF CATTARAUGUS  
CITY OF OLEAN**

*I, Alexander Utecht, City Clerk of the City of Olean, do hereby certify that the foregoing minutes of the Common Council of the City of Olean is the true and correct copy of the whole thereof.*

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*City Clerk*