

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2017 – 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS – OLEAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING

IN ATTENDANCE WERE: ALDERMEN GONZALEZ, WITTE, ANDREANO, DOUGHERTY, SMITH, AND GEORGE. OTHERS: MAYOR WILLIAM AIELLO; AL UTECHT, CITY CLERK; NICHOLAS DICERBO, JR., CITY ATTORNEY; MARY GEORGE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR, AND TIFFANY TAYLOR, MANAGERIAL CONFIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY.

Council President Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked that the record show that all Aldermen were present except Alderman Crawford, who was excused.

PL #51-17: (Aiello) To authorize National Grid to add eight (8) City-owned “energy-only” streetlights to the City’s existing Service Classification No. 3 streetlight bill, Account No. 08938-79108, utilizing City-owned poles that are located along Constitution Avenue Extension (Gateway Project Roadway).

Alderman Gonzalez stated that this is for the Gateway Project Roadway that will be known as the John J. Murphy Boulevard when it has been turned over to the City. Mayor Aiello added that this will be our road, and therefore the installation of streetlights is necessary for safety reasons.

Alderman Smith questioned the cost of the energy for the lights, and Mayor Aiello stated that he will get that information for the Council.

A motion to approve PL #51-17 made by Alderman George, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

PL #52-17: (Aiello) To amend sewer rates pursuant to Section 27-167(A) of the City of Olean Code of Ordinances.

Mayor Aiello stated that there was just a Public Hearing for this issue prior to the meeting. He stated that a clerical error in the calculations of the sewer rates is necessitating this additional PL. The proper rates are reflected in the approved 2017-2018 budget.

Alderman Smith clarified that the City is not raising sewer rates twice this year; the City is simply correcting an error. Not correcting the error would cause a rather large budget gap. Alderman Gonzalez agreed that the City is clearly not trying to double dip here. This is an error that we are attempting to fix, and he fully supports this.

A motion to approve PL #42-17 was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

PL #53-17: (Aiello) That the Common Council supports the preparation of an application to Empire State Development for Round II of the statewide Downtown Revitalization Initiative as well as a new opportunity to apply for funding under the Western New York Smart Growth Fund and authorizes the Mayor to sign and submit said application which is due June 14, 2017.

Mayor Aiello stated that the City has been given the opportunity to submit this application, and the award could net the City \$10 million in funding to keep our revitalization going. This application puts us into competition with other communities for the money. He gives credit to Ms. George and Ms. Kerper in Community Development for working diligently for the past three weeks on the application, which is due tomorrow.

Alderman Gonzalez stated that last year, we had applied and Jamestown was awarded the funding. This takes one community out of the competition.

A motion to approve PL #53-17 was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman George. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

PL #57-17: (Gonzalez) To authorize Cattaraugus County and the Olean Business Development Corporation to complete a Baseball Field Complex Improvement Project at Forness Park, and to authorize the Mayor to sign and submit any relevant materials to both Cattaraugus County and the Olean Business Development Corporation in relation to this Project.

Alderman Gonzalez stated that this is related to the \$600,000 in funding that the County has allocated for baseball fields and parks in the County. The Resolution is to authorize the County to do the work in the City at Forness Park. He stated that he is in support of this project.

Mayor Aiello added that this will bring fields 2, 5, 7, 10 and possibly 1 up to par for tournament play. They are used now, but this will do a complete makeover on the fields.

Alderman Andreano stated that the park was packed over the weekend for a tournament. This brings people to the City, who stay in hotels and eat at restaurants. This is good for the City. Alderman Gonzalez added that he feels that this is a smart investment. Alderman George stated that he knows that the volunteers work hard to bring the fields up to par, but we could really use this.

A motion to approve PL #57-17 was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Andreano. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

PL #58-18: (Aiello) To authorize the use of up to \$155,000 of contingency funding for the William O. Smith Recreation Center Upgrades Project for additional items throughout the project.

Mayor Aiello stated that this is funding from the project's budgeted contingency, not from the City's General Fund contingency. The proposed changes to the project include raising the floor of the pool and eliminating the deep end and diving board, which in addition to reducing liability issues, will eliminate issues with water pressure due to the water table. With the pool at the current depth, the floor could pop out if water is not kept in the pool at a certain depth. This also gives a much larger area for users of the pool.

A portion of this contingency will wire the new party and skate rooms, which would prevent the City from having to do the work down the road. An exterior drainage issue would be fixed, and valves that were found through the building to be damaged will be replaced as well.

Alderman Witte stated that she went through the building and has a lot of pictures that she would like to share with the Aldermen at a future meeting to show them the current progress on the project. She stated that it's a no brainer to do this additional work while the contractors are already here.

Alderman George stated that he feels that raising the floor of the pool will cause a better utilization of the pool space, and Alderman Smith agreed.

A motion to approve PL #58-18 was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman Dougherty. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Andreano. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.