

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017 – 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS – OLEAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING

IN ATTENDANCE WERE: ALDERMEN GONZALEZ, WITTE, ANDREANO, DOUGHERTY, CRAWFORD, SMITH, AND GEORGE. OTHERS: MAYOR WILLIAM AIELLO; AL UTECHT, CITY CLERK; NICHOLAS DICERBO, JR., CITY ATTORNEY; FRED SARADIN, CITY AUDITOR; MARY GEORGE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR; BOB BELL, FIRE CHIEF; JEFF ROWLEY, POLICE CHIEF, 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.

1. Finance & Bills

A motion to Finance & Bills was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman George. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

2. PL #63-17: (Aiello) To authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Vito Sportelli for Professional Services relating to transportation through May 31, 2019.

Mayor Aiello stated that this is for the OATS bus. Ms. George stated that Mr. Sportelli has been with us since 2008. He assists us with several aspects of the OATS bus program, including Section 5311 funding and DOT aspects. We would like to continue his services.

A motion to approve PL #63-17 was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman George. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

3. PL #64-17: (Aiello) That the Mayor is authorized to submit a CFA application for the Bradner Stadium / Forness Trail Recreation Project.

Mayor Aiello stated that this is part of the Consolidated Funding Application process. Ms. George stated that this application has been submitted a number of times, but has not yet been funded. The idea for the project came out of concerns regarding the trail at the easterly end of Forness Park. We are seeking funding for that section of trail.

Alderman Andreano stated that she has spent a lot of time with residents of Hoop Street, and it has come to her attention that this area of the park and trail has illegal activities occurring at nighttime. She feels that this trail will negatively affect the neighborhood. Residents are concerned with an increase in current activity such as littering, camping, and a blatant disregard for people's property. She stated that we need to look at the bigger goal, which is to preserve

neighborhoods in the City. She continued in stating that she has spoken about options, in the case we do get the funding, like a locking gate at nighttime to try to alleviate issues.

Ms. George stated that she respectfully disagrees. She stated that there were similar fears when the River Trail was proposed, but with the trash receptacles, lighting and the right flow of good elements, littering and crime were deterred and neighborhood's fears were alleviated. She would like the Council to at least consider applying for these monies, as even if they are awarded to us, we don't need to accept them.

Alderman Crawford questioned if a design plan is required when applying, and Ms. George stated that the design plan is not completed until after the funding is awarded, and it involves public input and meetings to discuss plans. Alderman George questioned if there is a way to work with the residents, and Ms. George stated that we certainly could, such as including Alderman Andreano's idea to install locking gates for nighttime.

Alderman Smith questioned what kind of trail will be built, and Ms. George replied that it is a ten foot asphalt trail. He questioned if more lighting is possible, and she replied that lighting is proposed, and we could certainly look at installing more. As it is in a residential area, we need to ensure that we use lower level lighting so as not to disturb residents.

Alderman Gonzalez stated that when the River Trail was built, there were a lot of similar concerns. Ms. George agreed, and stated that a lot of 21st Street residents were in opposition, but she is unaware of any major negative experiences since the trail's construction. Alderman Gonzalez reminded the Council that we are just applying for funding, and we are not making a commitment. He asked them to imagine what would be if we had not applied for funding for the River Trail. Ms. George reminded that the residents of the area will have the opportunity to share their ideas and opinions if the funding is awarded to the City.

Alderman Witte asked if the trail will be going behind Country Fair and connecting Bradner Stadium to Forness Park, and Ms. George stated that it will. Alderman Witte questioned if there has been any discussion with the City workers who use the buildings behind the stadium, and Ms. George replied that we have not spoken with them regarding the proposed project at this point.

Alderman Witte questioned if the City parks are closed after 10:00 p.m., and Ms. George stated that they are. Alderman Andreano added that she has spoken with the Mayor regarding signage and they are looking into the situation.

Alderman Smith added that he has had no calls or complaints in his time as Alderman regarding vandalism or crime on the River Trail running in his ward along 21st Street.

Alderman Witte asked the Council to consider whether the addition of the trail will cause people to stay later in Forness Park and create an additional negative impact on the neighborhood.

A motion to approve PL #64-17 was made by Alderman Dougherty, seconded by Alderman Crawford. Voice vote, ayes all except Alderman Andreano, who voted nay. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

4. PL #66-17: (Aiello) To authorize the Mayor to sign and submit a Community Development Block Grant application to the Housing Trust Fund Corporation under the Microenterprise Program in partnership with Olean Business Development.

Mayor Aiello stated that this PL was just the topic of a Public Hearing that occurred before this meeting. He stated that he feels that Ms. George and Mr. Sorokes explained the program well, and he feels that this is a positive thing for the community.

Alderman Crawford stated that he feels that this is a step in the right direction, as there is currently a real lack of funding opportunities for small business start ups in the City of Olean. He is hopeful that this program will spur additional industrial and commercial growth.

A motion to approve PL #66-17 was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

5. PL #67-17: (Aiello) To authorize the Mayor to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration for the Cattaraugus County – Olean Airport Perimeter Fence Replacement – Phase II.

Mayor Aiello stated that the Council had granted authorization to apply for the grant, and this is the necessary authorization to accept the grant funds. Alderman Gonzalez stated that this was discussed before, and that the local match that is required is funded by the State and by the sale of timber at the airport property and does not come from taxpayers money.

A motion to approve PL #67-17 was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman George. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

6. PL #69-17: (Aiello) That the Mayor is authorized to submit a CFA application for the Walkable Olean Phase III Intersection Improvement Project.

Mayor Aiello stated that we have had difficulty at the intersection of Barry and East State Streets. This application is to seek funding to restructure the flow of traffic.

Ms. George stated that there is a planning phase of this grant which will include collecting input from area businesses in regards to this issue. There are several different approaches to better the intersection, including the installation of a traffic circle, underground traffic sensors, and pedestrian crossing signals.

Alderman Gonzalez questioned if the traffic circle is the preferred method, and Ms. George stated that initially it was. However, upon further discussion, it was found that there are many possibilities and different options to consider.

Alderman Andreano questioned if the submission of this application commits the City to installing a traffic circle at this location, and Ms. George replied it does not. She stated that general terms were used in the application, such as “peer review”, indicating that no set option has been chosen at this time. She stated that the Department of Transportation would have input in the decisions as well.

Mayor Aiello stated that the main goal is to make the intersection safer for pedestrians. He stated that we need to look at the situation and plan to ensure that we meet this goal. He stated that there have been several serious accidents there involving pedestrians, and this grant could give us the opportunity to make it safer.

Alderman Smith questioned what changed to make this intersection more dangerous. Ms. George stated that it has always been an issue. There have been incidents involving City workers who cross at this intersection, including one who was hit twice, which occurred before the roundabouts and North Union Street project began. Alderman Smith questioned, then, if this was a long term problem, and Ms. George replied that it is.

Alderman Crawford questioned what the potential award for this is, and Ms. George replied that she anticipates an award of \$120,000. The project is estimated to cost \$400,000 to \$600,000, depending on options chosen, so additional funding would need to be looked for.

Alderman Andreano stated that the cost for a pedestrian signal is \$14,500, and Alderman Gonzalez stated that he would like to see more of these added. He also stated that he is not against the installation of more roundabouts and traffic circles in the City.

A motion to approve PL #69-17 was made by Alderman Dougherty, seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

7. PL #70-17: (Aiello) To authorize the Mayor to sign an easement agreement for the construction of the Olean Creek Bicycle – Pedestrian Crossing Project.

Ms. DiCerbo stated that as a part of the project, we will be shifting the access point to East Avenue. We need to grant the owner of the property along East Avenue access to his driveway, which is on City land. This is a simple clerical adjustment to please the powers that be in New York State that are overseeing the project.

A motion to approve PL #70-17 was made by Alderman Dougherty, seconded by Alderman George. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Andreano. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.