

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Tuesday, April 4, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Gonzalez, Vice Chairman Andreano, Alderman Witte, Alderman Dougherty, Alderman Crawford, Alderman Smith, and Alderman George. Others: Mayor William Aiello; Nicholas DiCerbo, Jr., City Attorney; Greg Piechota, City Assessor; Jeff Rowley, Police Chief; Ed Jennings, Code Enforcement Supervisor, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary.

### 1. Roll Call

Alderman Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present.

### 2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Committee Meeting (Tuesday, March 21, 2017)

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2017 meeting was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Smith. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

### 3. Unfinished Business

- a. PL #01-17: (Andreano) To form a taskforce for empowering neighborhoods and encouraging proactive change throughout the City of Olean.

Alderman Andreano stated that this has been discussed for quite some time. She resent a proposal to the Council yesterday for everyone to review.

Mayor Aiello stated that he believes that this is a great idea, but he does not like the term “task force”. He feels that it makes it seem like we have more problems than we really do. He feels that all of the Aldermen should work with the Neighborhood Watch groups in their wards and pick one person per ward to meet quarterly to discuss ideas and issues. He stated that this avoids a large meeting with a large group of people who come in with their own agenda and go off the topic of the meeting. He feels that complaints should be heard on a ward level, not at this proposed group’s meetings.

Alderman Witte questioned if we would have representatives from the Police Department and Code Enforcement at these meetings, and Mayor Aiello stated that we could. He feels that it is a fantastic idea to get something going.

Alderman George questioned if this group would be focusing on crime prevention, and Mayor Aiello stated that they will. However, they will also look at other issues, for example, a street

with a parking problem. Alderman George stated that he likes the idea that this group focuses on public safety, with not too broad of a focus.

Mayor Aiello stated that a lot of people don't know where to go for help, and the watch groups can steer them towards organizations to help them. This committee can obtain the necessary information to help their groups steer people in the right direction. There is a wealth of things that can be done here. Alderman Andreano added that this committee will be discussing, brainstorming, and gaining advice to take back to their wards. She would like to bring in people, such as locksmiths and security camera companies, to teach things that the representatives otherwise might not know. She wants this group to be more preventative than reactive.

Alderman George questioned how many people typically come to Neighborhood Watch meetings, and Alderman Andreano stated that she had 25 to 30 people at her last meeting.

Alderman Gonzalez stated that he feels that this is a great idea. He asked what the differences in "committee" and "task force" are. Mayor Aiello replied that he doesn't like the connotations of "task force", but that is just a personal preference. He wants this to be a positive thing. Alderman Andreano stated that she is not concerned with semantics.

Mr. DiCerbo explained the differences between forming a Council committee and forming a City-sponsored committee with members appointed by the Mayor. The Council mulled the advantages and disadvantages of the two, and Mr. DiCerbo stated that it is ultimately up to the Council to decide. They need to decide how many people they want on the task force. He reminded them that committees of 35 people don't get anything done.

Mayor Aiello stated that we need to encourage people to work together and talk to each other. We should get the groups in each ward together and appoint one person in each ward.

Alderman Crawford questioned, if this is a City-sanctioned program, would the groups be able to use the Community Center and other City conference rooms. Mayor Aiello replied that they can, as long as there is an Alderman there. There are several conference rooms in the Municipal Building, in addition to the Community Center.

Alderman Andreano stated that she just does not want to keep kicking this down the road. Mr. DiCerbo suggested referring the PL to the Committee of the Whole later this month, so he and Alderman Andreano can sit down to come up with something to present to the Council for a vote.

A motion to refer PL #01-17 to the Committee of the Whole Tuesday, April 25, 2017 was made by Alderman Andreano, seconded by Alderman Smith. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

#### 4. New Referrals for Consideration

- a. PL #25-17: (Dougherty) To amend and replace the City of Olean Code of Ordinances Chapter 12 in its entirety with the following: Chapter 12, Property Maintenance and Residential Occupancy Code: Article I, Property Maintenance Code; Article II, Residential Occupancy Certificates; and Article III, Rental Dwelling Registration, Inspection and Occupancy permits.

A motion to postpone PL #25-17 to the next Public Safety committee meeting was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Crawford. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

#### 5. Approval of Committee Reports

A motion to approve committee reports was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Smith. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

#### 6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman George. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.