

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 – 5:45 p.m.

Council Chambers – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Andreano, Vice Chairman George, Alderman Witte, Alderman Gonzalez, and Alderman Smith. Others: Alderman Dougherty; Alderman Crawford; Mayor William Aiello; Nicholas DiCerbo, Jr., City Attorney; Tom Windus, Director of Public Works; Keri Kerper, Community Development; Gregg Piechota, City Assessor; Bob Bell, Fire Chief; Jeff Rowley, Police Chief; Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary, and Larry Sorokes, Olean Business Development.

1. Roll Call

Alderman Andreano called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present.

2. Unfinished Business

None

3. New Referrals for Consideration

a. Presentation – Larry Sorokes – Olean Business Development Corporation

Alderman Andreano introduced Mr. Sorokes from Olean Business Development. She stated that she had reached out to him a few weeks ago to discuss the role that his organization plays with the City, and she would now like him to speak to the Council about his program.

Mr. Sorokes stated that the OBD was created a few years ago as a spin-off of the Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce. Its focus is the City of Olean's downtown business development. He presented a packet to the Council that detailed the different services that OBD offers.

He stated that we can learn from other communities how to thrive. He stated that also, retention is as important as incubation, and a lot of the calls that they receive are about business expansion and decision points in established businesses.

The main focus is the downtown, which is the barometer of health of the community. They are beginning to look at, in addition, how we can create a sense of safety and quality in the housing market outside of the downtown to make Olean a more attractive place to live.

He described the common threads in the partnership, such as common goals of creating quality of life, building the local economy, seeking external funding, and creating a downtown brand. Also, the OBD and GOACC act as a liaison between the private and public sectors, and

understand the importance of young professionals and helping them engage in the community to feel a connection with the community. This will, in turn, make them more likely to stay in Olean.

Mr. Sorokes stated that, moving forward, they are absolutely ready and willing to strategize with the City. They are ready to commit into looking not just at the downtown, but what comes next from that. They are respectful of the Council's budget decisions, but going forward, they want to be there to work with the City. He feels that it is important moving forward that everyone is in the game.

Alderman Crawford stated that he is interested in getting together with the Executive Alliance, as a Council. He stated that they are all leaders of major employers in the area, and the Council constantly receives questions about why jobs are leaving the area. He feels that the Council could sit down with the Executive Alliance to brainstorm ideas to try to keep jobs here.

Alderman Andreano stated that, just as each Alderman brings something different to the table, comparing ideas with business leaders could bring more good ideas and create a brainstorming opportunity is a good place to start.

4. Approval of Committee Reports

None

5. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman George, seconded by Alderman Smith. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15 p.m.