

Journal of Proceedings

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

January 9, 2018

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

A Regular Meeting of the Olean Common Council of the City of Olean was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: *Aldermen Crawford, Witte, Andreano, Gonzalez, Dougherty, Smith, and George*

ABSENT: *None*

OFFICIALS: *Mayor William Aiello; Lens Martial, City Clerk; Nicholas DiCerbo, Jr., City Attorney; Bob Ring, Director of Public Works; Bob Bell, Fire Chief; Jeff Rowley, Police Chief, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary*

At this time a prayer was given by Alderman Andreano, followed by a salute to the flag.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UNFINISHED COUNCIL BUSINESS

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Aiello welcomed Alderman John Crawford as the new Council President. And Lens Marital as the new City Clerk.

Mayor Aiello continued in stating that the Department of Transportation recently did an on-site review of records and procedures in relation to the OATS transit system. He stated that Ms. Kerper, the Community Development Program Coordinator, prepared for this inspection. The DOT found that the City is in compliance, and they are actually looking to take our best practices and include them in their training activities. He thanked Ms. Kerper for her good work.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

None

CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS

None

PROPOSED LEGISLATION AND REFERRALS

PL #01-18: (Aiello) That the Common Council as Lead Agency declares the Allegheny River Public Access and Recreation Plan a Type I Action that will not result in any significant adverse environmental impact and thus issues a Negative Declaration in accordance with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act. Referred to Strategic Planning Committee by Council President.

PL #02-18: (Aiello) That the City of Olean Common Council formally adopts the Allegheny River Public Access and Recreation Plan. Referred to Strategic Planning Committee by Council President.

PL #03-18: (Crawford) To amend the City of Olean Code of Ordinances Section 2-

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41, Standing Committees, to include “Audit and Compliance Committee” consisting of five members. Referred to Finance Committee by Council President.

PUBLIC COMMENT/INPUT

Gordon Baldwin of 414 Prospect Avenue stated that he hopes that this year, the Council will listen to citizens and their concerns and suggestions more. He stated that Olean used to be a beautiful place with a lot of manufacturing jobs, and as not everyone is able to have a computer related job, he feels that we need to bring more manufacturing back to Olean. He also stated that we are a poor county, and we can't afford the high rate apartments that are being proposed for the downtown until we bring more business into the City.

Kevin Bartholomew of 737 Bishop Street stated that Olean has a lot of service industry jobs, but he mirrors what Mr. Baldwin says when he states that we need more manufacturing jobs. He questions if there is a promotional package that can be sent out to get more manufacturers into the area. He knows that the tax structure in New York State is not business and manufacturing friendly, but he wonders if there is something else to entice the industry to come to Olean. He also questions whether the City or the Chamber of Commerce is working to bring new industry to Olean.

Alderman Gonzalez stated that, coming from a manufacturing company, he sees and hears that workforce is a big problem. JCC has just completed their multimillion dollar training center, and this is a big step in the right direction. Having a trained workforce will aid the manufacturing industry.

Alderman Crawford stated that this is obviously not a new concern. The Council and Mayor hears concerns like this almost every day. He stated that everything the Council does, and every step the Council takes is to entice more jobs to come to Olean. We need to entice young people with broad skill sets to come to the City. If they come here and see nothing, they won't stay.

Alderman Andreano stated that Larry Sorokes and Chris Michel of the Olean Business Development Corporation (in association with the Chamber of Commerce) had spoken with the Council in the past year regarding the recruitment process to get businesses into Olean. The Aldermen were shown a package that is sent out to manufacturers to help grow their interest in the City.

Mayor Aiello stated that it is all of our responsibilities to aid in bringing new jobs to Olean. He commented that the OBDC's latest tool is an app.

Alderman Smith stated that, ever since he became an Alderman, he has heard comments that we need to bring more jobs to Olean. However, the Council and the Mayor are the Legislative Branch of government, and they cannot legislate prosperity. We are in a state that punished prosperity. New York State has some of the highest taxes and strictest business regulations in the country. He doesn't know where we are going as a State, but we are fighting as a City. If we want change, we need to vote in a new Executive leadership for the State.

FINANCE / BILLS

None

RESOLUTIONS

None

ADJOURNMENT

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Motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Dougherty. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m.

Lens Martial, City Clerk

Mayor William J. Aiello

John Crawford, Council President

I hereby approve the foregoing minutes

Dated: ____/____/____

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

I, Lens Martial, 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.

Lens Martial, City Clerk