

Journal of Proceedings

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

August 3, 2021

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

A Special Meeting of the Olean Common Council of the City of Olean was held on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: *Aldermen Crawford, Witte, Panus, Gonzalez, Barnard, Robinson and Anastasia*

ABSENT: *None*

OFFICIALS: *Mayor William Aiello; Lens Martial, City Clerk; Fred Saradin, City Auditor; Bob Ring, Director of Public Works; Ron Richardson, Police Chief, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to enter into executive session to discuss the Olean Police Patrol Labor Union Contract negotiations pursuant to the Civil Service Law was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman Anastasia. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Executive session began at approximately 5:35 p.m.

A motion to adjourn from executive session was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Panus. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Executive session adjourned at approximately 6:20 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS

Alderman Anastasia explained that he has nothing against the police officers in the City, but he can't support this contract because he feels like we are comparing the City of Olean to Cattaraugus County and that is comparing apples to oranges,. He explained that he feels that a significant increase in wages across the board cannot be supported at this time without knowing the City's financial future. He explained that he feels that he was not given a good explanation of where finances are coming from.

Alderman Crawford explained that he feels that it should be stated that we have been trying to bring the police pay scale to where it should be for the City to remain competitive. He explained that this has been a discussion for a long time and is not a surprise. He explained that the proposed contract is favorable for overcoming that dilemma and will hopefully level the playing field as we recruit and retain the best officers that the City can employ. He explained that we are having a difficult time in staffing the Police Department and retaining officers, so he supports this contract. He explained that it is a difficult time to serve as a police officer and there will be more challenges and expectations placed on officers in the future, and we have to demonstrate that we are supportive of the City and helping them with their future and the future of our police organization.

Alderman Witte explained that she adds that she was originally not going to vote for this because she does not feel that we have a good handle on the future finances, but we are in a dilemma and we are probably not the only municipality in the same position. She explained that five years is a bit long and a three percent increase each year is a lot and taxpayers probably won't like that, but it is the Council's job to find that money elsewhere and take the burden off of taxpayers. She explained that she supports the police and has a lot of confidence in them, and going forward she knows that they will be there for the City and she hopes that the wage changes work. She

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hopes that this attracts good candidates for our community.

RESOLUTION #54-21

PL #NONE

By Alderman Crawford, Seconded by Alderman Gonzalez

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE OLEAN POLICE PATROL UNION LABOR CONTRACT

RESOLVED, that Mayor William J. Aiello is hereby authorized to sign the Labor Contract for the Patrol Unit of Olean Police Local 967 and New York State Law Enforcement Officers Union, Council 82 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, in accordance with the settlement memorandum between the City of Olean and the Collective Bargaining Unit involved.

RESOLVED, that this Resolution is effective immediately.

ROLL CALL, AYES ALDERMEN CRAWFORD, WITTE, PANUS, GONZALEZ, AND ROBINSON. NAY, ALDERMAN ANASTAISA. ABSTAIN, ALDERMAN BARNARD. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 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, LensMartial, 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