

## CITY OPERATIONS

Tuesday, August 15, 2017 – 7:05 p.m.

Police Training Room – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Smith, Alderman Dougherty, and Alderman Andreano. Others: Alderman Witte; Alderman Crawford; Fred Saradin, City Auditor; Bob Bell, Fire Chief; Jeff Rowley, Police Chief; Ed Jennings, Code Enforcement Supervisor, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary.

### 1. Roll Call

Alderman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present except Alderman Gonzalez, and Alderman George, who were excused.

### 2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Committee Meeting (Tuesday, July 18, 2017)

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2017 City Operations committee meeting was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Andreano. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

### 3. Unfinished Business

- a. PL #54-17: (Andreano) To authorize the deed transfer for a property located along Kingston Drive in the City of Olean for \$1.00 to a citizen in exchange for necessary work to correct drainage issues in the area.

Alderman Andreano stated that, as of right now, no one has looked into this issue. She stated that she believes that it will take too long to sort things out with the park property, so she is going to approach this in a different direction involving the paper street that borders the property. She will bring a PL to the Council at a later date.

A motion to withdraw PL #54-17 was made by Alderman Andreano, seconded by Alderman Smith. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. PL withdrawn.

### 4. New Referrals for Consideration

- a. Discussion – TNR Funding (Crawford)

Alderman Crawford stated that he knows that we have a cat problem, and our current SPCA contract has dogs as a priority, not cats. He stated that there are three options: contract with the SPCA (which is not sustainable for either entity), euthanize part of the cat population (which

is not a publically agreeable option), or the trap / neuter / release program that the SPCA and Humane Society have approved of.

Alderman Smith questioned if there is any funding available that we know of, and Alderman Crawford replied that he has just started pulling things together. He has some places to start, and he will be attending the monthly SPCA board meeting with the Mayor to discuss the issue to see how we can move forward.

Alderman Andreano questioned the estimated cost, and Alderman Crawford stated that it can be anywhere between \$20,000 and \$50,000 a year. Alderman Andreano stated that when the SPCA previously came forward with the program, they stated that after so many years, the problem seems to sort itself out because the stray animals cannot breed, and so costs drop drastically. She questioned how long this would take. Alderman Crawford replied that he does not have a projection on when the cat population will decline. He stated that, if we do nothing, the problem will continue to grow, as a female cat can have three to four litters a year.

Alderman Smith questioned if Alderman Crawford could update us when he has more funding ideas, and he replied that he will.

Alderman Smith stated that another suggestion is a third party cat repository. If we contract with a farmer outside of the City, we can take cats there that are picked up, and in exchange he agrees to maintain a certain level of care for the animals. He stated, however, that this will require a legal mechanism to say if a cat belongs to someone or is indeed a stray. Alderman Dougherty stated that he will look more into his idea of cat registration and bring something back to the Council.

Alderman Witte stated that she thinks that the TNR program is a good idea. Even if we budget \$20,000 for the next year, we can start in the worst area and go from there.

b. Discussion – City Dog Park (Crawford)

Alderman Crawford stated that this is an ongoing project. He knows that everyone has their feelings one way or another, so he has been doing research regarding liability and funding options. He stated that there is a huge population in Olean with dogs, and people want a place to take their dogs and let them off their leashes, as well as a place where they can socialize with other dogs. He stated that a lot of communities around the country are doing this. A lot of the younger, professional millennials that have come to the area from big cities wonder why we don't have a dog park. He presented a packet to the Council that shows the structure that Lakewood uses, including preregistration before someone enters the park with their dog.

Alderman Smith questioned if there are any proposed sites, and Alderman Crawford stated, that issue is a whole different discussion. He stated that the two semi feasible parcels that he found are Oak Hill Park and Gargoyle Park. He stated that he had some kickback on Oak Hill Park as it was thought that no one would want a dog park in that area, but when he spoke with residents who live across the street from the park, about every five out of six thought it was a great idea. At Oak Hill, there is a lack of lighting and surveillance that makes it a prime location for illegal activity. A dog park could increase the type of traffic that you want, while potentially deterring unsavory activities.

He continued in stating that he used to live in Houston, where he would visit dog parks every week. It is a great place to network, and it really supports the idea of a walkable Olean.

Alderman Witte stated that you really don't see the tennis courts at Oak Hill Park used much anymore, so you could consider that area for parking.

Alderman Andreano stated that she loves the idea. Where her daughter lives, in North Carolina, every gated community has a dog park, and the downtown is dog friendly. She added that she is not a fan of Gargoyle Park for a location, since you have to drive there versus Oak Hill Park.

Alderman Crawford stated that it is possible to use both locations. As far as cost, he is going to research to see what numbers we are really looking at. He stated that crowd funding is a great way to raise money for dog parks and has proved successful in other communities.

Alderman Witte added that she is happy to see the City Attorney's input (in their handouts). Since we are a municipality, we need to be aware of liability concerns.

#### 5. Approval of Committee Reports

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

#### 6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Andreano. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:25 p.m.