

CITY OPERATIONS

Tuesday, June 5, 2018 – 5:30 p.m.

Police Training Room – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Witte, Alderman Dougherty, Alderman Crawford, and Alderman George. Others: Alderman Andreano; Alderman Gonzalez; Mayor William Aiello; Nicholas DiCerbo, Jr., City Attorney; Keri Kerper, Community Development Program Coordinator; Bob Bell, Fire Chief; Jeff Rowley, Police Chief, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary.

1. Roll Call

Alderman Smith called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Committee Meeting (Tuesday, May 15, 2018)

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2018 meeting was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman George. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

3. Unfinished Business

a. PL #45-18: (Crawford) To order the removal of the structure located at 1210 Reed Street.

i. Presentation – Rural Revitalization Corporation – 1210 Reed Street and 305 North 11th Street

Alderman Crawford stated that after the last meeting, he reached out to Rural Revitalization Corporation with a number of questions regarding the two properties being transferred by the City. He introduced Stephanie Timblin, the Executive Director of the Rural Revitalization Corporation, and Jim Lockwood, the Construction Monitor for the Rural Revitalization Corporation.

Ms. Timblin began by explaining that at the last Council meeting, the Council approved the sale of 1210 Reed Street and 306 North 11th Street to the RRC. The RRC is prepared for a full demolition at the 1210 Reed Street property, and once the house is demolished and hazardous wastes are removed, construction will begin on a raised community garden. This will be one of four gardens that are proposed by the RRC in the City. There is currently a community garden underway on West Green Street at the site of the former Epic Church.

Ms. Timblin continued that a raised garden is built because they really don't know what is in the soil at the location. Since food is being grown for the community, they would like to err on the side of caution and will build raised beds for the plants. Also, there are other future ideas for the location to tie into the garden, such as street festivals, outreach opportunities, and garden parties.

Ms. Timblin explained that the 306 North 11th Street property would not be torn down. Since costs will be incurred by the RRC for the demolition of the property located on Reed Street, they would like to recuperate some expenses by rehabbing the home and selling it down the road. She stated that the home is currently for two families, but it would be converted back to a one family, four bedrooms, two bathroom home.

Ms. Timblin explained that the RRC has a current relationship with the City, as they are the current technical assistance provider for the Olean Area Homeownership Assistance Program, and have worked with the City on the program for several years. They also have several Downtown Property Improvement Program accounts, which date back about ten years and are loans to small businesses in the downtown area.

Ms. Timblin continued that previously the RRC had completed an Irving and Green Rehabilitation Program funded by the HOME program, and are currently working on a South Olean Renewal Project with the Citizens Action Network of Western New York. She stated that there are a lot of people who are not accessing available services in this area of the City, as there is a lack of awareness as to what is available. One of the founders of the CANSWNY is going door to door to provide a list of services that are available, as well as talking to landlords about what their plans are and tenants about what their concerns are, and what the organization can do to help. Alderman Andreano mentioned that she would like a list of the programs and services that are being presented to the residents.

Ms. Timblin stated that the RRC recently purchased the property at 618 North Barry Street, which they are rehabbing and plan to open on July 1st. RRC works in Olean, and plans to stay in Olean. They will also be putting a greenhouse on an adjacent vacant lot that was purchased along with the 618 North Barry Street property, This will be the feeder for the community gardens. She mentioned that the RRC would like to own the lots used for the gardens so that they can ensure that they are being maintained and secured, and that taxes are being paid.

Alderman Dougherty questions if the RRC needs to pay taxes as it is a Not For Profit, and Ms. Timblin replied that they do not pay taxes on the property that their office is located on. She does not believe that they are entitled, however, to tax free status on the other lots that they own. At this point they plan on paying taxes on the lots to be used for the gardens.

In response to a question regarding the timeline of the projects, Ms. Timblin stated that the demolition of 1210 Reed Street will occur as soon as possible after the signing of the deed for the property (she anticipates sometime in August). The rehabilitation of the North 11th Street property will be in the late fall and early winter. Reed Street will be complete in the beginning of 2019 after the spring thaw, and the Reed Street property should be planted, as well as the North 11th Street property placed up for sale, around April 2019. They have already been in contact with vendors regarding the demolition of the Reed Street property.

Alderman Witte questioned if there is asbestos in the Reed Street property, and Ms. Timblin replied that it is her understanding that the City did a survey and did find a small amount of asbestos. This will need to be removed prior to the demolition of the property.

Alderman Witte questioned if a fence will need to be placed around the gardens, as the Olean Food Pantry needed a fence due to deer issues. Ms. Timblin stated that she is unsure, as she was not aware that there was such a deer issue within the City until recently, but it is very possible that a fence will be used to keep wildlife out.

Ms. Timblin stated that the RRC also currently has an application in for the DRI, and is in partnership with the Cattaraugus County Health Department and Southern Tier Health Care System for LEAD training. They are in partnership with rebuilding together, and are working with Purple Heart Homes for wounded veterans. They also manage two properties outside of the City.

Ms. Timblin concluded that the RRC would be interested into looking into other City-owned properties down the road, after seeing how things work out with the two homes that were just approved for transfer to them.

A motion to postpone PL #45-18 indefinitely was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Smith. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

- b. PL #34-18: (Smith) To declare that no trees shall be planted in the public right of way or on City owned property without the prior consent of the Common Council.

Alderman Smith stated that he has spoken with Mr. Ring, and he as well as the City Forester is working on a plan for the future. They asked for about two more weeks prior to presenting their plan to the Council.

A motion to postpone PL #34-18 to the next City Operations committee meeting was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Dougherty. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

4. New Referrals for Consideration

a. Master Plan Update

Discussion postponed to later date.

b. Discussion – Kingston Street Drainage Issues

Alderman Andreano stated that she would like to revisit this issue again. The homeowner with the drainage issues would need access through the “park” to fix the issues. Mr. DiCerbo had given the suggestion of giving an easement to the homeowner, as well as the paper street in between the homes. She is interested in giving the street to the homeowner in order to run drainage lines. She previously discussed this with Mr. Ring, who is okay with the idea but does not feel that it is fair to give the entire roadway to one resident.

Alderman Smith questioned if the homeowner would need both the right of way as well as the paper street, and Alderman Andreano responded that the resident originally stated that he would need only one or the other, but she is not sure.

Alderman Dougherty stated that he feels that we really can’t discuss this issue without Mr. Ring and Mr. DiCerbo present. Alderman Crawford stated that he will have a discussion with Mr. Ring regarding putting together a map for the next meeting.

c. Discussion – Old Scoreboard at Bradner Stadium

Alderman Crawford stated that he has received several calls in regards to what is going on with the old scoreboard. He asked if there is a possibility of donating this to the midget football league. Mayor Aiello responded that there is already a plan in place to move the scoreboard to Forness Park. The one currently used in Forness by the midget football league was originally at Bradner Stadium, and was replaced by the scoreboard that is now being moved. The electric division will be taking care of this.

5. Approval of Committee Reports

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

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Dougherty. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.