

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2017 – 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS – OLEAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING

IN ATTENDANCE WERE: ALDERMEN GONZALEZ, WITTE, ANDREANO, DOUGHERTY, CRAWFORD, SMITH, AND GEORGE. OTHERS: MAYOR WILLIAM AIELLO; AL UTECHT, CITY CLERK; NICHOLAS DICERBO, JR., CITY ATTORNEY; FRED SARADIN, CITY AUDITOR; TOM WINDUS, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS; BOB BELL, FIRE CHIEF; JEFF ROWLEY, POLICE CHIEF, AND TIFFANY TAYLOR, MANAGERIAL CONFIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY.

Council President Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked that the record show that all Aldermen were present.

1. Presentation – Suffrage Liberty Torch Rally Roadside Marker, Lincoln Park

Ms. Cindy Keeley from the Olean Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution began by stating that she received an email that offered funding opportunities to coincide with this November's 100 year anniversary of women's right to vote in New York State. The funding would allow for the installation of a roadside marker to memorialize the 1915 Suffrage Liberty Torch Rally held by Activist Harriot Stanton Blatch in Lincoln Park.

She continued in stating that there interest is to place the marker somewhere in Lincoln Park, with an exact site to be decided by the DAR and Mr. Windus in the Department of Public Works. Tomorrow (February 15th) is the deadline for the funding application, and required with the application is a letter of approval from the "landowner" (in this case, the City of Olean) for the marker to be installed. That is why she is here tonight, to ask the Council's permission to install the marker. She stated that this is conditional upon the receiving of the funds.

She stated that the DAR would benefit by promoting patriotism and historical significance in the community. They are always looking for new opportunities to educate youth and preserve history in the area. Also, they would like to support the Walkable Olean Project by adding another reminder of history in the downtown.

Alderman Gonzalez thanked Ms. Keeley for meeting with the Council with this idea.

A motion to approve the installation of the monument, contingent upon the award of funding for the roadside marker to the DAR, was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Resolution placed on Regular Meeting agenda.

2. PL #02-17: (Dougherty) To amend the City of Olean Code of Ordinances Section 21-5, Removal of snow and ice from sidewalks.

Alderman Dougherty stated that this has been discussed in great length in committees previously. The new wording will better suit business owners who have no subways in front of their buildings. He stated that he feels tailoring the Code to aid business owners is a good thing for the community.

Alderman Crawford asked what width was decided for the pathway, to which Alderman Dougherty replied eight (8) feet.

Alderman Smith stated like shoveling ordinances seem like a small thing, but some small things can really rile people up and turn into big things. The current ordinance states that you must clear the sidewalk completely, and cannot place snow in the street. This creates a bit of a situation for people who have no place to pile the snow.

He continued in stating that he will vote “yes” for this; however, he encourages the Council not to panic if the ordinance needs tweaking down the road. There may be bugs, and we may need to come back to this later. Alderman Dougherty added that the Code of Ordinances is always a work in progress.

Alderman Andreano questioned the portion of changes that stated that no less than four (4) feet should be cleared. Alderman Smith stated that there are residential areas with abnormally wide sidewalk besides in the Commercial and City Center districts, so the Code is changing to read no less than eight (8) feet in the General Commercial and City Center districts, while reading no less than four (4) feet in residential districts. That way, homeowners will not have to change what they are currently doing.

A motion to approve PL #02-17 was made by Alderman Dougherty, seconded by Alderman Smith. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

3. PL #05-17: (Aiello) That the City of Olean Common Council acting as Lead Agency for the purposes of the State Environmental Quality Review Act determines that the furnishing and installation of a Bush Shelter Project will have no significant adverse environmental impact and therefore issues a Negative Declaration.

Mayor Aiello stated that this project involves the installation of a new bus shelter at JCC near their roundabout at the end of Barry Street. He stated that the environmental survey is required whenever a project such as this is completed.

A motion to approve PL #05-17 was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman George. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

4. PL #06-17: (Aiello) That the Common Council, based on the information obtained during the environmental review process and included in the attached checklist, determines the Bus Shelter Project to be an Automatic Categorical Exclusion pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

Mayor Aiello stated that this is another portion of the environmental survey for the aforementioned project.

A motion to approve PL #06-17 was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman George. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

5. PL #07-17: (Aiello) To approve the following Olean Homeownership Assistance Program (OHAP) applications: OHAP #182-04, not to exceed \$10,000, and OHAP #183-04, not to exceed \$10,000.

Mayor Aiello stated that applications were put through for the First Time Homebuyer program, and these were approved through the Revolving Loan Committee.

Alderman Crawford questioned the purpose of this program, and where one could apply. Mayor Aiello stated that this is a program for first time homebuyers to get assistance for down payments and closing costs, as well as some potential repair costs, for houses bought in the City of Olean. Anyone looking for more information, or to apply, can contact the City of Olean's Community Development office.

A motion to approve PL #07-17 was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Dougherty. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

6. PL #10-17: (Aiello) To approve the following Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) application for financial assistance: RLF #17-06, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.

Mayor Aiello stated that this is another program from Community Development, this time for businesses in the City of Olean. This applicant was approved by the Revolving Loan Committee as well.

A motion to approve PL #10-17 was made by Alderman Andreano, seconded by Alderman Crawford. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

7. Executive Session

A motion to enter into executive session to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman George. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Executive session began at approximately 6:50 p.m.

A motion to adjourn from executive session was made by Alderman George, seconded by Alderman Dougherty. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Executive session adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Andreano. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.