

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – OLEAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING

IN ATTENDANCE WERE: ALDERMEN CRAWFORD, WITTE, ANDREANO, GONZALEZ, DOUGHERTY, SMITH, AND GEORGE. OTHERS: MAYOR WILLIAM AIELLO; LENS MARTIAL, CITY CLERK; NICHOLAS DICERBO, JR., CITY ATTORNEY; FRED SARADIN, CITY AUDITOR; KERI KERPER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR; BOB RING, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS; JEFF ROWLEY, POLICE CHIEF; BOB BELL, FIRE CHIEF, AND TIFFANY TAYLOR, MANAGERIAL CONFIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY.

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

1. PL #22-19: (Crawford) To authorize the Mayor to sign and submit an application for grant funding to the Local Initiatives Support Corporation through the “Zombie” and Vacant Properties Remediation and Prevention Initiative – Round 2 also called “Zombies 2.0”.

Mayor Aiello explained that the City received funding during last year’s first round of funding, and that it is now time to apply for Round 2.

Ms. Kerper explained that the City was previously awarded \$100,000, which was primarily used for community outreach regarding foreclosure prevention and awareness. She explained that the grant paid for the City to hire a Zombie Coordinator, who worked in Code Enforcement. The Coordinator conducted surveys to determine zombie properties in the City, and used that information to create a database of the properties. She explained that the grant also allowed the City to purchase both hardware and software to be used for the program.

Ms. Kerper explained that for Round 2, the City is applying for \$100,000 to be used to continue to update the database, to fund inside legal counsel and allow for the hiring of outside legal counsel to aid in the enforcement of the Zombie Law. She added that funding has also been requested to create a revitalization seed fund, which can be used to make repairs to abandoned properties as mandated by the Zombie Law. She explained that the bank or service provider would then be billed so that the City could recuperate the costs associated with the repairs. She explained that the City has requested \$10,000 for this fund, which requires a local match from the City of \$5,000. This \$5,000 has been allocated within the existing Code Enforcement budget.

Ms. Kerper continued that there is limited funding available, and only 40 awards will be made, where previously 76 funding awards were made. She explained that 82 communities have been

invited to apply. She noted that the application is due next Friday, and the notice of award will occur on or around April 12th.

Alderman Crawford explained that there is no larger need in our community than to continue to fight blight.

Ms. Kerper noted that the City will be partnering with the Cattaraugus County Land Bank, with whom the City will share their database information, in order to move forward with additional assistance with remediation of vacant properties.

A motion to approve PL #22-19 was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Dougherty. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

2. PL #23-19: (Aiello) That the Project Loan Committee recommends that the City subordinate its lien position for Olean Homeownership Assistance Program Application #148-04.

Ms. Kerper explained that a homeowner that is currently a part of the 2004 loan program is refinancing the primary mortgage on the property. She explained that under the 2004 program, a portion of the assistance is a loan to the homeowner, and a portion is a deferred loan that is forgiven if the homeowner resides in the home for ten years after the purchase date. She explained that the Project Loan Committee reviewed the request on February 15, 2019, and recommends that the Council approve the subordination request. She noted that the homeowner will be paying of the loan portion of assistance with the refinance.

A motion to approve PL #23-19 was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman Andreano. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

3. Confirmation of Mayoral Appointment of Paul Pezzimenti to Board of Assessment Review

Mayor Aiello explained that the Board of Assessment Review meets when a property owner request a review of their assessment, and there was a recent resignation by Dennis Pezzimenti. He explained that Mr. Paul Pezzimenti has come forward to serve on the Board. He is a realtor who has come recommended, and the appointment has been reviewed and given the go ahead by the City Assessor.

A motion to confirm the Mayoral appointment of Paul Petruzzi to the Board of Assessment Review was made by Alderman Dougherty, seconded by Alderman George. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

It was noted that a Resolution will be added to tonight's regular meeting to formally confirm the appointment.

4. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.