

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 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; 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.

Alderman Crawford explained that now that the Water Fund and Sewer Fund have been presented to the Council for the tentative 2019-2020 budget, that the Council should spend the rest of the week asking questions and getting any clarification they need about anything in the proposed budget, as well as providing their feedback to him so that he can prepare a statement of recommendations for the Mayor and Department Heads to review at the next Finance Committee meeting.

1. PL #25-19: (Aiello) To authorize the use of \$188,343 of allocated funding for the Farmers' Market Project for the purchase of structural components, the award of a contract for the construction of steel columns, and for additional project contingency.

Mayor Aiello explained that when the Council had previously approved contracts for the Farmers Market Project that it was noted that an additional contract would need to be awarded.

Mr., Ring explained that some bid openings occurred after the previous contract awards. He presented to the Council a breakdown of the project, explaining that \$1.25 million was the total cost, and that the additional contracts are for the cost of materials (\$131,354), the cost of the construction of the steel columns to be awarded to Billings Sheet Metal (\$27,900), and for additional project contingency (\$29,089).

Alderman Witte asked if the City will need to pay, in addition to contract costs, to have trees taken down, and Mr. Ring explained that the base bid included the cost to remove the trees. He noted that there are about ten trees that are to be taken down for the Project. Alderman Crawford asked if there are plans to replant trees in other areas, and Mr. Ring replied that in kind replacement is not planned at this time, but that there are plans for shrubbery and greenery in the park.

Alderman Crawford asked about the timeline for the project, and Mr. Ring explained that the preconstruction process will begin in April. He explained that in June the City should expect to

see the structure going up, as May 15th is the delivery date for materials. He explained that construction is supposed to wrap up prior to July 1st, and that landscaping and benches will be added in June.

Alderman Gonzalez noted that there is not a very large scope for the project. Mr. Ring added that if all goes as planned, it will surprise the Council how fast the construction is completed.

Alderman Witte asked if the Santa Clause house will be removed that is currently in Lincoln Park, and Mr. Ring explained that it will be removed and built back up in a separate location.

Alderman Andreano asked why the playground is in red in the plans, and Mr. Ring explained that there is not currently funding for playground equipment. He explained that it is not a part of the scope of the project that is currently funded.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if the bell will be removed from the park, and Mayor Aiello replied that it will not be. He explained that there are a lot of rumors about what is going to happen in the park that are not true. He noted that one memorial tree needs to be moved, and that the family has been consulted with and a new tree will be planted elsewhere.

Alderman Crawford asked if anything has transpired regarding changes to the gazebo, and Mayor Aiello replied that the last he had heard from the Rotary Club, they still planned on doing some renovations on the gazebo. He explained that they are currently looking into how to fund the project, and will present something to the City for review. He explained that he will keep the Council updated. Alderman Crawford asked if music will be removed from the park, and Mayor Aiello replied that the Project will not affect the music in the park. He explained, in fact, that the number of music nights has increased from 12 last year to 15 this year.

Alderman Smith explained that this project could be very successful, but that it does cause a loss of greenspace in the City. He explained that the area is in decline and while we are not in the last seconds of the game where we need to throw a Hail Mary, we are in the final five minutes where we need to try something. He explained that this is a creative way to keep the ball moving. He knows that this could be a failure, but it could also be a success.

Mayor Aiello explained that this has been tagged as a Farmers' Market, but that it can be a lot more than that. He explained that he has been in conversation with the Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce to market the structure, and that the City is looking for a catchy name to add to a marketing plan to make this what it could be.

Alderman Crawford explained that he feels that a lot of opposition is due to the location, and Alderman Gonzalez replied that he feels that a lot of the people who feel that way have not seen the plans. He explained that people react without knowledge. Alderman Crawford noted that he feels that the Times Herald did a great job of clarifying plans.

Mayor Aiello explained that the plans to have the market on Whitney Avenue would not work because the space was not large enough, and the Mall did not want to work with the City. He explained that the Mall only wanted to move forward if the City agreed to put the market inside the building. He explained that there is not a lot of space left at War Veteran's Park, so there is really not a good location there for the market. He added that the local Farmers' Market group has been consulted as well, and they want to see the market in the center of town.

Alderman Smith explained that a covered pavilion in the center of town has 1,001 uses, and the City should be brainstorming different ways to utilize the space.

Mr. Ring explained that within a two minute walk, there are 200 public parking spaces and 200 private. He explained that if you move out an additional two minutes, there are 400 more spaces. He explained that there is a lot more parking in this area than there is at War Vet's Park.

Alderman Gonzalez noted that with all of the investment going on around the park, that it is hard to ignore this opportunity for additional investment in the downtown.

A motion to approve PL #25-19 was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman George. Voice vote, ayes all except Alderman Crawford, who voted nay. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

2. Discussion – Main Street Traffic Study

Alderman Witte explained that she was contacted regarding unsafe crossing conditions on Main Street near Olean General Hospital. She explained that a traffic study has been conducted, which was emailed to each committee member.

Chief Rowley explained that speed does not seem to be an issue on this stretch of roadway, and that personal injury accidents that have occurred are not related to speed. He explained that he did not find anything during the study that was shocking.

Alderman Witte explained that the roadway is probably like North Union Street used to be, where it is difficult to see pedestrians with two lanes travelling in each direction. She noted that she is aware that Mr. Ring came up with some layouts to change the traffic patterns in the area; however, there is a cost to do so. She explained that the City will have to take a look at the plans and the options.

Alderman Crawford asked if there were any plans for this intersection in the Walkable Olean – Phase II Project, and Mayor Aiello explained that although the intersection at Main and Front Street is addressed, Main Street is not addressed any further in this direction.

3. Discussion – North Twelfth Street Traffic

Alderman Crawford explained that he has only had a small chance to discuss this with Mr. Ring, but that a number of individuals have contacted him about this street, including those who don't

reside on North 12th Street. He explained that there is currently no parking on one side, but that with heavy traffic flow and vehicles parking right up to the STOP signs, there is a lot of bottleneaking and congestion at intersections. He explained that he would like to sit down with Mr. Ring and Alderman Smith to see about possible signage and clearer restrictions for parking around STOP signs.

Alderman Gonzalez agreed that this is a difficult roadway to travel, especially when Dresser Rand employees leave at 3:00 p.m.

Alderman Crawford explained that when vehicles park so close to the STOP signs, there is a lot of havoc. Alderman Smith noted that this has been an issue for a long time, and he would be happy to sit down to discuss this with Alderman Crawford.

4. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Dougherty. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 .
p.m.