

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019 – 6:45 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; BOB RING, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS; KERI KERPER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR; 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 #24-19: (Crawford) To establish the City of Olean Sidewalk Rebate Program.

Alderman Crawford explained that the committee had a good discussion regarding this PL last week during committee. He explained that a revised policy has been handed out for the committee's review, and that \$50,000 has been set aside towards improving sidewalks in poor conditions of owner occupied properties. He explained that the rebate would be a set amount per square foot, with a capped amount for each property.

Mr. Ring explained that he had made some amendments to the policy, primarily focusing on changing wording to align with engineering terms. He explained that the program is to aid in the repair of sidewalks that are considered dangerous or tripping hazards, and not ones that are just unsightly but not dangerous. He explained that the price can be determined after the yearly bid comes in for the sidewalk repair and replacement contract.

Alderman Crawford explained that those who take advantage of this program will see the permit costs waived, and that the Program's description includes that eligible sidewalks include those that are heaved or sunk over 1", cracked or broken to the point of dangerous walking conditions, or are not in compliance with ADA regulations. He explained that this Program is to help with the worst of the worst. He continued that an application is required up front. He does not want to vote on this quite yet, as the fee needs to be determined.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that he feels that this is a good idea, and that if it stimulates people to repair or replace their sidewalks that are hazards that it is worth doing. He noted that the City should look into a pneumatic sidewalk leveler that is new to the market to see if it could save the City on costs.

Alderman Witte explained that she feels that people will not come forward for this incentive. She explained that many things have been tried to encourage sidewalk replacement, but nothing has worked. Alderman Crawford replied that he is a lot more optimistic that this will work. He explained that he has already had three residents approach him regarding the program.

Alderman Smith explained that he feels that this is worth trying. He did have a conversation with a gentleman in his ward that he believes will come forward for this assistance.

A motion to postpone PL #24-19 to the next Committee of the Whole meeting on April 2, 2019 was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

2. PL #26-19: (Aiello) To amend the water rates, pursuant to Section 27-22, and sewer rates, pursuant to Section 27-167(A) of the City of Olean Code of Ordinances, to raise water rates 1 ½ % and sewer rates 1 ½ %.

Alderman Crawford explained that this has been discussed during previous budget discussions, as well as during a Public Hearing held earlier in the evening.

A motion to approve PL #26-19 was made by Alderman Dougherty, seconded by Alderman George. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

3. Adjournment

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