

# COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

*TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.*

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS – OLEAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

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

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

## 1. Presentation – Young Entrepreneurs Academy

Alderman Gonzalez introduced Ms. Halley Kottwitz, an employee of Southern Tier West who assists in the administration of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy.

Ms. Kottwitz presented a PowerPoint to the Council about the program. She explained that the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA) is a groundbreaking and exciting afterschool program that transforms local middle and high school students into real, confident entrepreneurs. She explained that the program is in its third year in Olean, and is available for participation by 11 to 18 years old students. She explained that the students are able to launch and run their own businesses or social movements, and are taught by local instructors, professionals, and a CEO roundtable.

Ms. Kottwitz explained that the program involves an Investor Panel Competition where each participant makes a five minute pitch of their business plan and ask for potential investments for their businesses. There is also an opportunity for the students to mingle with the investors prior to the presentation, which allows for the building and use of professional skills such as handshakes and eye contact. She spoke of a successful student who has continued running her business, and has plans to continue and expand after she completes schooling. She noted that the students are very proud of themselves, and their parents are very proud of them as well.

Ms. Kottwitz explained that the students gain a lot of skills in areas such as public speaking, goal-focused mindsets, collaboration, connection building in the community, writing skills, financial management, marketing, sales and customer service, communication and negotiation, leadership, project management and planning, delegation and time management, and problem solving. Skills are acquired through field trips and presentations by guest speakers. She explained that a lot of local sponsors and volunteers meet the students to allow for the students to get to know community members. A CEO roundtable also allows for the participants to work with local business owners.

Ms. Kottwitz explained that the next class will run through the academic year from October 16, 2019 through May 19, 2020, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Boundless Connections on North Union Street. She explained that there is an application process, and handed out nomination forms to the Aldermen. She explained that if an Alderman nominates a student who then enters the program, that the student will receive \$95 off their tuition. Ms. Kottwitz noted that this will be available for nominations from City of Olean employees, as well. The total cost of the program is \$495, although she noted that students typically have some or all of their tuition covered by various sources and grants.

Ms. Kottwitz explained that there is an information session on August 20, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Boundless Connections for anyone who is interested in learning more.

Alderman Witte asked if this program is open to all surrounding schools, or if it is only for those enrolled in the Olean City School District. Ms. Kottwitz explained that it is open to any student at any school, as long as they are able to get themselves to the program.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if there is any association with the Olean Area Young Professionals group, and Ms. Kottwitz replied that there isn't, although she can look into this. Alderman Gonzalez explained that this group could possibly create more opportunities for the program.

## 2. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Andreano. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.