

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – OLEAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING

IN ATTENDANCE WERE: ALDERMEN GONZALEZ, WITTE, PANUS, DOUGHERTY, CRAWFORD, SMITH, AND ANASTASIA. OTHERS: MAYOR WILLIAM AIELLO; LENS MARTIAL, CITY CLERK; NICHOLAS DICERBO, JR., CITY ATTORNEY; FRED SARADIN, CITY AUDITOR; BOB RING, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS; BOB BELL, FIRE CHIEF; JEFF ROWLEY, POLICE 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. PL #01-20: (Aiello) To authorize the Mayor to execute a contract for Court Security Services for the period April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2024.

Mayor Aiello explained that the City of Olean Police Department provides the offers who do security for the courtroom, and the Unified Court System reimburses the City for their wages and uniform costs. He explained that this has been going on for quite some time, and that the State is notoriously behind when it comes to getting renewal contracts out, which is why the contract period began some time ago. He explained that the agreement was received in December, and this was the first Regular Meeting at which it could be presented to the Council.

A motion to approve PL #01-20 was made by Alderman Dougherty, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

2. PL #02-20: (Aiello) To support the petition to the New York State Department of Transportation requesting the closure of the Queen Street overpass and replacement with a pedestrian underpass, as well as the modification of the existing Front Street crossing to raise the elevation of the Rail-over-highway overpass.

Mayor Aiello explained that this has been going on for well over a year, and the Department of Transportation is now involved and has submitted a request for a Resolution from the Council supporting these changes.

Alderman Smith asked where we are in the timeline, and Mr. Ring responded that he believes that we are looking at the construction being done during this construction season. He explained, however, that the City is not involved in this in any way with the exception of the agreement that these changes be made, so the City really does not have any control over the timeline as we are not involved in the construction.

Alderman Witte asked if the underpass has been measured lately, and Mr. Ring explained that it is actually fourteen inches higher than the sign says.

Alderman Anastasia asked if he should abstain from the vote because he is a New York State DOT employee, and Mr. DiCerbo recommended that he does.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that he recently heard of a garbage truck hitting the railroad bridge, and noted that this is the project to help alleviate those issues. Mayor Aiello explained that the railroad can raise the bridge 18 inches, and the City will look at lowering the street the necessary amount to get clearance without having to install a pump station. Alderman Dougherty asked if the City's work is contingent on the railroad raising the bridge, and Mr. Ring explained that it is, and that the City will not begin the engineering for our portion of the project until the railroad's portion is completed.

A motion to approve PL #02-20 was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all except Alderman Anastasia, who abstained. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

3. PL #03-20: (Aiello) To specify a nominal fee of \$15 for the issuance of a Pre-Adoption Birth Certificate in accordance with Public Health Law Section 4138-E.

Mr. Martial explained that New York State law has changed, and that if you were adopted as a child, that when you reach age 18 you have the right to request your original birth certificate. He explained that the State charges \$41; however, the State also provides much more information than the City can, as the City can only possibly provide the original certificate. He explained that for this reason, he came up with a fee of \$15.

Mayor Aiello explained that it is his understanding that the search for the original birth certificates will require more research on the City's end for some. Alderman Dougherty asked what the cost is for a standard birth certificate, and Mayor Aiello responded that the cost is \$10. Mr. Martial explained that he has received about ten phone calls regarding this so far, as well as one walk in.

A motion to approve PL #03-20 was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

4. Adjournment

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