

# COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

*TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020 – 6:50 p.m.*  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS – OLEAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

IN ATTENDANCE WERE: ALDERMEN GONZALEZ, WITTE, PANUS, DOUGHERTY, CRAWFORD, AND ANASTASIA. OTHERS: MAYOR WILLIAM AIELLO; LENS MARTIAL, CITY CLERK; NICHOLAS DICERBO, JR., CITY ATTORNEY; FRED SARADIN, CITY AUDITOR; TIM RICHARDSON, 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 except Alderman Smith, who was excused.

## 1. Finance and Bills

A motion to approve Finance and Bills was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Dougherty. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

2. PL #10-20: (Panus) To amend the City of Olean Code of Ordinances Section 24-135 to prohibit parking on the north side of Bishop Street for a distance of 141 feet easterly from its intersection with Queen Street.

Alderman Panus explained that this issue was brought up by a couple of constituents who were concerned about emergency vehicles and school buses making a turn onto Bishop Street with the on street parking. He noted that this was previously discussed in Committee and that everyone is on board.

A motion to approve PL #10-20 was made by Alderman Panus, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting Tuesday, March 10, 2020 for Resolution.

3. PL #12-20: (Aiello) To authorize the Mayor to submit a grant application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under its Assistance to Firefighters' Grant Program for funding associated with the purchase of a brush truck.

Mayor Aiello explained that this was discussed in committee, as well as in Fleet Management. He explained that everyone agrees that it is a good deal if the City can obtain the funding and pay \$6,000 for a fire vehicle.

A motion to approve PL #12-20 was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman Anastasia. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

4. PL #13-20: (Aiello) To amend ambulance billing rates in accordance with the schedule provided by Professional Ambulance Billing, LLC.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that this was discussed in committee last week.

Alderman Crawford explained that he would like to get the feeling of the rest of the Council. He understands that rates have not been increased since 2015, but he feels that it would create an undue burden on the elderly population, who are the primary users of the ambulance services. He explained that he does not know how well it was communicated to elderly residents that if they cannot pay their bill, they are not turned over to collections.

Chief Richardson explained that the difference between the billed amount and what Medicare or Medicaid pays is called a “write off”. Alderman Crawford asked how much is written off every year, and Chief Richardson responded that in 2018, \$845,264 was written off. He explained that the primary reason that such a large amount was written off is because we are a high Medicaid and Medicare area.

Alderman Crawford explained that he struggles with the fact that we are sending bills to elderly residents once their Medicare and / or Medicaid pays, and Chief Richardson explained that we are not sending them a bill, and that a bill is only sent if the ambulance is deemed not medically necessary.

A motion to approve PL #13-20 was made by Alderman Dougherty, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

## 5. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.