

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – OLEAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING

IN ATTENDANCE WERE: ALDERMEN CRAWFORD, WITTE, PANUS, GONZALEZ, BARNARD, ROBINSON, AND ANASTASIA. OTHERS: MAYOR WILLIAM AIELLO; LENS MARTIAL, CITY CLERK; FRED SARADIN, CITY AUDITOR; BOB RING, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, 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. Discussion – Governor Hochul’s Meeting Transparency Legislation

Alderman Crawford explained that this information was shared with the Aldermen, and that the Governor is requiring starting in November that any proposed resolution, law, rule, policy, or any amendment thereto that is scheduled to be subject to discussion by a public body to be made available upon request and to be posted on the City’s website at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. He explained that in his opinion, this means that any law, resolution, or change that we want to bring forward needs to be printed and produced on the City’s website at least twenty-four hours in advance of the local meeting. He explained that this is in an effort to create more transparency in local governments.

Mayor Aiello explained that Mr. Hart sent an email earlier today that he will share with the Council. He explained that the law was passed on October 19, 2021 so it will take effect thirty days after that date. He explained that for any meeting we need to make sure that items are on the website and out to the media at least 24 hours in advance. Alderman Crawford explained that he will be following up with the City Attorney on this item as well. He explained that sometimes when a presentation is given, it is not ready until the final minute. He explained that he does not feel that the presentation itself should be subject to the 24 hour rule but he can understand that the topic itself would be. He explained that after meetings, all presentations and documents should be given to Ms. Taylor anyways, but that she can start posting things after the fact. He explained that this is how he interprets this but he will follow up with Mr. Hart. Mayor Aiello explained that there will probably be guidance from NYCOM as well.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if this means that the two resolutions to be added tonight would be off the table, and Alderman Crawford responded that they would be. He explained that there may be some grey area there because the law does state “to the extent practicable.” He explained that if there is an emergency resolution, like if funding is needed to demolish a dangerous house, he

doesn't know how the situation could be handled. He explained that a follow up with NYCOM could certainly help, too.

Alderman Anastasia explained that years ago there was a policy that agenda items needed to be added by Friday. Alderman Crawford explained that this is the policy now. He explained that the policy is that the Council Secretary posts the agendas by Friday afternoon. This law allows that if something comes up over the weekend or on Monday that it could be discussed if it is published prior to 6 p.m. on Monday. He explained that we should make this common practice. He explained that he will get some more information and then we will move forward.

2. PL #68-21: (Aiello) To designate Mayor William Aiello as the Authorized Representative to execute all necessary agreements, contracts and documents associated with the Coronavirus Response Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) funding at the Cattaraugus County – Olean Airport.

Mr. Ring explained that this, as well as the next two PL's, involve funding from Federal buyouts associated with COVID relief. He explained that funding was set aside for airports and the FAA determined what each airport received in terms of funding. He explained that these resolutions will authorize an application for funding to apply for the funding that has been designated for our airport. He explained that we are treating these as grant application. The funding will offset things like employee costs, heating costs, electric, and other things like that. He explained that a lot of the paperwork is already done and we just need these resolutions to complete the applications.

Alderman Crawford asked how the airport has been operating in the recent months. Mr. Ring explained that there are three capital projects going on at the airport right now. He explained that he and Mr. Dougherty are working on the JVAC project to replace at least one burner in the main hanger. He explained that this project is funded 100%. He explained that the runway will be replaced in the spring, and this is also 100% funded. He explained that there is also a multi-phase pavement replacement project for the taxiway through a FAA grant. He explained that through everyone's hard work and the County share, we will at least break even at the airport this year. He explained that we lost \$150,000 there the first year that he was here, and that loss was brought down to \$60,000 with cuts in spending and grant funding, and then this year we will break even. He explained that we have made a lot of strides with hard work.

Alderman Crawford explained that this is incredible to hear, and kudos to Mr. Ring, the Mayor and airport management. He explained that he is also appreciative for the aid that the County kicked in. He explained that he knows that we were trying to look at a long-term strategy when COVID hit, and he would still like to see how we could collaborate more fully on the airport. Mayor Aiello explained that he has not forgotten about this and that Frank Higgins with the County Legislature is still interesting in getting together a workable committee.

Alderman Witte asked about something she saw in the paper about the County giving \$85,000 for the airport. Mr. Ring explained that the County used to provide \$17,000 and this increased last

year to \$85,000. He explained that, as previously discussed, they are again providing the City with \$85,000 for the airport this year. Alderman Witte asked if this is dedicated for a certain thing, and Mr. Ring explained that this has always been used as a capital project match. Mayor Aiello explained that he will look into the restrictions on the funding.

A motion to approve PL #68-21 was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman Anastasia. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

3. PL #69-21: (Aiello) To designate Mayor William Aiello as the Authorized Representative to execute all necessary agreements, contracts and documents associated with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding at the Cattaraugus County – Olean Airport.

A motion to approve PL #69-21 was made by Alderman Panus, seconded by Alderman Barnard. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

4. PL #70-21: (Aiello) To designate Mayor William Aiello as the Authorized Representative to execute all necessary agreements, contracts and documents associated with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) funding at the Cattaraugus County – Olean Airport.

A motion to approve PL #70-21 was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

5. PL #71-21: (Crawford) To amend the City of Olean Code of Ordinances Section 24-135 to include the north side of Washington Street at its east corner with Worden Avenue and at its east corner with Winters Avenue.

Alderman Crawford explained that he has been receiving calls and concerns from residents about vehicles parking right up to the corner of these intersections and making it very difficult to navigate the intersections. He explained that Worden and Winters are small streets, and he is just requesting that signs be put up to help enforce the law that is currently there and help people to visualize how far away from the corner they should park. He explained that this will need to be published before a resolution is voted on.

Alderman Witte asked if the police and fire chiefs did their part. Mayor Aiello explained that Alderman Crawford did reach out and neither chief had an issue with the signage. Alderman Crawford explained that Mr. Ring had no issues with this as well.

A motion to approve PL #71-21 was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting Tuesday, November 9, 2021 for Resolution.

6. Adjournment

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