

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.
VIA ZOOM

IN ATTENDANCE WERE: ALDERMEN CRAWFORD, WITTE, PANUS, GONZALEZ, McCALL, ROBINSON, AND ANASTASIA. OTHERS: MAYOR WILLIAM AIELLO; FRANK CAPUTO, CITY CLERK; JACK HART, CITY ATTORNEY; LENS MARTIAL, CITY AUDITO; BOB RING, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS; KERI KERPER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR; BRAD CAMP, WATER AND SEWER SUPERINTENDENT, AND TIFFANY TAYLOR, MANAGERIAL CONFIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY.

Alderman Crawford called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked that the record show that all Aldermen were present.

1. PL #01-22: (Aiello) To amend Resolution #102-21 to modify account numbers related to a fund transfer.

Alderman Crawford explained that this is just a clerical cleanup. Mayor Aiello explained that when Resolution #102-21 was passed at the last meeting, the “3” in both account numbers should have been a “5” and so we are correcting this so that the funds are transferred properly. Mr. Martial explained that the 3 is for a fund balance, and the 5 is an expense so this had to be updated. He apologized for the error.

A motion to approve PL #01-22 was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Robinson. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

2. PL #02-22: (Aiello) To authorize the Mayor to sign and submit an application to Cattaraugus County under the Municipal Matching Grant Program for funding associated with the City’s match to update the Comprehensive Development Plan.

Ms. Kerper explained that as the Council can recall, in July she had written an application for funding to two different sources, Empire State Development in the amount of \$50,000 and the Department of State in the amount of \$40,000 for the Comprehensive Development Plan. She explained that the Governor announced a couple weeks ago that we were successful, and there is a \$10,000 remaining local match. She explained that she would like to apply to the County for half of this match, or \$5,000.

Alderman Crawford explained that this sounds great, and explained that Ms. Kerper did a great job on the application. He explained that this is probably one of the most critical needs that the City has to really steer the ship for the next 20 years. He explained that Ms. Kerper did a great job

on landing the money and getting help from the State. He explained that he looks forward to supporting the Comprehensive Development Plan process as we move forward.

A motion to approve PL #02-22 was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman Anastasia. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

3. PL #07-22: (Aiello) That the Common Council as Lead Agency declares the Oak Hill Park Downtown Revitalization Initiative Project a Type I Action that will not result in any significant adverse environmental impact and thus issues a Negative Declaration.

Ms. Kerper explained that on November 22, 2021 she had sent out the Full Environmental Assessment Form on the Council's behalf, and that she completed Parts I, II, and III for interested and involved agencies to review and comment. She explained that there was a 30 day period to comment and as of last week, all agencies had signed off on the SEQR. She explained that she worked through some additional details per DEC comment, and that the agencies have all concurred that the Council should be the Lead Agency on the Environmental Review. She explained that we will be ultimately declaring Lead Agency status and a Negative Declaration. She noted that Ms. Taylor sent the Council the SEQR to review last week.

Alderman Crawford asked about the State Historic Preservation Office comment, and Ms. Kerper explained that she sent them a wealth of information and that they actually had no questions. Alderman Crawford noted that on many projects, the SEQR process is typical.

Alderman McCall asked about the meaning of a Negative Declaration. Ms. Kerper explained that the Negative Declaration means that no adverse environmental impact will occur. She explained that she was able to show previous ground disturbance at the site, and the stage will be going on a concrete pad that is already there so there is very little ground disturbance. She explained that the overall project adheres to the environmental standards and standards of the historic district. She noted that a Positive Declaration would require a full Environmental Impact Statement and additional research. Alderman McCall explained that she asks because she had had a lot of conversations about the park, trees, and what is going to happen. Ms. Kerper explained that the Council is just declaring a Negative Declaration that really just has to do with the parcel of land. She explained that the Environmental Assessment Form Part I, Page 1 really refers to the items listed.

A motion to approve PL #07-22 was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Voice vote, ayes all except Alderman McCall, who voted nay. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

Alderman Witte explained that she believes that she knows why Alderman McCall asked her questions. She explained that she has also had people ask about the park. She explained that there was a meeting with different proposals discussed. She asked if we will still have some discussion to decide on all of the elements of the project. Alderman Crawford explained that he believes that

the discussion is over and we will be going out to bid. He explained that bids will go out, we will review the bids when they come in, and then determine whether or not we want to fund said bids. Alderman Witte asked if the Council will have to vote on funding over and above \$350,000, and Alderman Crawford explained that we will.

4. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15 p.m.