

## FINANCE

Tuesday, April 17, 2018 – 6:55 p.m.

Police Training Room – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Witte, Vice Chairman Crawford, Alderman Andreano, Alderman Gonzalez, Alderman Dougherty, Alderman Smith, and Alderman George. Others: Mayor William Aiello; 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.

### 1. Roll Call

Alderman Witte called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present.

### 2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Committee Meetings (Tuesday, March 20, 2018; Wednesday, March 21, 2018; Thursday, March 29, 2018 and Tuesday, April 3, 2018)

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2018, March 21, 2018, March 29, 2018, and April 3, 2018 meeting minutes was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman Crawford. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

### 3. Monthly Finance & Bills Review

Alderman Witte questioned why the Neighborhood Task Force flyers from Olean Creative Mailing came out of the Council's line item, rather than a public safety line item. Mayor Aiello responded that it was a Council action that caused these flyers to be created. Alderman Witte added that Alderman Andreano has additional flyers if any Council members would like some.

Alderman Witte then asked about a bill for gas at the stadium's concession stand. Mayor Aiello replied that the gas is kept on year round to prevent the pipes from freezing.

Alderman Witte asked if the \$2,300 cost for an asbestos survey at 119 Irving Street is an average cost, and Mr. DiCerbo stated that is the going rate. However, we are currently working on negotiating for a better rate for the group of homes that need to be tested.

Alderman Witte asked if we have received the final payment for the Forness Field project, and Mayor Aiello replied that the payment was received for field 5, but still needs to be for field 7.

Alderman Witte questioned the \$677 for homeshow jackets in the Adult Recreation budget. Mayor Aiello responded that these are jackets for the Senior Center, that will be used for

events. Alderman Witte mentioned that during the budget process, she heard from many residents that we need to get control of our spending.

#### 4. Discussion – Fee Increases as Reflected in 2018-2019 Budget

Mayor Aiello stated that during the budget process, we discussed these rate increases, which were incorporated into the 2018-2019 budget. They should have been voted on the same night as the budget, but they were inadvertently left off. That is why they are being brought to the Council now.

Alderman Andreano questioned the sign variance fee, and Mayor Aiello responded that this is for when a sign variance is requested. Alderman Witte asked about demolition fees, and Mr. Ring stated that they are waived when a City property is demolished.

Alderman Crawford stated that he does not like to have to raise fees, but we are at the point that revenues are on the downslide, and expenses are going up. Fees have not been changed in quite some time.

Mayor Aiello stated that there is currently no charge in the City for a roofing permit, and we are one of a very small amount of municipalities that does not charge. Most communities charge much more than the \$25 that he is proposing.

Alderman Witte mentioned that rental rates could always be reconsidered, and Mayor Aiello replied that this is something we can take a look at down the road.

#### 5. Recreation Center BAN versus Bond

Mr. Saradin stated that last year, the Council converted almost \$5 million in BANs to bonds, but kept the Recreation Center funding in a BAN as the project was not completed yet. The plan was to convert the funding when the project was completed. He questioned what the Council is feeling now, and the renewal is June 15<sup>th</sup>. He stated that Municipal Solutions can come to speak with the Council if they feel it is needed.

Alderman Gonzalez mentioned that the pool is not done yet.

Alderman Crawford asked how long we can continue to renew the BAN, and Mr. Saradin stated that we could for maybe two more years. Alderman Crawford asked how much the funding is for, and Mr. Saradin replied for \$4.1 million. This will be reduced by grant funding when it is reimbursed. He stated that bond rates are rising, and asked if we want to gamble another year before we convert.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if the rates are increasing by a lot, and Mr. Saradin replied that they are only about 2 points over last year.

Alderman Crawford asked if we can have a discussion to lump this bond together with other projects that were recently funded with BANs, and Mr. Saradin replied that we are pressed for time.

Alderman Witte stated that she would like to have Municipal Solutions come to discuss the \$1.2 million in outstanding debt. The debt continues to accrue interest.

Mr. Ring stated that if we do have Municipal Solutions come to speak with the Council, he would like to add a discussion for the bond resolution for Washington Street that is required for the grant application.

Alderman Crawford asked if spreadsheets could be sent to the Council showing the two different options for the Recreation Center project, and Mr. Saradin stated that he will reach out to get these scenarios for the Council. He does know that we would like Municipal Solutions to be present at some point to discuss other projects and options with the Council.

Alderman Crawford asked what the definitive deadline is to make a decision on the Recreation Center funding. Mr. Saradin stated that they still have to go out to market, so he would say we are pretty close. He can check with Municipal Solutions for the exact date.

## 6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman Crawford. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.