

**Public Hearing**  
**Council Chambers – Olean Municipal Building**  
**Tuesday, March 27, 2018 – 6:15 p.m.**

Present: Aldermen Crawford, Witte, Andreano, Gonzalez, Dougherty, and George. Others: Mayor William Aiello; Lens Martial, City Clerk; Nicholas DiCerbo, Jr., City Attorney; Fred Saradin, City Auditor; Bob Ring, Director of Public Works; Jeff Rowley, Police Chief, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary.

Alderman Crawford opened the meeting at 6:15 p.m. and began by reciting the Legal Notice of Public Hearing:

Notice: There will be a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at 6:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, Olean, New York, for the purpose of discussing the following: to amend the water rates per Section 27-22 **and** an amendment to the sewer rates per Section 27-167, Chapter 27, Article 2, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Olean. Water rates shall increase 5% and sewer rates shall increase 3 ½ % as reflected in the 2018-2019 budget. For rate information please visit [www.cityofolean.com](http://www.cityofolean.com) or call the Common Council Office at 716-376-5635.

Kevin Bartholomew of 737 Bishop Street stated that it seems that the City has constantly been raising rates over the past ten years. Ten to twenty years ago, water and sewer rates were flat. He sees money is coming from the Water and Sewer Funds and being transferred into other places, such as the Vehicle Replacement Fund. He stated that it seems like these funds are used as a “cash cow”. People who are on a fixed income cannot afford the increase. He has had no Social Security increase in several years. He stated that there is a half a million dollars out there owed to the City for water and sewer bills, and we have to find a way to collect it. People of Olean can’t afford, nor do they want to pay for, any more increases.

Scott Paoletto of 318 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street stated that he has been commenting to the Council for 15 years about how we are losing one million gallons of water a day. He feels that if we address this problem, then we won’t have to raise rates every time we turn around.

Absent additional comment, the hearing closed at approximately 6:25 p.m.