

PUBLIC SAFETY

Tuesday, June 5, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.

Police Training Room – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Andreano, Vice Chairman Gonzalez, Alderman Witte, Alderman Dougherty, Alderman Crawford, Alderman Smith, and Alderman George. Others: Mayor William Aiello; Fred Saradin, City Auditor; Keri Kerper, Community Development Program Coordinator; Bob Bell, Fire Chief; Jeff Rowley, Police Chief, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary.

1. Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Committee Meeting (Tuesday, May 15, 2018)

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2018 meeting was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

3. Unfinished Business

A resident explained that since the last meeting she spoke at, she has found ten more kittens on her property to feed. She stated that the cat problem is an epidemic and is not going away. Alderman Crawford stated that Cattaraugus County Catnippers has some funding available, and they may be able to help her if she reaches out to them. The resident stated that she will be at every Council meeting until this issue is solved.

Alderman Crawford stated that one of the challenges that the City faces in terms of the cat problems is that there are people out there who feed the stray cats because they do not want to let them starve. However, it really is not the best policy to feed stray cats, as more strays are attracted to the area where they are being fed.

The resident stated that the City needs to change the law as it relates to cats, as previously discussed, and Alderman Crawford responded that the law can be changed relatively quickly. That is not the holdup. The major issue is finding a low cost spay, neuter and vaccinate program for the City. He stated that he will reach out to the resident at a later time to discuss the issue further.

Mayor Aiello stated that he knows that the SPCA is not interested in pursuing the cat problem here in Olean without full compensation. Cattaraugus County Catnippers were brought to the

Council's attention, and he is anxious to find out what we can do on a cost effective basis with them.

4. New Referrals for Consideration

a. Update – Property Transfer / Rental Inspections

Mayor Aiello explained that the City has run into a couple of problems regarding the inspection process. First, the City is in the process of purchasing a new software package, and there are issues with the County and the new system. Mr. Volz in Information Technology will be working with the County and the software company to resolve the issue. Mayor Aiello explained that he is confident that this will occur soon.

Mayor Aiello then explained that there are issues with the classification of the Code Enforcement positions with Civil Service. Right now, he is asking for a 30 to 60 day extension, then the new legislation should be ready to go.

Alderman Crawford asked if a formal resolution would be needed for this change, and Mayor Aiello replied that he believes it would be required. He will be putting a PL and Resolution on the agenda for next week's meeting.

Alderman Andreano questioned if we need to be at the mercy of Civil Service, and Mayor Aiello replied that we are. He has been looking into the issue for a couple of months with Civil Service, and is waiting on an answer from them at this time.

b. Discussion – North 2nd Street One Way Direction Change

Alderman Dougherty stated that this was discussed previously, but it fell by the wayside. He was approached by a few of the regulars at the library, who asked when this change will be on its way. After it was mentioned to him, he had a few of the people at his coffee shop look into the situation, and according to their tally, at least one vehicle goes up the road the wrong way every two hours.

Alderman Dougherty continued that he has spoken with the Director of the library, whose only concern was that the change may take some time for people to get used to. He stated, though, that this will happen with any change.

Alderman George asked if Alderman Dougherty spoke with Bimbo, since their company is on the same street. Alderman Dougherty stated that he hasn't spoken with them, although he feels that the change would complement their business. They are glad that the police have looked the other way when their yeast truck is making a difference, and changing the one way direction would ensure that the truck is delivering facing the right direction.

Chief Rowley stated that he really does not object to this idea. With the roundabouts and the steady traffic coming from East State Street and Union Street, it can be difficult to get out at this intersection. Alderman Dougherty added that it would eliminate the issue of people turning left when it is prohibited, thus holding up traffic.

Alderman Dougherty explained that one woman on the street is on the fence about the change, and one couple that strongly resists change does not agree with it. There is a business on the street that sent letters to all of the aldermen stating that he is opposed to the change as well. Besides that, he believes that everyone else on the street is in favor of the change.

Mayor Aiello explained that many years ago, there were those resistant to change when Garden Avenue was changed from a two way street to a one way. However, it was changed to improve public safety in the area, and now there are no issues with the street being one way only.

Alderman Dougherty mentioned that a business owner on the roadway expressed concern that their employees would not be able to move their cars uphill in the winter, but the street's slope is very similar to that of North Third Street so he does not see how this could be an issue. Mayor Aiello mentioned that the City's street crew also does a great job of keeping the streets clear during the winter months.

A PL will be introduced at the next meeting for referral for further discussion.

c. Discussion – Sale of City Owned Property – 616 West Henley Street

Alderman Crawford stated that the Council has received two different proposals from two separate parties regarding the 616 West Henley Street property. One party is interested in taking possession of the property after the City demolishes it, as well as possibly aiding the City with the demolition. The second party would like to renovate the property.

Alderman Crawford introduced Jared, Jody and Donald Martin, who are interested in renovating the property. Mr. Jared Martin stated that the house is in a great location. He just finished his first renovation on a different property, which included a lot of cosmetic work. He realizes that this property is an eyesore, and that the exterior of the property is a big concern for the neighborhood. He feels that this is a great opportunity to get something different under his belt.

Alderman Crawford asked where the first property is located, and Mr. Martin replied that it is located at 514 North 8th Street. Mr. Donald Martin stated that if the property was way worse than this that he would definitely agree in seeing it torn down. However, Mr. Jared Martin's business is windows, roofing, and siding, and he gets a discount on it all. This is a solid house,

and he feels it can be saved. He feels that the City should save their money for tearing down houses with no hope for rehabilitation, and allow them the opportunity to rehabilitate this house in a beautiful neighborhood.

Alderman Andreano asked if the house is structurally sound, and Mr. Jared Martin replied that it is. The roof will probably need to be replaced, but he feels the rest of the home is structurally sound. He also plans to turn this home from two three bedroom, two bath apartments to two two bedroom, two bath apartments. More tenants can be headaches, and maximizing space can allow him to attract more preferable tenants. This would keep the property on the tax rolls, where a vacant lot would result in much less tax revenue for the City.

Alderman Witte stated that she agrees that we should look at all of the City-owned homes and save as many as can possibly be saved. The City should only demolish what is necessary.

A motion to enter into executive session to discuss the proposed sale of real estate was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Andreano. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Executive session began at approximately 6:27 p.m.

A motion to adjourn from executive session was made by Alderman Andreano, seconded by Alderman Dougherty. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Executive session adjourned at approximately 6:56 p.m.

5. Approval of Committee Reports

None

6. Adjournment

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