

PUBLIC SAFETY

Tuesday, February 5, 2019 – 6:05 p.m.

Police Training Room – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Andreano, Vice Chairman Gonzalez, Alderman Witte, Alderman Dougherty, Alderman Smith, and Alderman George. Others: Mayor William Aiello; Nicholas DiCerbo, Jr., City Attorney; Fred Saradin, City Auditor; Keri Kerper, Community Development Program Coordinator; Bob Ring, Director of Public Works; Bob Bell, Fire Chief, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary.

1. Roll Call

Alderman Andreano called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present except Alderman Crawford, who was excused.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Committee Meeting (Tuesday, January 15, 2019)

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2019 meeting was made by Alderman Andreano, seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

3. Unfinished Business

None

4. New Referrals for Consideration

a. Discussion – Main Street / Center Street Crossing Safety Issues

Alderman Witte explained that this topic has come up before, and is being brought up again because a couple of weeks ago, two people crossing the street were hit by a vehicle. She explained that she and the Mayor will be meeting with officials from the hospital tomorrow to discuss the problems on this stretch of roadway. She explained that people cross the street wherever they like, not necessarily at the crosswalks. She has had a discussion with Mr. Ring, and the entire roadway needs to be rethought.

Mr. Ring explained that one idea that was had is to put parallel parking along the roadway on the Olean General Hospital side, and not only does the hospital need additional parking, it will also act as a traffic calming measure.

Alderman Andreano explained that there are issues at the gas station where people park in the middle of the road to wait in line, as well as at Park and Shop where people will drive down the

sidewalk when traveling from the store to the gas station. She feels that the City should really take a comprehensive look into this issue.

Mayor Aiello explained that Mr. Ring has done some preliminary designs to present at the meeting with the hospital tomorrow, and hopefully during the meeting it can be decided what needs to be done. He explained that he, Alderman Witte and Mr. Ring will report back to the Council after the discussion takes place.

Alderman Witte explained that this is a great area and a very busy medical corridor, but that it has created a lot of issues. She mentioned that Phase II Walkable Olean could potentially aid the problem, but that at the same time, you can't legislate common sense.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that he really feels that the City is dropping a ball by not considering a roundabout for the intersection in this area. Chief Bell added that he used to be wary of the roundabouts, but that he is now in support of them. He explained that if you know how to properly navigate a roundabout, that there are no issues.

Alderman George asked if there are other issues in the area. Alderman Andreano explained that there is difficulty crossing from the store to the other side of the street, as it is difficult to see if any vehicles are coming over the bridge, and difficult for vehicles on the bridge to see pedestrians.

Mayor Aiello explained that Phase II Walkable Olean will help somewhat, but that it will need to be extended north on Main Street. He added that if the linear park is installed along the Olean Creek with a midblock crossing, people can leave the hospital and go into the park to smoke, rather than crossing to smoke at the gas station.

Mr. Ring explained that speeding is a cause of a lot of these issues, and the City needs to design a street with traffic calming features. Alderman Witte added that there are a lot of driveways and streets in a short distance, so reconfiguration should be considered to make this short distance of roadway safer.

Alderman Smith asked if the hospital is aware that they are creating this safety issue by forcing their employees to leave campus to smoke, and Alderman Witte replied that she can ask about that during tomorrow's meeting.

Jeff Belt explained that he concurs with Mr. Ring that the solution to this problem is traffic calming measures. As he is on the board of the hospital, he will make sure to bring this up in the future.

b. Discussion – 329 North Fifth Street Demolition

Mr. DiCerbo explained that this issue has come before the Council a number of times. He explained that the new owner has been found, and the property may be foreclosed on by the County for taxes. He explained that the City has received a bid for \$31,000 to demolish the property, which is much less than what was estimated. He added that the City would like the Council to order the property removed as soon as possible in order to begin the clock for the owner to take action. If the owners do not take action within thirty days of the date the resolution is passed, the City will hire a contractor to demolish the property.

Alderman Andreano explained that there are many safety issues with this property, and it is about time that we are taking it down. She added that the neighbors will be very pleased. Alderman Gonzalez added that this is a long term problem that has been on the radar since before he became an alderman.

5. Approval of Committee Reports

None

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Andreano, seconded by Alderman Smith. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:25 p.m.