

PUBLIC SAFETY

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 – 5:30 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; 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 Andreano called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Committee Meeting (Tuesday, February 19, 2019)

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2019 meeting was made by Alderman Andreano, seconded by Alderman Smith. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

3. Unfinished Business

None

4. New Referrals for Consideration

a. Discussion – 412-R North Thirteenth Street Dangerous Building

Alderman Smith explained that this is a house behind the Country Fair near Dresser Rand, and that he sent photos of the dilapidated structures to the Council earlier in the day. Mr. DiCerbo explained that there may be a squatter in the house. There is an estate issue, the owner is not around and there is no one to go after. The property is very hazardous. Alderman Smith added that it is beyond horrendous. He recommends demolition.

Alderman Crawford explained that it is a small property and that it can't cost too much to take down the buildings. He asked if the squatter would cause legal issues, and Chief Rowley responded that he is technically not considered a squatter. He explained that the house is secured and that the person was found in the foyer entrance, and has since been moved down the road. Mr. DiCerbo noted that he will look into this before anything happens.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if there is asbestos, and Chief Bell explained that it is probably too dangerous to go in and see, so they will assume there is asbestos and tear the buildings down hot. Alderman Gonzalez asked if electric is still on and Chief Rowley explained that it is. He

added that he is working with Captain Jennings to get the utilities shut off, but that there are legalities involved with that, as the City does not own the property. Chief Bell noted that the goal is to get the gas and power shut off completely as soon as possible.

Alderman Andreano expressed concern that this house hasn't been brought to the Council's attention, and Alderman Smith explained it is difficult to see from the road. Alderman Crawford added that he had always assumed that it was someone's shed, not a house.

Alderman Witte asked if a cost has been determined for the demolition, and Chief Bell explained that he would have it prepared for the next meeting.

A PL and Resolution will be introduced at the next Regular Meeting to order the demolition of the buildings on the property.

b. Discussion – Do Not Block Driveway, North Union Street

Alderman George provided photos to the committee, and explained that he had calls from three adjacent property owners. On Sundays and during events in the area, the driveways are often blocked. He explained that he spoke with Mr. Ring, and it was suggested that a sign be placed on or near the utility pole.

Alderman Witte explained that there are a lot of houses with this issue in the area, and she wonders if this is going to cause everyone to want a sign. Alderman George explained that this is a unique situation and that most other driveways are not positioned like these.

Mayor Aiello explained that he feels that, if this request is granted, that the City will be inundated with calls from people that want signs. He feels that the City should look at enforcement, as well as looking into increasing the fine for blocking a driveway from \$20 to \$50. Alderman George responded that it is a unique situation, and Alderman Gonzalez stated that it looks like there is a tiny island that people are trying to squeeze into.

Mayor Aiello explained that spaces were painted on the streets around the high school to designate spaces, and noted that this could be a possible alternative. Alderman Witte added that another issue is people parking in their front yards. Mayor Aiello noted that he believes that there is a law in the books to prohibit this, and Alderman Witte replied that it needs to be enforced.

Alderman Crawford explained that it is up to Alderman George to bring forth a PL for this issue, and Alderman George replied that he will.

c. Discussion – Municipal Building Safety Issue

Mayor Aiello noted that there was a memo in each Aldermen's mailbox regarding the northwest entrance to the building. He explained that Mr. Ring has met with Dennis Cook, who is preparing a statement for the City. Mr. Ring explained that he has determined that this entrance is a public safety hazard, and that there are major structural issues. He presented photos to the committee showing a hole in the concrete under the metal plate, areas where the concrete deck is starting to fail, and exposed rebar. He explained that issues are caused by water infiltration and it is causing rusting, exposed rebar and concrete erosion. He explained that there are major repairs that should be done and completed as soon as possible. He explained that neglect made the situation worse and the Council should consider some sort of preventative maintenance. He continued that drainage and pooling issues are also present in the parking spaces, but the emergency situation is where the concrete is failing.

Alderman Crawford asked if the Council needs to wait on the write up from Mr. Cook for recommendations, or if this can be discussed now. Mr. Ring replied that Mr. Cook will not provide recommendations, and will only confirm that emergency repairs are required.

Alderman Witte asked what the estimated cost of repairs are, and Mr. Ring replied that it is hard to say at this point. He explained that he expects it to be a significant amount, but that it will probably be less than \$100,000.

Alderman Andreano asked if the ramp could be moved to a different entrance to aid the problem, and Alderman Gonzalez replied that the ramp definitely needs repairs, so this will only create a second project. Mr. Ring added that there is already a handicapped entrance on the other side of the building.

Alderman Smith asked if this is a tomorrow emergency, a next week emergency, or a next year emergency. M. Ring replied that he strongly suggests that the entrance is closed if it is not fixed by the end of the summer.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if the ramp can be replaced with concrete, and Mr. Ring replied that he is unsure of how much weight can be added. Alderman Andreano asked what Mr. Ring is recommending, and he explained that his first recommendation is to fix the stability of the concrete. Alderman Crawford asked if this can wait until June 1st, and possibly take the cost from the new budget's contingency fund, and Mr. Ring replied that it probably could.

Alderman Witte asked if there is anything in mind for roofing, and Mr. Ring replied that it is just an idea to prevent water from hitting the ramp area after it is fixed.

Alderman Andreano asked if there are handicapped parking spaces on the other side of the building, and Mayor Aiello replied that he does believe that there are a couple spots. He explained that this is, however, our most used entrance.

Alderman Smith asked if the project could indeed cost up to \$100,000, and Mr. Ring replied that it is not known what will happen until the vent is taken out and the project begins. Alderman Smith asked if it could be repaired or if everything needs to come out and be done new, and Mr. Ring replied that they will try to rebuild the concrete.

Alderman George asked if this will fix the root of the issue, and Mr. Ring replied that this will fix the stability and the emergency issues. He noted that there are secondary issues, such as tripping hazards and drainage issues.

Alderman Crawford asked when the City will have a better idea, and Mayor Aiello responded that when Mr. Cook's report is received, they will begin looking out to contractors to get numbers.

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 6:05 p.m.