

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Tuesday, April 16, 2019 – 6:20 p.m.

Police Training Room – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Andreano, Vice Chairman Gonzalez, Alderman Witte, Alderman Dougherty, Alderman Crawford, and Alderman George. Others: Mayor William Aiello; Nicholas DiCerbo, Jr., City Attorney; 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 6:20 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present except Alderman Smith, who was excused.

### 2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Committee Meeting (Tuesday, April 2, 2019)

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2019 meeting was made by Alderman Andreano, seconded by Alderman George. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

### 3. Unfinished Business

None

### 4. New Referrals for Consideration

#### a. Discussion – Yield Sign, King Street / Kingston Drive

Alderman Andreano explained that she had a request to ban on Kingston Drive from a resident who felt that there were many near misses with cars parked on the street, cars coming around the corner onto Kingston from King Street, and cars coming up Kingston Drive. She explained that she has discussed the situation with the Police Chief, who has notified her that there have not been any accidents in this area recently. She explained that there is no signage at the end of King Street as it turns onto Kingston Drive. She does not recommend a STOP sign, but she does recommend a Yield sign.

Mr. Ring explained that he has a manual that he uses for situations like this, and he feels that a Yield sign is more appropriate. Alderman Andreano added that she feels that this is a better compromise than banning parking.

Alderman Dougherty asked if this is in the same area that drainage issues were previously discussed, and Alderman Andreano replied that the drainage issues are at the bottom of the hill, while this is part way up the hill. Alderman Gonzalez asked if the Yield sign will be going

down the hill. Alderman Andreano explained that the Yield sign will be placed on King Street where it ends at Kingston Drive.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that he did this on Carolina and Bradley Streets in his ward. Mayor Aiello explained that the rules of the road are that when the roadway you are on ends, you are to yield to the thru street.

Mayor Aiello asked how the neighborhood feels about the sign, and Alderman Andreano responded that they did not want a STOP sign or parking restrictions. They felt that the Yield sign was fair.

Alderman Witte explained that she thinks this is fine, and Alderman Dougherty agreed. Alderman Andreano explained that she would present a PL at the next Regular Meeting.

b. Discussion – Zombie Properties / County Foreclosures

Alderman Crawford explained that this was discussed a while ago, and he has followed up with the County Treasurer's Office and compiled a list of eleven parcels. He explained that he would like everyone's opinions and feelings on whether now is the time for the City to take on more blighted properties. He explained that the City made great strides last year, and he would like to continue building on what they have done.

Alderman Crawford explained that there are four parcels on the list that have interested parties willing to demolish the structures at their own cost. He explained that the City needs to continue thinking outside the box for blighted properties.

Alderman George asked if the City has exhausted the previous list, and Alderman Crawford explained that we had. He note that the last parcel with work that has not been completed is on the North Eleventh Street property, where Rural Revitalization Corporation is still working on renovating the property.

Alderman Dougherty asked when the last parcels were received from the County, and Alderman Crawford replied that it was three years ago. Alderman Dougherty explained that it took three years to take care of thirteen properties, and asked if the Council wants to consider taking on less this year. Alderman Gonzalez explained that he feels that the City should only take properties if we have the resources to handle them immediately. He would like to take a more conservative approach.

Alderman Crawford asked if taking the thirteen properties was a burden, or if the City help prevent slumlords from getting the properties. He understands that the City was holding onto blight, but at least it was uninhabited blight.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if all of the properties on this list have been declared “Dangerous Buildings” by Code Enforcement, and Alderman Crawford replied that they have not been. Alderman Dougherty explained that these are properties in the City on the County’s foreclosure list that are set to go on the auction block.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if the inspection law that the Council passed would help. He explained that he does not want another mountain like the Council had before. He would rather see hills than mountains. Alderman Crawford explained that he agrees, that the Council has to be careful to ensure that we are not taking on too much.

Alderman Andreano explained that at times residents have approached her about splitting vacant parcels so that each adjacent landowner gets part of the land. She asked if this is possible, Mr. DiCerbo replied that it could happen.

A motion to enter into executive session to discuss the potential acquisition or sale of real property was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Andreano. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Executive session began at approximately 6:35 p.m.

A motion to adjourn from executive session was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Executive session adjourned at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Alderman Crawford explained that the Council has asked Mayor Aiello to reach out to the County to inquire regarding deeding the following properties to the City of Olean: 501 Front Street; 1013 Washington Street; 303 East Elm Street, and 250 East Riverside Drive.

c. Discussion – Lights on Houghton Avenue

Alderman Andreano explained that she has met with Alderman George and Mr. Ring regarding the area of Houghton Avenue where the Seneca Avenue Cutco plant is located. She explained that there is concern or jaywalking and lighting issues during changing shifts, and the primary goal tonight is to discuss the lighting (as crosswalks may occur in the future as a joint venture between the City and Cutco).

Alderman Andreano explained that there are two poles which are currently streetlights that should be converted to new LED lights. In addition, there are currently poles with electric and no lights, and she proposes adding LED lighting to either one or both of these poles.

Alderman George explained that Cutco’s Joint Safety and Health Committee met to discuss lighting on Houghton Avenue. He explained that there are lights on each end of the block, as well as one in the middle. HE explained that this is not in line with where the parking is on the street and he recommends the addition of a light as shown on a diagram presented by Mr. Ring.

Alderman Andreano explained that people come and go very early and very late when it is dark.

Alderman Witte explained that she is fine with the addition of a light.

Alderman George explained that they would like to see the addition of one light, as well as conversion of the rest of the lights on the street to LED's.

Mayor Aiello asked if there is a cost for this, and Mr. Ring explained that the cost would be for the additional electric each year for the additional light.

Alderman Andreano explained that she will present a PL at the next Regular Meeting.

5. Approval of Committee Reports

None

6. Adjournment

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