

PUBLIC SAFETY

Tuesday, May 21, 2019 – 5:50 p.m.

Police Training Room – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Andreano, Vice Chairman Gonzalez, Alderman Witte, Alderman Dougherty, 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 5:50 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present except Aldermen Crawford and Smith, who were excused.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Committee Meeting (Tuesday, May 7, 2019)

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2019 meeting was made by Alderman Andreano, seconded by Alderman Dougherty. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

3. Unfinished Business

None

4. New Referrals for Consideration

a. Discussion – Tree Safety Issue, 1015 Seneca Avenue

Alderman Andreano explained that she sent photos of this situation to the committee, and explained that this has been an issue for a long time. She explained that she, as well as Mayor Aiello and Mr. Ring, have been to the property to look at the tree and the situation. The tree is not dead or dying, so the City Forester does not recommend taking it down. She explained that the tree is causing issues with the sidewalk, and due to this, the homeowners are requesting that the tree come down. She noted that the City also has an issue with the condition of the sidewalk that is due to the tree. Alderman Andreano noted that there is very little subway on the entire block. She explained that in order for the homeowner to fix the sidewalk, the tree really needs to come down.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that he guarantees that worse sidewalks can be found in the City that have been damaged by trees.

Alderman Andreano explained that the homeowner can't afford to both take down the tree and fix the sidewalk, and that she feels that the tree is partially the responsibility of the City. . She

explained that there is also no curbing to protect the sidewalk and very little subway, so plows can damage the sidewalk in the winter. She added that Mr. Ring explained that delineators can be put in to protect this space from plows.

Mr. Ring explained that there have been a few Tree Board meetings, and that the Board will not approve the removal of a tree unless there is less than five years left in its life. He explained that they will consider an exception to this rule if the purpose of taking down the tree is for a property owner doing improvements to their property. He explained that the tree is almost entirely in the right of way, and it pushes the sidewalk into the curb.

Alderman Witte asked Mr. Ring if it is the homeowner's responsibility to take care of the tree, and Mr. Ring replied that it is. Alderman Andreano explained that the resident wants the City to put curbing in if she pays for the tree and the sidewalk.

Alderman George asked what changes would be made if and when the City redoes the entire street, and Mr. Ring replied that the curb would be moved inward. Alderman George asked what the City would do with this particular parcel, and Mr. Ring explained that the City has taken down large trees in the past and replanted other trees to replace them.

Alderman Andreano asked how the committee would vote if she put in a PL to take the tree down, and Alderman Gonzalez replied that he would vote "no". Alderman Witte added that if you do this for one resident, you will have to do it for all the others. Mayor Aiello explained that he could see a PL moving forward that authorizes the resident to remove the tree at their own expense. Mr. Ring added that he would like to see the condition that the resident can take the tree down at their expense, if they also repair or replace the sidewalk.

Alderman Andreano explained that the resident has sent a letter to the City Clerk to put the City on notice about the tree, and Mayor Aiello explained that he will look to see if a letter has been filed.

Alderman Andreano will introduce a PL and the next regular meeting.

b. Discussion – East View No Parking / No Standing

Alderman Andreano explained that she also sent the committee photos of this situation. She explained that a lot of the area around East View has both no parking and no standing restrictions, but there is an area with signs that are only for no parking, and not for no standing. She explained that the issue is that people are standing in this area, and won't move when the school's Safety Patrol Officer asks them to move. She would like to see the "No Parking" signs changed to "No Parking or Standing".

Alderman Witte explained that there was the same issue several years ago at Boardmanville, and that people sitting in their cars would create a lot of congestion. Mayor Aiello added that this has always been an issue, and will always be an issue. He explained that at one time, no parking, standing, or stopping was considered for this area.

Alderman Andreano explained that with the building project, there may be a different drop off in the future, which may help the situation. In the meantime, she will put forth a PL for consideration.

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 6:05 p.m.