

PUBLIC SAFETY

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 – 6:10 p.m.

via Zoom

Present: Members: Chairman Robinson, Vice Chairman Barnard, Alderman Witte, Alderman Panus, Alderman Gonzalez, Alderman Crawford, and Alderman Anastasia. Others: Mayor William Aiello; Fred Saradin, City Auditor; Bob Ring, Director of Public Works, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary.

1. Roll Call

Alderman Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Committee Meetings (Tuesday, March 16, 2021)

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2021 meeting was made by Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Barnard. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

3. Unfinished Business

None

4. New Referrals for Consideration

- a. PL #15-21: (Anastasia) To amend the City of Olean Code of Ordinances Section 24-135 to prohibit parking on the east side of Maple Street at its intersection with Root Street.

Alderman Anastasia explained that this was discussed during the last Public Safety Committee meeting. He explained that he is just asking for a “No Parking Here to Corner” sign. He would like this to be two car lengths from the fire hydrant. He explained that this was highly recommended by both the Fire Chief and Police Chief. Alderman Crawford explained that he took a look at the area and agrees, and Alderman Robinson explained that he looked at the area and sees no issues.

A motion to approve PL #15-21 was made by Alderman Anastasia, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to City Attorney for Resolution.

b. Discussion – Supporting Local Minorities

Alderman Witte explained that as Chairman of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, she feels that they have come up with a lot of good suggestions that will be brought to the Council. She

explained that she thinks that we need to keep talking and that it has been a good thing for our community, along with the Police Reform Committee. She explained that she does have some concerns but she will voice them later. It is important that we keep talking with each other and be inclusive of the community.

Alderman Robinson explained that he would like to echo this. He explained that we need to work with each other and try our best to support one another. He explained that from March 19, 2020 through February 28, 2021 there were more than 3,700 hate incidents against Americans of Asian and Pacific Island decent. He explained that this does not include the recent killings in Atlanta. HE explained that a lot of times we hear that we aren't a big city and it doesn't happen in Olean, but he thinks that this is just ignorance. People tend to ignore what is going on in the US and Olean.

Alderman Robinson explained that we have a lot of minorities in our community. He explained that we have Blacks, Latinos, Asians, and other groups like LGBTQIA, senior citizens, and the physically disabled. He explained that there are times when stereotypes are brought out. He explained that we need to realize that we need to show a little more respect for one another and we need to get to know one another. Sometimes just by greeting people and saying hello or starting a conversation we are helping others to feel more welcome in the community. He explained that he wanted to bring awareness up. We are a small community, but a City and we need to carry ourselves as such and look out for one another.

Alderman Witte explained that she did go to the Mayor with some concerns from folks in the Asian American community. She explained that the Mayor reassured her that we are there to support them and to contact us or the Police Department if there are any issues. She explained that she would just encourage people to be a good neighbor, because it goes a long way.

c. Discussion – Crossings

Alderman Anastasia explained that he was informed by a constituent near St. John's about kids that were crossing the road where there is a crossing sign but no crosswalk. He explained that the kids were almost hit by a car. In Allegany by St. Bonaventure there are reflective strips down the poles where the crossings are, and he feels that this would be a good idea for this area, especially since kids go to St. John's. He explained that this is a highly used crossing area.

Alderman Witte explained that she would agree that this is a great idea. Mr. Ring explained that we have never used these before but he would look into it. He explained that in this area he would start with a high visibility crosswalk. He explained that the vertical strips are reflective at night but not during the day. He thinks that they could be a bit of a distraction but he will look into them and look at this area for a crosswalk. Alderman Anastasia asked that he report back

to the Council when he knows what he has decided to do. Alderman Robinson explained that he feels that we should look at these anywhere that we could have similar issues.

Alderman Crawford explained that he has been talking to the Mayor about Earth Day coming up. He wondered if anyone has any thoughts or ideas about this. Mayor Aiello explained that we do have an event scheduled because of the tree grant we received, so they will be planting trees at Forness Park. He explained that he thought that we could do something similar to the cleanup day organized a couple of years ago. He explained that groups got together then and cleaned up as much of the City as they could. Alderman Crawford explained that maybe in the coming week the Council can collaborate with the Mayor on that and plan something together that can be shared with the community during next week's regular meeting.

5. Executive Session

A motion to enter into executive session to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law was made by Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Crawford. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Executive Session began at approximately 6:20 p.m.

A motion to adjourn from Executive Session was made by Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Executive session ended at approximately 6:45 p.m.

6. Approval of Committee Reports

A motion to approve committee reports was made by Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Crawford. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

7. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Anastasia. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.