

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Tuesday, May 15, 2018 – 5:30 p.m.

Police Training Room – Olean Municipal Building

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

1. Roll Call

Alderman Gonzalez 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 Meetings (Tuesday, May 1, 2018)

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2018 committee meeting was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Andreano. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

3. Unfinished Business

None

4. New Referrals for Consideration

a. Discussion – Olean Area Charter for Compassion

Alderman Andreano introduced Rob Walk, Jean Walk, and Vicki Kearns.

Mr. Walk stated that in January 2017, a lot of the area's clergy met to discuss the "Golden Rule", which is the core, unifying value of those of all political values, orientation and organization. He explained that the Charter for Compassion Organization was created about ten years ago. The clergy group has met monthly since January 2017, and their current goal is to get 2,000 individual signatures and to have Olean declared a Charter for Compassion community.

He continued that the group has also been meeting with various local agencies, about 40 so far, who are in support of the program. Many of the organizations recommend becoming a Charter for Compassion City, in order to post the status on their websites. They believe that this will help encourage people to come to Olean.

He continued that the main goal is to be compassionate. They would like to see an increase in volunteerism in the community. He is not implying that Olean needs to become compassionate, because we already are. They simply want to coordinate and focus efforts. He has already gotten around 1,000 signatures. The signature page has the option to check if someone is willing to help out, and they are asking these people for two hours of volunteer time a month,.

Ms. Walk stated that they have had a lot of different meetings with a lot of different groups. There is a big issue getting volunteers since Olean is a more rural, non urban community. This is a global initiative that she strongly suggests that Olean participate in.

Ms. Kearns stated that a Charter for Compassion Community is a more economically prosperous community. There was a study done on why this is so, and a lot of work has been done to try to identify what helps rural poverty. It is found that social capital helps sustain small businesses, and it builds bridges among businesses, corporations, and individuals. The more this occurs, the better businesses do, and the better neighbors do.

Alderman Andreano questioned why Olean General Hospital is not on the list of involved organizations, and Mr. Walk replied that it is because Olean General Hospital is part of a larger, non-local hospital network, and they need to confer with the organization before they can pledge their support. Alderman Andreano questioned if Mr. DiCerbo foresees any issues arising from this, and he replied that the City of Louisville has been doing this since 2014. They have seen no issues or challenges arising from the declaration that they are a Charter for Compassion City.

Alderman Gonzalez questioned if this is not a faith based organization with no backing religion, and Ms. Walk stated that this is not tied to any particular religion or faith. The idea of the "Golden Rule" is based on the human experience, and doing unto others as you would have done unto yourself.

Mr. Walk mentioned that they are not seeking any funds, as this program is ran by donations.

Alderman Smith asked if this requires a resolution, and Mr. DiCerbo replied that it does. Alderman Smith stated that he would like to think about this from a governmental standpoint. The resolution will not represent just the Council, but the 12,000 people in the City. He wants to make sure that the Council understands what they are doing.

Alderman Witte mentioned that she would like to see Rebuilding Together added to the list of supporters.

Mr. Walk stated that the things that this organization promotes are already happening. He would simply like to see more people get involved.

Alderman Crawford explained that he sees this as a breath of fresh air with all the negativity that they often face. He sees no problems with this,. He would like to see some positive will all the negative in the world.

A resolution will be introduced at the next Regular Meeting for a vote.

5. Stray and Feral Cat Issues

Ms. Linderman, a resident of the City, stated that she was curious regarding the progress made since a January meeting with the Cattaraugus County Catnippers. She recalled that their attorney recommended changing legislation in the City, and wondered if there has been any progress. Alderman Dougherty reminded the committee that the leash law would need to be amended so that cats could run at large and are not required to be leashed.

Mr. DiCerbo stated that if an amendment is made to the legislation, he anticipates seeing it done in connection with funding for the TNVR program.

Alderman Crawford stated that he has been in discussions with Mr. DiCerbo, who has advised that the legislation change can occur pretty quickly and will only take a couple of weeks. The City does have about \$5,000 set aside for the program, but we are still looking for a low cost spay and neuter program. He will be discussing expanding the scope of the program with the County Legislature. He is hoping that Cattaraugus County, as a whole, can step up and aid with this program and funding.

Ms. Linderman questioned if there has been any discussions with the SPCA recently, and Mayor Aiello replied that there has not been. Alderman Crawford stated that this is something that we could sit down and discuss to move forward.

6. Approval of Committee Reports

None

7. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Andreano. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.