

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Crawford, Alderman Witte, Alderman Barnard and Alderman Robinson. Others: Alderman Panus; Alderman Anastasia; Mayor William Aiello; Ron Richardson, Police Chief, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary.

### 1. Roll Call

Alderman Crawford called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked that the record show that all Aldermen were present except Alderman Gonzalez, who was excused.

### 2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Committee Meeting (Tuesday, October 5, 2021)

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2021 committee meeting was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Robinson. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

### 3. Unfinished Business

#### a. PL #52-21: (Witte) To adopt the City of Olean Employee Social Media Policy.

Alderman Witte explained that she has met with our new Human Resource Specialist who was going to review this for the Council. She explained that she was speaking with the Mayor and he did not see anything in the language that would not be acceptable.

Alderman Robinson asked what the course of action would be if an employee violated the policy. Mayor Aiello explained that if he or a Department Head receives a complaint, that it would then be passed along to the HR Specialist who would do an investigation and conduct necessary interviews. Corrective action would then be taken. Alderman Robinson asked if the City has a Code of Ethics, and Mayor Aiello responded that we do but that it needs work as well.

Alderman Crawford explained that since a number of the bargaining units have progressive discipline, it may be beneficial to include the procedure in the policy, He explained that he doesn't really know how enforcement or discipliner will work and he wonders if the policy should reference the collective bargaining agreements. Alderman Witte explained that she feels that the more detailed the policy is, the better. She explained that she does not want to leave thing open to interpretation, especially with multiple bargaining units. She explained that perhaps we need to take another look at this before moving forward and what the steps are. Alderman Crawford explained that language could be added to explain that any complaint received will be investigated by the Human Resources Specialist and findings of the

investigation will be reviewed by the Department Head, who will determine the appropriate discipline. Mayor Aiello explained that this sounds good.

Alderman Crawford explained that we will be good to go once the Council hears from Mr. Near, the Human Resources Specialist, on this proposed policy. Alderman Witte explained that she will meet with him.

A motion to postpone PL #52-21 to the next Strategic Planning committee meeting was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman Crawford. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

#### 4. New Referrals for Consideration

##### a. Discussion Items

##### i. Murals

Alderman Robinson explained that he would like to thank Sammy Gonzalez who brought this to his attention. He explained that he would also like to apologize because he did not realize in the beginning the process for this and he was showing frustration. He explained that he did not understand the logistics involved and that this was more in depth than he thought.

Alderman Robinson explained that he met over the past few weeks with numerous artists via Zoom, over the phone and in person, including Victoria Swier and Andy Mellon. He explained that he also discussed with Shawn Dunwoody from Rochester, a renowned artist, and Amy Vena from Olean. He explained that he discussed the process of coming into the City, learning what people want and coming up with different way of getting the community involved, including the Paint Day method. He explained that he spoke with Meg Saligman, who is interested in doing a mural at JCC in honor of her father. He explained that he has met with Mikel Wintermantel, the Executive Director of the Tri-County Arts Council as well.

Alderman Robinson explained that there are a lot of artists that are interested in helping Olean with this, and if we can get artists together that we can do something in the City called a Paint Day where we involve everyone in the City. He explained that we can do either one project at a time or multiple projects, and we can do something like a paint-by-number where people can come in, including kids, to help paint the mural. He explained that the participants are also given a card that shows that they have helped paint the mural. He explained that this would be good for getting the community together and it would be beneficial to the City. He explained that this is also something that could draw people to the City, and noted that Shawn Dunwoody has a huge Instagram following.

Alderman Robinson explained that spots and ideas are important to the artists, and we don't want to get in their way. He explained that we want to allow them to get together and come up

with their thoughts and ideas and then once there is more information he will bring it back to the Council. He explained that they will also put together a Photoshop presentation so we can visualize what will be done, and from there the Council can move forward. He explained that his goal and what he envisions is people coming to the City to tour because of the arts, statues, festivals, and things for the family. He explained that people from bigger cities could move here and telecommunicate. He explained that he thinks that murals are a small part of the marketing goal and he is really excited about this.

Alderman Witte explained that she thinks that Alderman Robinson's vision and getting people in the community involved is great and she can't wait to get started. Mayor Aiello noted that there were a couple of other inquires about this as well. He explained that the biggest question that he gets is how much funding we have for this. He explained that we currently have nothing budgeted so as we move forward, we will have to allocate funding.

Alderman Robinson explained that when he spoke with Mr. Wintermantel, he explained that they are a not-for-profit and he is hoping that they take the lead and try for grants to get things paid for. He explained that they are experienced with that. He noted that he did touch base with Ms. Kerper who provided him some information about possible grants, which he forwarded to Mr. Wintermantel. Alderman Crawford explained that budget is a valid point, and it may be beneficial to have a sit down with the Mayor, Ms. Kerper, Mr. Wintermantel and Alderman Robinson to talk about what the strategy is, what grants might be available, the timeline, and the project schedule.

#### ii. Franchot Park Entrance Update

Mayor Aiello explained that Mr. Ring is away at a NYCOM Public Works conference. He explained that he did get updates on these items for the Council.

Mayor Aiello explained that construction is expected in 2022 for Franchot Park. He explained that the funding may be used as a grant match for improvements in the park and to transition the pool to a splash pad. He explained that another idea is as and volleyball court between the horseshoe pits and the levy. He explained that \$50,000 was allocated for the entrance and he knows that there was some interest in doing more at the park.

#### iii. Forness Park Grant Update

Mayor Aiello explained that we will be working on this over the winter so that we are ready in the spring for the grant application for the Ralph Wilson Foundation, as well a grant application to Empire State Development. He explained that there are a lot of interesting things that we are working on and he will keep the Council in the loop.

#### iv. Inclusive Playground Project Update

Mayor Aiello explained that we will be working with InTandem, and we have \$50,000 toward this project. He explained that the big question is where this equipment should go, and meetings will be held in the future to work on this.

#### v. Stardust Pump Station Update

Mayor Aiello explained that we are completing the final construction items at the Stardust Pump Station project. He explained that we are working on the final pump connections and electrical work. We will begin the startup and testing this winter. Mayor Aiello explained that Mr. Ring had asked Alderman Witte to discuss with the residents to see what, if any, additional landscaping they would like to see, and Alderman Witte explained that they have worked on this.

#### vi. East State Street – Vacant City-Owned Land Update

Mayor Aiello explained that we applied for two grants for this property. He explained that we have been turned down on the AARP grant and we are waiting to hear back on the Lowe's grant. He explained that as a part of the East State Street Project the sidewalk will be widened there.

Mayor Aiello explained that ideas include a handicapped accessible door on this side of the center, seating and gazebos, and possibly a raised garden for the seniors. He explained that there will also need to be decisions as to whether this is open to the public or only the seniors at the center.

Alderman Crawford explained that he has been hoping that a splash pad in Olean would become reality for a while. He explained that he fully supports Mayor Aiello and Mr. Ring in their mission to turn the old wading pool into a splash pad, especially with the issues that the City has finding lifeguards. He explained that this is an older facility and he really wants to bring life back to the Franchot community.

Alderman Crawford explained that he likes that concept of Marcus Park for the inclusive playground equipment since it is close to Subcon. He explained that this could be some nice cohesion with the location. Mayor Aiello explained that he is waiting to hear back from Mr. Sorokes, but that the area by the pond at Forness could be great, too. He explained that Forness could actually have two areas, one by the pond and one closer to the restroom facility. He explained that there is a lot of parking there. He noted that there is also the property on the 300 block of North 13<sup>th</sup> Street where we tore down the house. He noted that InTandem was considering property that the URA owns, but that it is in a long term lease with Elantas.

Mayor Aiello explained that the splash pad idea really came to the forefront when we didn't get many lifeguards this year. He explained that Mr. Shewairy and Mr. Andhor went to see one and learned that pumps aren't needed as the water pressure alone can work it. He explained that chemicals are not being used either, so it is more economical to run. He explained that the water could be on timers. He noted that he would still want a staff member there but that a lifeguard wouldn't be needed. The concession stand could be open again as well. He explained that we have some opportunities here. Mr. Ring will work on estimates for a splash pad and what we need to do.

Alderman Crawford explained that he has done some research on the stimulus money received, and he just read something from NYCOM or another source about the number of projects that are being done with this money. He explained that he wonders if there is some flexibility to use this funding for working on a splash pad since this would deal with water lines and the money can be used for infrastructure. Mayor Aiello explained that in doing more research, he found that open outdoor activities in parks are fundable, so we have some opportunity here. Alderman Crawford explained that other things presented included challenges specific to COVID dealing with employment, and he wonders if not finding lifeguards would qualify. He explained that he knows that the Fire Chief and DPW are going after higher needs with the stimulus money, but maybe we can collaborate and find an awesome way to do something great for the community.

Alderman Witte explained that halfway through the year we really need to sit down and see where our finances are at. She asked if the City is working together with InTandem or if projects will be separate. She explained that she is not sure what their vision is.

Alderman Witte explained that in the monthly bills, she saw a bill for \$28,000 for lighting, and wonders if that can come out of the solar energy savings given to the City. Mayor Aiello explained that he will look into that and find out. He explained that we receive net metering credits and we have to provide National Grid with what accounts we want our credits applied to. Alderman Witte explained that she just thought that this could help cut down on the \$28,000 lighting cost. Mayor Aiello explained that we are doing great, and since we started the program we have received close to \$200,000 in credits.

Alderman Crawford asked if we are partnering with InTandem and if we are working with them to support each other and leverage the money that the City set aside, and Mayor Aiello explained that this is the direction that he thinks that we are going to but that he is playing phone tag with Mr. Sorokes. He explained that we need to sit down to speak with them and come up with a plan. He explained that he thinks that more people collaborating, the more leverage you get when you go to apply for grants. Alderman Crawford responded that he wants to do whatever gives us the most bang for our buck in the community. Alderman Witte

explained that she knows that it is a great thing whenever the public and private sectors get together to do these sorts of projects.

Alderman Anastasia asked if the City is still looking at a dog park, and Mayor Aiello explained that there was just a meeting last Friday regarding this. He explained that an architect is working on this DRI project and it is going to take some time because we need to do our due diligence for the park. He explained that the plans are still there and it will be very nice. He noted that it is scheduled for 2022. Alderman Crawford explained that this is in a historical district so there needs to be a SEQR and everything needs to go through SHPO. Mayor Aiello explained that many years ago this used to be a cemetery, and remains were moved to the South Olean cemetery.

Alderman Barnard explained that he does not feel that a dog park in Oak Hill Park is a good idea. He explained that there are too many kids in the park. Alderman Crawford responded that there is a lot of fencing that is going around the park, as well as arborvitaes along the exterior of the five foot fencing. He explained that the dog park is set to go in an area of the park that is not really used right now except for after school fights and the occasional overdose. He explained that this is what is advised so dogs don't go into playgrounds.

#### 5. Approval of Committee Reports

None

#### 6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15 p.m.