

CITY OPERATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 2, 2018 – 5:31 p.m.

Police Training Room – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Andreano, Vice Chairman Gonzalez, Alderman Witte, Alderman Dougherty, Alderman Crawford, Alderman Smith, 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, Fred Saradin, City Auditor, and Michiko McElfresh, Mayor's Secretary.

1. Roll Call

Alderman Smith called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present.

2. Unfinished Business

- a. PL #89-18: (Crawford) To amend and replace the City of Olean Code of Ordinances Chapter 27, Article 5, Plumbing.

Alderman has not received any information and made a motion to postpone until the next City Operations Committee Meeting. Seconded by Alderman Smith. Voice Vote. All Ayes

1. New Referrals for Consideration New Referrals for Consideration

- a. Discussion Item: Sidewalk Program

Alderman Crawford said he put this on the agenda, hoping to do a sidewalk program, much like the program that Alderman Smith and Mr. Ring devised for the trees –a more a formalized process for the sidewalk such as addressing, fixing and financing the process of damaged sidewalks. He asked if we should look at what is on the books.

Alderman Smith said the Council has looked at sidewalks before and is willing to try to formalize the process again. Alderman Witte concurred.

Alderman Gonzalez, although not on the committee, said he would be in favor of something like the tree program, with financing or assistance to make it easier for residents to upgrade their sidewalks. But does not think that the City should take on the burden of sidewalk maintenance as it is very costly.

Alderman Crawford said that he understands that sidewalks get fixed when someone complains and asked if that is a good idea. Perhaps the Mayor or Alderman can make suggestion. Mayor

Aiello said that a few years ago the City had interns that labeled bad sidewalks. He said that was effective. He added that perhaps they could do that and in the spring and once they do an inventory of sidewalks in need of repair, the City could come up with a plan to address the problem.

Alderman Dougherty said, as devil's advocate, if the City were to fix sidewalks and charge residents, the City takes on additional burden if the charge goes to taxes—it is unclear if the City would get re-imbursement from the County. Therefore the City would have to work that out before we take over the sidewalks. Mayor Aiello suggested that the City put a lien on their property instead of going through the County. Mr. DeCerbo explained how that can work.

Mr. Saradin said that the County does reimburse in the past for sidewalks. It is hard to predict, but there is about \$20,000 in a capital account for sidewalks.

Mr. Gonzalez wondered if there is \$/feet for the new sidewalk. Mr. Ring said that they cost about \$250 per block.

Alderman Witte asked if it is less expensive for the City or the homeowner to do replace sidewalks. Mr. Ring said it is less expensive for the City to do it if it is very small job. But on average it is less expensive for the homeowner or contractor to do it.

Alderman Crawford said that depending on the way the law is crafted, they can maybe share the cost with the homeowner.

Mr. Gonzalez asked when was the last time an order to remedy was sent regarding sidewalks. Mr. Ring said that the City usually does 15 or 20 per year. He also said that the City did do a ward by ward update years ago, the homeowner was responsible.

Mr. Crawford said that if Olean was to become truly walkable then the sidewalks in the neighborhoods should be fixed and it should not be complaint based. Alderman Witte said that people are not apt to call the City on their neighbor about fixing sidewalks.

Alderman Gonzalez said that the sidewalk condition on home inspections list. Mayor said that it was on there.

Chief Bell said that there are places in the City that do not have sidewalks.

John said the soon the better but would be willing to wait until Spring to get the job down

a. Discussion Item: Sexual Harassment

Mayor Aiello said that all employers have to institute a Sexual Harassment Policy by October 9, 2018. They have been getting information from NYCOM, our insurer, and labor counsel. He

passed around the draft of the policy that the Department of Labor has put out for guidance. He said that we have enough trainers in house. All employees, all volunteers, Council Members etc. will be made aware of the new policy and go through the training

Alderman Andreano asked if she had already gone through training and has a certificate, does she have to take it again.

When approved by the Council it will be sent out to all employees. The Department Heads and the Mayor's office will be the recipient of the complaints. All supervisors must act on it if they see any sexual harassment.

Mayor Aiello is having Mr. Saradin start work on a new employee manual that will include the policy. The trainers will have a more interactive training which is required.

He would like to get it out as soon as possible. He has sent the draft to the Union Presidents to look at them.

Mr. Smith asked about an employee handbook. Mayor Aiello said that the City is in the process of updating all policies, and a handbook.

Mr. Saradin said that this is very serious. He said that a person can be financially responsible for any damages that the City incurs. Have to be careful what we say to each other.

Mr. Gonzalez said that most of the Council Members have probably signed one of these before. Is this any different?

Mayor Aiello said that the policy is not different because the City is the municipality. And in answer to Kelly's question as long as your employer covers all the points that is in the City's policy. The City took the State's suggested policy and adapted—so as to not miss any points in the policy.

In addition any vendor that comes into the building will have to have a policy.

Mr. Crawford asked Mr. DeCervo if they needed a formal motion at this meeting. He said no. Mayor Aiello asked the Council members to look at this and get back to him and it will be on the agenda for Tuesday's meeting. If there are no objections to the policy he will start distributing.

3. Approval of Committee Reports

None

4. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Smith seconded by Alderman George. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:57p.m.