

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

December 18, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS – OLEAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING

IN ATTENDANCE WERE: ALDERMEN CRAWFORD, WITTE, ANDREANO, GONZALEZ, DOUGHERTY, SMITH, AND GEORGE. OTHERS: MAYOR WILLIAM AIELLO; LENS MARTIAL, CITY CLERK; NICHOLAS DICERBO. JR., CITY ATTORNEY; BOB RING, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS; BOB BELL, FIRE CHIEF; JEFF ROWLEY, POLICE CHIEF, AND TIFFANY TAYLOR, MANAGERIAL CONFIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY.

Alderman Crawford called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked that the record show that all Aldermen were present.

1. Finance & Bills

A motion to approve Finance and Bills was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman George. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

Mr. Saradin presented a handout to the Council, which summarized the first six months of the 2018-2019 budget year. He explained that, compared to the same six month period from the 2017-2018 budget year, sales tax revenue is \$171,000 higher, ambulance revenue is \$27,000 higher, ice skating revenue is \$10,000 higher, property tax revenue is \$217,000 higher (due to taxes being paid earlier), and overall revenue is \$498,000 higher. He added that pension costs came in \$20,000 under budget. Total costs are \$214,000 higher because of an extra pay period in November, which was not seen until December of last year. He summarized that if you take all other costs through November with the exception of payroll, expenditures are \$100,000 less than last year.

Mr. Saradin explained that there is \$106,872 in Capital Fund #102 for Vehicle Replacement, \$29,557 in Capital Fund #103 for Police Equipment, \$195,699 in Capital Fund #118 for Ambulance Reserve, and \$17,636 in Capital Fund #132 for Parking Lots. He explained that these are amounts that have been put away so that purchases in these areas can be made without affecting the General Fund.

Alderman Crawford asked where the sales tax revenue is from, and Mr. Saradin replied that it comes from several sources. First, it comes from an increase in car sales locally, an increase in fuel tax, a stronger economy, and the North Union Street effort is enhancing business. Alderman Crawford commented that whatever the City is doing seems to be putting us in the right direction.

Alderman Witte asked if healthcare costs are rising, and Mr. Saradin explained that the rate increase that we will see come January 1st is 1.61%. He explained that the increases in the past have been much higher, and Mayor Aiello noted that last year's increase was around 6%. Mr.

Saradin explained that the City is experience rated for insurance, and it appears that a lot of City employees are getting involved with wellness programs and preventative care to help keep costs down. Alderman Crawford asked if this increase is in the current budget, and Mr. Saradin replied that he allowed for a 6% increase in the budget. We should see the City come in under budget then for the healthcare costs.

2. 2018 Common Council Highlights

See attached PowerPoint.

3. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Andreano. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.



Olean Common Council Office

2018 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

OLEAN COMMON COUNCIL

December 18th 2018

This presentation represents a quick and limited summary of what the Olean Common Council accomplished in 2018. I thought having a review like this on the last regular meeting of the year would be a nice way to reflect on where we've been and where we are going in the new year.

Key Legislative Efforts

Fight the Blight Campaign

- Worked towards remedying all city-owned blighted properties
- Successfully minimized the cost to Olean taxpayers saving city taxpayers in excess of \$200,000
- Great efforts by all involved: the Common Council, the Mayor, key department heads & County land bank
- Thank you to the residents and organizations who stepped up!



Certainly, first and foremost is the focus that everyone in this city has had on fighting blight this past year~ It has been a phenomenal year to tear down these homes! I heard that there was somewhere up around 20 or more of these slum properties demolished or scheduled for demo in the city in this year alone.

That to me is major accomplishment! This Council worked with the mayor, department heads, and private individuals and organizations in our community to improve neighborhoods and property values by eliminating these cancerous tumors from our streets. Those that could be saved – are in the process of rehabilitating them – while others have come down or are planned to come down.

The battle has just begun with blight, but with the renewed efforts of this Council, in collaboration with the mayor's office and the County – I feel this is a battle we can win.

Key Legislative Efforts Con't

Tree Policy Update and Hazardous Tree Removals

- Passed special funding to remove backlog of dangerous trees
- Made community sidewalks and streets much safer
- Updated old tree policy & rebooted tree board
- Split cost of tree removals 50/50
- Identified "safe" trees to use in city right of way and process for grieving removals



Next, we did a great job recognizing opportunities to update an old, antiquated piece of legislation and make it more sustainable for years to come. The Council pushed for the safety of our community and secured additional funding to tear down more than twenty dangerous trees lining our streets and sidewalks.

Kudos to the Council for pursuing a new policy and rebooting the tree board to give a more formalized process to tree removals – including a grievance process. Additionally, the Council passed a funding policy between the city and the homeowner, where they would share the costs of the tree removals 50/50 instead of 100% on the homeowner. This should still help stretch the city's budget funding while not over-burdening our taxpayers.

Key Legislative Efforts Con't

Passed 2018-19 Budget

- Passed a budget that secured financial sustainability for the City, using zero from Fund Balance for operational expenditures
- Worked with the Mayor to keep funding within tax cap requirements

Passed funding for Major Projects

- Secured funding for Farmer's Market, Bike Trail and Pedestrian Crossings, as well as Walkable Phase 2

Creation of the Audit and Compliance Committee

- Addressing material weaknesses in reporting and oversight
- Tightening of City's internal control policies to ensure transparency

As always, the budget is a challenging process but I'm proud to say that we worked with the mayor to produce a sustainable and affordable city budget this past year – which didn't go above the tax cap nor did it require additional fund balance to be used for ongoing operational expenses.

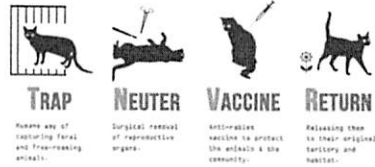
We secured bonds for major, upcoming projects like the Farmer's Market, the Bike Trail and Ped Crossings as well as Walkable Phase 2. This Council understands that part of our city's revitalization efforts will be in the form of capital investment but we are also very aware of the balance that must be maintained to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

The creation of the Audit and Compliance Committee came after recommendations of the State Comptroller's Office as well as our external auditor's, BWB. The goal of the committee, which now includes local accountants Ernie Kallenbach and Ron DiPalito, is to pass policy legislation that mandates open and clear communication as well as improves our financial and project controls. We will revisit this committee for additional policies in the beginning of 2019.

Key Legislative Efforts Con't

TNVR Policy Initiated

- Secured funding in 2018 budget; sponsor mobile neuter clinic in spring 2019 (?)
- Updated city laws to allow for program to begin legally
- Looking to align with organizations that could help control the feral cat population



By no means is this a huge step, but it is a necessary first step towards remedying the city's feral cat population. Besides potholes and roundabouts, stray cats are one of our residents' biggest complaints. In order for agencies like the Catt County Catnippers or Feral Cat Rescue to operate inside the city limits, the Council needed to pass this law allowing for the free roaming of feral cats...as once fixed and vaccinated, the agency is to return the stray to its colony.

This isn't a program or a solution that will eradicate the feral cats overnight, but many cities see a 50% reduction in the stray population over the course of 3 to 5 years. I'm proud that this Council has taken a modern and sustainable approach towards helping our smaller feline friends.

Other Legislative Efforts

- Adopted of the Allegheny River Public Access and Recreation Plan
- Accepted Jack Murphy Boulevard (Olean Gateway Project)
- Received \$200,000 for Microenterprise Grant Program (gave to OBDC for implementation)
- Railroad Underpass Agreement – for work on Front Street Railroad Bridge
- Approved 2 KaBoom! Grants applied for and awarded – Whitney Ave & King St
- Applied for and received grant for Stardust Pump Station
- Funded generators for pump stations in response to spill into Allegheny River
- Applied for and received Pedestrian Crossing Enhancement Grant
- Used leftover project funding to fund bleacher stairs, new front entrance doors, the building of a concessions stand and electrical service replacement at Recreation Center

*Thank you to all department heads, city employees and the
mayor for making 2018 a very successful year!
#movingOleanforward*

And here are some of our other legislative efforts that was worth mentioning and went beyond stop signs, potholes, and unplowed streets. At the end of the day, we are part-time representatives who do the best we can to give our wards a voice in the city government and I think that all on this Council do a great job and love this city. We are lucky to have them!

BUT I'll admit that the real thanks goes to all of our department heads and city workers for keeping things moving forward. They do a wonderful job and we appreciate their ongoing efforts!