

# COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

*TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019 – 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; FIRE CHIEF ROBERT BELL; POLICE CHIEF JEFF ROWLEY; LENS MARTIAL, CITY CLERK; NICHOLAS DICERBO, JR., CITY ATTORNEY; FRED SARADIN, CITY AUDITOR; BOB RING, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, AND MICHIKO McELFRESH, MAYOR'S SECRETARY.

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

Alderman Crawford drew the attendees' attention to the power point presentation that he brought to the meeting to discuss the clean-up Olean program that took place over the weekend. He said that he was worried that no volunteers would show-up as he got to the park at 8:45 with four dozen donuts and only Mayor Aiello and Alderman Witte were there. But people did come. Alderman Crawford mentioned that C.A.R.E.S brought the most volunteers (12) and he thanked the Alderman that attended and the Mayor. He thank Bona Responds, the Chamber of Commerce, JCC and OBD, all of who sent volunteers. He said that some former aldermen also joined in the efforts. He said it was something that could be done going forward. He thanked Beichner Waste Services, Union Sales and Worth W. Smith for the items and services that they donated. He mentioned that the African American Center donated water.

He said that the most interesting thing that was found was a bullet that had been shot.

He said that since he was organizing the event, he spent the better part of 3 hours in War Vets Park. He said that the majority of his efforts in the park went to picking up cigarette butts and chew packages. He said it was disgusting and he was disappointed. He said that we are trying to revitalize our parks and this is hampering our efforts. . He said that the Council was pussyfooting around the issue He said that he knows that the council has discussed this issue a number of times before, at least three or four times since he has been on the Council a couple of months ago the council talked about it. He said that they need to move forward and eliminate smoking and tobacco products in our parks. So he will draft a PL to bring to the Committee next week. He said enforcement is not an issue. If you eliminate smoking in parks it is easier to enforce that the flicking of a cigar butt. It is not a money grab. Our residents and children deserve better. He hoped that the Council is ready to support this issue already.

He gave special thanks to Lila Ervay and hopes this is something the City can continue to do.

Alderman Andreano told John Crawford that the no smoking in the parks in on the agenda for the next Public Safety Meeting.

1. PL #67-19: (Aiello) To award the Washington Street and North 4<sup>th</sup> Street Waterline Replacement Project.

Mayor Aiello deferred to the City Attorney Nick DiCerbo, Jr. who said that they had talked about this in committee. The company has satisfied the requirements for the bid and they are ready to go ahead and award the bid.

Alderman Witte said that the alderman were sent an email. She was not on the Council in 2015 and did not realize that the resolution to change how bids were awarded. She read the new resolution twice and thought that it makes the City sort of closed off. She said that if we give contractors from Olean and the County preference and allow them to go up to \$50,000 over the lowest bid and get awarded. She added that thewe are handicapping ourselves. The whole idea of bid process is to get the lowest cost. In this instance we are paying \$35K more because it was it awarded to a local Cattaraugus County company. She said ultimately that cost goes to our taxpayers.

She said that she supports the project—but in the near future thinks that we need to look at this resolution because we are handicapping ourselves and wonders if that is why we only got one bid for the Farmers' Market.

A motion to approve PL #67-19 was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

## 2. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman George. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.