

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 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; LENS MARTIAL, CITY CLERK; NICHOLAS DICERBO, JR., CITY ATTORNEY; FRED SARADIN, CITY AUDITOR; 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 and Bills

Alderman Crawford explained that the Council has been presented with the monthly bills. There were no comments or questions regarding Finance and Bills.

2. Annual Council Update

Alderman Crawford thanked Alderman Andreano and Alderman George for their years of great service to the City, and wished them best in their future endeavors. He thanked the members of the Council, the Mayor, Department Heads and City workers for everything that they do.

Alderman Crawford explained that in the past year, the Council in conjunction with the Mayor and other City Officials preserved the City's Fund Balance and only rose taxes by 1 percent. He explained that the Council hosted a Cleanup Day and completed improvements to the Gargoyle Park pavilion in conjunction with St. Bonaventure University. He explained that the Council funded the North 4th Street Waterline Replacement Project and approved a tax exemption for senior citizens. Alderman Crawford explained that the Council also adopted the Charter for Compassion, as well as continued to fight blight by ordering the demolition of properties on North 5th Street and North 12th Street. The Council enacted a successful Sidewalk Program to provide partial reimbursement when homeowners fix their hazardous sidewalks, and successfully updated the Tree Program to be less costly and less restrictive. The Council approved a geothermal well in the City, which is the first of its type in Olean, and passed a Resolution to make City parks tobacco and nicotine free. In addition, the Council removed taxicab rate restrictions and authorized the conversion to City streetlights to LED in order to save taxpayers money in the future.

Alderman Crawford thanked everyone who contributed in 2019 and hoped for a successful 2020.

3. Discussion - Airport

Mr. Ring explained that a few months ago, the Council gave permission for the City to apply for the next round of FAA grants, and he would like to update the Council on the status of the application. He explained that the grant has been awarded to the City, and he will need to sign an engineering agreement for next year for the projects at the airport.

Mr. Ring explained that he has presented the Council with a breakdown of projects at the airport over the next five years, and noted that the Aldermen have seen this spreadsheet at meetings in the past. He explained that in the next budget, he will be looking for funding sources to pay the match for the grant, or it will be paid out of budgeted funds. He noted that the match is \$15,600, and that these projects will mill and replace all of the pavement surfaces at the airport. He explained that according to the airport consultant, the FAA is really big on paving projects, and that the City will be able to have around \$5 million in work done for approximately 5% of the cost.

Mr. Ring explained that he has asked the consultant to bring the price tag for annual projects back down after this is complete in 2024, as this project will sustain the airport for quite some time. He noted that he would like to get the Council's thoughts on this project. Alderman Crawford asked what is being requested tonight, and Mr. Ring suggested that the Council verbally approve the Engineering Agreement for the next year. Alderman Crawford asked if this pertains only to the design portion of the plan, and Mr. Ring responded that it is correct. He explained that the project will move very slowly, and that billing has not even begun for the project. He explained that it is probably a year design phase and the City's costs are minimal. Alderman Smith explained that he is confident moving forward.

4. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:35 p.m.