

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS – OLEAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING

IN ATTENDANCE WERE: ALDERMEN GONZALEZ, WITTE, PANUS, DOUGHERTY, CRAWFORD, DAPOLITO, AND ANASTASIA. OTHERS: MAYOR WILLIAM AIELLO; LENS MARTIAL, CITY CLERK; NICHOLAS DICERBO, JR., CITY ATTORNEY; FRED SARADIN, CITY AUDITOR; BOB RING, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS; TIM RICHARDSON, FIRE CHIEF, AND TIFFANY TAYLOR, MANAGERIAL CONFIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY.

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

1. PL #21-20: (Aiello) To establish the Standard Work Days pursuant to New York State and Local Retirement System Regulation 315.4 for elected and appointed officials.

Mayor Aiello explained that this is basically housekeeping, and that it is done every year. He explained that we have to establish the regular hours for these positions and submit them to the New York State Retirement System.

A motion to approve PL #21-20 was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman DaPolito. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

2. PL #22-20: Aiello) To authorize the Mayor to execute a Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Bradford Fire Department.

Mayor Aiello explained that Mr. Richardson has been working on this for the past several weeks. Mr. Richardson explained that the City is a part of the Cattaraugus County Mutual Aid Agreement, and a part of the New York State Mobilization Plan. He explained that everything with these agreements is relatively seamless, but that we have no current agreement with the City of Bradford. He explained that when the mutual aid becomes interstate, it is best to sign agreements ahead of time in order to cover things in case things get bad and we have to send resources there or they have to send them to Olean. He explained that this is a proactive approach.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if there is a timeframe for the agreement, and Mr. Richardson explained that there is mention of COVID-19 in the agreement, but there is no expiration. He explained that the City went to Bradford for a fire last year with the ladder truck, and undoubtedly they would send resources here if they were needed. He explained that it is easier to do the agreement now rather than later when we need their mutual aid.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if the departments have ever conducted dual training. Chief Richardson explained that it is sometimes hard to schedule such training because when the department does train, it is manpower intensive and that equals a monetary and staffing issue. He explained that they have done mass drills such as the aggressive deadly behavior drill conducted on the JCC campus. He explained that with multiple agencies involved, training is more tabletop.

Alderman DaPolito asked if there is a reimbursement for expensing. Chief Richardson explained that in terms of the current situation, expenses are being tracked for FEMA purposes because we are in a State of Emergency. Alderman DaPolito asked if FEMA would reimburse for expenses, and Chief Richardson explained that they would for this situation. Alderman DaPolito asked if the City was reimbursed for sending out ladder truck to a fire in the City of Bradford, and Chief Richardson explained that they have provided mutual aid for the City as well, so expenses all come out in the wash.

Alderman Witte explained that now that Bradford Hospital and Olean General Hospital are under the same umbrella, that this is a great idea. Alderman Gonzalez explained that we don't see a lot of collaboration between Olean and Bradford, and he is happy that we are doing this.

A motion to approve PL #22-20 was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

3. PL #23-20: (Aiello) That the Common Council as Lead Agency concludes that the proposed project for the City of Olean Filtration Basin Rehabilitation and Replacement is a Type II Action and that after full review of the Environmental Assessment Form determines that the project will have no adverse environmental impact and thus declares a Negative Declaration.

Mr. Ring explained that the Council had spoken about this project two or three weeks ago, and it is to repair structural issues on the south wall of the water treatment plant in addition to replacing filter media. He explained that the Type II is a Short Form. He explained that there is very little disturbance with this project, as basically the wall will be removed and replaced. He explained that the City will be applying for a WIIA grant, and a SEQR is required for this grant application.

A motion to approve PL #23-20 was made by Alderman Dougherty, seconded by Alderman Panus. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

4. Discussion – North Union Street Streetscape Improvements Project SEQR

Mr. Ring explained that this is another Environmental Quality Review for the North Union Street Streetscape Improvements Project. He explained that this is a DRI project that is fully funded for \$900,000 to replace sidewalks and do other streetscape improvements. He explained that this is also a Type II Short Form with a negative declaration.

Mr. Ring continued that we are working with the Department of State, so a SEQR is required. He explained that the SEQR will show that we are in progress on the design portion of the project. He noted that the project will be under construction in 2021.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if there is any indication from New York State on the potential loss of DRI funding. Mayor Aiello explained that he has spoken with Chris Bauer from the Department of State, who indicated that the City is under contract for this funding and the money is there, so we are able to proceed with the DRI projects.

5. Gas Energy Contract

Mr. Ring explained that two weeks ago, the City entered into an electrical energy supply contract, and he is proposing that we go under contract for our gas supply. He explained that he is using the same competitive bid from Genesee County that was done for the electric contract. He explained that the company that he proposes the City contract with is the same company that we currently use.

Mr. Ring explained that he proposes entering into a three year fixed rate contract so we can budget moving forward. He explained that we will save money on gas supply charges over the course of the three year contract compared to the prior three year contract, although it will be only \$15,000 or so over the three years.

Alderman Witte explained that she spoke with a gas station employee, and found out that the gas price is based on the price that the station paid for the gas in the underground tanks. She asked if this agreement works like that. Mr. Ring explained that natural gas is different from diesel and unleaded fuel. He explained that it is very different and very complicated.

6. Stardust Pump Station Construction Award

Mr. Ring explained that he has spoken a number of times about the pump house that is to be built over existing water lines that supply the Stardust water tanks. He explained that bids were received after an RFP was put out, and Benson is the lowest bidder and he proposes that the Council award the contract to Benson, as they came in close enough to the budgeted amount. He noted that he will need to use some money from the water budget to keep the project under budget. Mr. Ring explained that he is asking the Council to award the agreement so that when the market opens back up, we can move forward with the project.

Alderman Crawford asked how many bids were received, and Mr. Ring responded that three were. Alderman Crawford asked how far apart the bids were, and Mr. Ring explained that one was in the \$800,000 range, one was \$700,000 and this bid was between \$650,000 and \$660,000.

Alderman Crawford asked if the City has worked with Benson before, and Mr. Ring explained that the company has done a lot of work on Homer Street, but he is unsure if we have worked directly

with them. He explained that the company does not do many public projects, but that this is typical work for them.

7. Adjournment

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