

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS – OLEAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING

IN ATTENDANCE WERE: ALDERMEN GONZALEZ, WITTE, PANUS, DOUGHERTY, CRAWFORD, ROBINSON, AND ANASTASIA. OTHERS: MAYOR WILLIAM AIELLO; LENS MARTIAL, CITY CLERK; NICHOLAS DICERBO, JR., CITY ATTORNEY; KERI KERPER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR; BOB RING, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS; JEFF ROWLEY, POLICE 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. Finance and Bills

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

2. PL #64-20: (Aiello) To authorize the transfer of \$24,393.62 of uncommitted program income from New York State administered CDBG grants currently on hand from the First Time Homebuyer Account to line item 6350.441, Demolition of Unsafe Buildings.

Ms. Kerper explained that in 2017, New York State changed the program income requirements to change how we report how much we have on hand from repayments of First Time Homebuyer loans, and if there is more than \$35,000 the income is turned over to the State. She explained that we have collected \$24,000 to go towards the demolition of homes to eliminate slum and blight, which is considered an eligible expense. She explained that the funds originally borrowed are original Community Development Block Grant funds. She explained that the action of demolition meets the HUD national objective to aid in the prevention and elimination of slums and blight. The City had done this once before in 2018.

A motion to approve PL #64-20 was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman Anastasia. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

3. PL #65-20: (Aiello) To authorize the extension of currently issued Sidewalk Café Permits to April 30, 2021.

Mayor Aiello explained that they were taking a look at this, and with the seating reduction due to COVID in the next few months there may be some good days when restaurants want to utilize outdoor seating. He explained that he felt that it would be advantageous to extend the current

permits to April 30, 2021 and then start over again. He explained that this would give restaurants the opportunity, if there is a good day, to put tables outside and serve the public outside.

Alderman Panus asked if restaurants would be able to put up temporary tents that are heated, and Mr. DiCerbo responded that they are able to, as long as it aligns with their current café permit and what they have on file with the liquor authority. Alderman Dougherty explained that he feels that this is an awesome idea.

A motion to approve PL #65-20 was made by Alderman Dougherty, seconded by Alderman Crawford. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

4. PL #66-20: (Aiello) To authorize the Mayor to enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Olean for the Indiana Avenue Sewer Project.

Mr. DiCerbo explained that this is for the Indiana Avenue sewer extension that was done over the summer, and it is the agreement for how we will bill users through the Town of Olean. He explained that it is consistent with all other Town of Olean agreements. We are adding users to the system. Alderman Crawford asked how many are being added, and Mr. Ring explained that six additional houses are being tied in.

Alderman Crawford asked if we have already invested in this sewer extension, and Mr. Ring explained that the work is completed, but we did not pay for it. He explained that the Town of Olean paid for the construction, although he believes that they received a grant for the costs. He explained that we are entering into a billing agreement. Alderman Crawford asked if Town of Olean residents are tying into our sewer district, and Mr. Ring explained that they are, and they are located on Indiana Avenue on the City line.

Alderman Panus asked if we maintain the line or if they do, and Mr. Ring explained that we maintain it as a part of the intermunicipal agreement. He explained that he believes that they are responsible for replacement, but we maintain it. This is built in with the user fee.

A motion to approve PL #66-20 was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

5. Discussion – ADA Plan and Coordinator Designation

Ms. Kerper explained that this is actually just housekeeping. She explained that she has been doing the duties of the ADA Coordinator, but a Coordinator has not been officially designated since 2017 when Ms. George was designated the ADA Coordinator. A Resolution will be added to tonight's Regular Meeting agenda for this.

6. Discussion – Conversion to Virtual Meetings

Alderman Witte explained that with the COVID numbers going up in the past week and being in the most populated area of Cattaraugus County, she feels that it is time to go virtual. We have

talked about it, and she doesn't think that things are going to be going away. As City leaders, we need to set an example, so let's get going on this. The IT Department can help.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that he completely agrees. Regardless of what anyone's beliefs are about the virus, it doesn't hurt to go virtual with meetings, and we certainly won't be the only municipality doing so. He explained that it is kind of embarrassing that we have not been virtual all along. We need to get on board immediately, and need to get plans in place to meet via Zoom as soon as next week. We need to figure it out, whatever we have to do. He explained that we have had nine and a half months to figure this out.

Alderman Dougherty explained that he feels that in a week and a half this should all be over with. Alderman Gonzalez explained that he would love it if he's right, and it would be great for everyone, but we need to do this regardless of anyone's beliefs about the virus.

Alderman Anastasia explained that he is the Union President for employees at his place of work, and rather than going to New York City for a convention this year, they are doing Zoom meetings with presidents all over the state of New York. He explained that it is really very easy when you get away from your fear of computers.

Alderman Gonzalez asked the Aldermen to think about the technology that they have and that they need. He explained that they need a camera, a microphone, and internet connection.

Alderman Crawford agreed that the meetings should go virtual, and explained that the University of Pittsburgh has gone virtual. He explained that he doesn't think that they will return for the rest of the semester. He explained that it is all about controlling the spread of the virus. He doesn't think that people are fearful for their lives, but this is something that many have done all along.

7. Adjournment

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