

Journal of Proceedings

OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLEAN, N.Y.

April 7, 2020

***COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS
COUNTY OF CATTARAUGUS
STATE OF NEW YORK***

A Special Meeting of the Olean Common Council of the City of Olean was held on Monday, April 7, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: *Aldermen Witte, Panus, Gonzalez, Dougherty, Crawford, DaPolito, and Anastasia*

ABSENT: *None*

OFFICIALS: *Mayor William Aiello; Lens Martial, City Clerk; Nicholas DiCerbo, Jr., City Attorney; Fred Saradin, City Auditor, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary*

RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Taylor explained that the total budget amount for the year 2020-2021 is \$28,248,568.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that there have been a couple of work sessions and a lot of discussion regarding the proposed budget, and he asked if there were any other questions.

Alderman Witte explained that she has been talking to the residents in her ward and the big thing that keeps repeating is that no one has a crystal ball to see what will happen, and they appreciate what the Council is about to do. Not raising taxes, water rates or sewer rates is the right thing to do. She explained that the Mayor's office and Department Heads did a great job this year.

Alderman Crawford explained that this is the first time in five years that we are coming in at zero percent across the board and with zero coming out of fund balance. He commends the Mayor and Department Heads for the work that went into the budget, and explained that this is one of the most challenging times that the City is facing, and one of the easiest in terms of the Council coming to an agreement on the tentative budget. He explained that we may need to make changes in the future if things get better or worse, but a budget is a working document and we need to be cognizant and make changes if needed moving forward.

Alderman Gonzalez agreed, and explained that these are extraordinary times and pressing times as a City and as a community. He explained that we need to be prepared for what could happen. He explained that we don't want to have zeros across the board every year, but it is the right thing to do for the community right now.

Mayor Aiello explained that everyone knows that he has been preaching a team effort since he came on board not just for Department Heads, but also for the Common Council. He explained that there will be life after COVID-19, and by working together, we will all get through this.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that it is important to note that when he first joined the Council, the budget development took weeks of three hour work sessions. We did not have

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to do that this year, and we came out with a good budget. He commends everyone involved for this.

Alderman Witte explained that it says a lot about our community, because these times are tough and the Council came together to work this out.

RESOLUTION #24-20

PL #NONE

By Alderman Witte, Seconded by Alderman Dougherty

BUDGET 2020-2021

RESOLVED, that the 2019-2020 Budget as submitted be accepted and that the total amount of said budget be reduced in writing and entered on the minutes of the proceedings of this meeting, to wit: The total Budget for the fiscal year 2020-2021 shall be **\$28,248,568** inclusive of the **General, Water, Sewer, and Debt Service Funds**, subject to legal opinion.

RESOLVED, that this resolution will be effective immediately.

ROLL CALL, AYES ALL. MOTION CARRIED.

Alderman Crawford explained that when the Council saw other taxing entities extend the tax collection period, it makes sense that the City allow for an extension period as well. He explained that people are losing their jobs and businesses are losing revenue. He explained that this will give some extra time for people to come up with funding to pay their tax bill. He explained that typically they need to be paid by May 31st to avoid a penalty, and this will give taxpayers an additional month. He explained that this was done previously during the Carucci administration. He explained that it is not going to put the City in a cash flow difficulty since 60 percent of tax bills come out of escrow. He explained that this will help the other 40 percent of homeowners and property owners by giving them additional time to pay their bills without a penalty attached to it.

Alderman Witte explained that she thinks that this is a great idea, and Alderman Gonzalez agreed.

RESOLUTION #25-20

PL #NONE

By Alderman Crawford, Seconded by Alderman Anastasia

TO EXTEND THE COLLECTION PERIOD FOR CITY OF OLEAN PROPERTY TAXES WITHOUT PENALTY FROM THIRTY TO SIXTY DAYS

WHEREAS, the City of Olean Common Council recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has created a financial burden for many of the City's residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council wishes to aid the City's residents and businesses in this difficult time by extending the collection period of City of Olean Property Taxes;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Olean Common Council authorizes the extension of the period for payment of the City of Olean Property Taxes without penalty from May 31, 2020 to June 30, 2020. The penalty for payments received on or after July 1, 2020 shall be calculated at 2%; for payments received on or after August 1, 2020 the penalty shall be calculated at 3%; for payments received on or after September 1, 2020 the penalty shall

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be calculated at 4%; for payments received on or after October 1, 2020 the penalty shall be calculated at 5%.

RESOLVED, that this shall be effective for 2020 City of Olean Property Taxes only.

ROLL CALL, AYES ALL. MOTION CARRIED.

Alderman Crawford explained that the Council spoke a couple of weeks ago regarding demolishing two properties given to the City by the County, and he wondered the status of the demolitions. Mayor Aiello explained that there was confusion after the budget meeting regarding whether or not the Council wanted to continue with the demolitions, but he feels that this is the direction that the Council wants to take, so they will be coming down.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Anastasia. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:40 p.m.

Lens Martial, City Clerk

Mayor William J. Aiello

Paul Gonzalez, Council President

I hereby approve the foregoing minutes

Dated: ____/____/____

***STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF CATTARAUGUS
CITY OF OLEAN***

I, Lens Martial, City Clerk of the City of Olean, do hereby certify that the foregoing minutes of the Common Council of the City of Olean is the true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

Lens Martial, City Clerk