

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Crawford, Vice Chairman Dougherty, Alderman Witte, Alderman Gonzalez, and Alderman DaPolito. Others: Alderman Panus; Alderman Anastasia; mayor William Aiello; Fred Saradin, City Auditor; Bob Ring, Director of Public Works; Jeff Rowley, Police Chief, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary.

### 1. Roll Call

Alderman Crawford called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked that the record show that all Aldermen were present.

### 2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Committee Meetings (Tuesday, May 5, 2020)

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2020 meeting was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

### 3. Unfinished Business

None

### 4. New Referrals for Consideration

#### a. Discussion – Drainage Issues, 142 North Ninth Street

Alderman Crawford explained that there have been ongoing drainage and street issues at this address, and he would like to bring it to the Council's attention. He explained that on one hand, there is obviously limited budgetary funding for DPW. He explained that he has worked with Mr. Ring, and they have gone back and forth on this. The constituents who live there are on their wit's end and feel frustrated and like they are not being heard, so he would like to bring the issue to the Council.

Alderman Crawford explained that the property has a very low spot in front of its driveway, and ideally, according to Mr. Ring, there should be a storm sewer drain in that location. He noted that he has had the engineers look at the situation and they can speak to that. Alderman Crawford explained that the driveway and apron area were replaced in 2013 and it is eroding away already due to constant water issues. He explained that even when it doesn't rain for a number of days, the surrounding areas are dry and water still pools there. He explained that it affects both the apron and the sidewalk, and he is doing his part representing the homeowner and bringing this to the Council.

Alderman Crawford explained that he asked Mr. Ring to look into this, and he indicated that they have investigated this a number of times but that it was not repaired due to funding shortfalls. He explained that the street is very flat and a depression has formed in front of the driveway. He explained that the strategy to fix this is to mill and pave the road, and a storm sewer is required. He explained that this would be an extensive project as the storm sewer does not travel under this, and it would be a roughly \$15,000 cost in time and materials.

Alderman Crawford read a statement from the homeowner. He explained that he is bringing this forward as a discussion item, and he will be putting forward a PL for next week. He explained that the Council all has their own votes, but he is doing his job and asking the City to have the Council transfer \$15,000 to address the issue.

Alderman Gonzalez asked what \$15,000 would cover, and Mr. Ring explained that it would cover the cost of the storm drain, a catch basin with a grate, pipe and gravel, as well as pavement replacement. He noted that they would have to go almost halfway up the block. Mr. Ring explained that the \$15,000 is a rough estimate and that he threw a number at it.

Alderman Witte explained that she has the same issue on Main Street in three separate areas. Mr. Ring explained that there hasn't been a curbing program in Olean in over 20 years, and that is what we really need. He explained that if the City went and tackled every low spot in every road, it would wipe out the entire streets budget. He explained that they try to reprofile when they mill and pave roads. He explained that all it takes on this type of street to create an issue is a little bit of a depression. He explained that the homeowners were complaining about this issue when he was still an engineer, and it may be more than five years before the roadway is replaced. He explained that he met with the property owners, and he does not feel that the City is responsible to replace the apron and sidewalk. He explained that he feels that this is a shared responsibility.

Alderman Witte explained that there are a lot of these types of issues all over the City, and she agrees that she thinks that it is a curbing issue. She explained that last year there was a spot on Main Street where water puddles, and after there was a water main break and the area was filled in, there are still puddles. She explained that this is just one more place in Olean with drainage issues, and we could use the whole DPW budget fixing these kinds of issues.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if we could just throw a bunch of cold patch in there, and Alderman Witte responded that it just pops back out. Alderman Crawford explained that the water still has to settle somewhere.

Mr. Saradin explained that we could make a case that this is a combined Water, Sewer, and General Fund issue, and perhaps we could take \$5,000 out of each fund to pay for it. Alderman Gonzalez explained that he doesn't think that the issue is about money, but rather where does

it stop. Alderman Dougherty explained that if we want to take that route for funding the problem, he would think it would only come from Sewer Fund. He doesn't feel that Water Fund has a basis here.

Alderman Anastasia explained that he is pondering the issue of the driveway down the street, and he wonders if fixing this issue would cause drainage issues elsewhere. Mr. Ring explained that he feels that this is outside of our responsibility. Alderman Crawford explained that in that entire area, the street is slanted and sloped towards the properties.

Alderman Anastasia asked if \$15,000 would cover the cost of putting blacktop curing on the entire street, and Mr. Ring responded he doesn't want to put blacktop curbing in. He explained that for a long time the City recycled streets, and now there is a full milling and paving program because issues like these have started to come up. He explained that it will take a while before every street is hit and redone. He explained that another issue, that may or may not be a Code Enforcement issue, is that there have been a lot of quality control problems in people's aprons, so they create their own problems. HE explained that we are trying slowly to make this better.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that he understands, that there are days and days of puddles all around the City. Alderman Crawford asked if there is a tentative timeframe of when the street is scheduled to be resurfaced. Mr. Ring explained that there is a five year plan, and that a rating system is done on the streets because some deteriorate faster than others. He explained that this street is not on the current five year plan.

Alderman Panus asked where the storm sewer drain would go, and Mr. Ring responded that it would have to go in the apron. Alderman Witte asked if there is a drain in front of a nearby tree, and Mr. Ring responded that there are no drains in the area, and in the photo the Council is seeing, it is the reflection of a house across the street. Alderman Panus asked if the plan is for a typical square grate style, and Mr. Ring responded that it is. Alderman Panus explained that because the grade is so low, the installation needs to be good, otherwise it will start sloughing away on the sides and they will be back in a similar situation. They could also run into the issue of doing the job right costing closer to \$25,000 than \$15,000.

Alderman Crawford explained that he noticed that it is a fairly long curb cut, and he believes tha this is a double driveway. Alderman Anastasia asked what would happen if this water freezes and someone falls in the street, and Alderman DaPolito responded that the City is responsible for everything.

Alderman Panus explained that he has seen companies use different styles of drainage besides square grate, such as strip, in order to reduce costs.

Alderman Crawford explained that there is actually an ongoing issue with a storm sewer drain that is in someone's driveway across State Street, and it's almost as if it is beginning to cave in after repeatedly being driven over. He explained that this is another issue that Mr. Ring is working on, and he thinks that they are fixing it. He asked if there is a different grate used if vehicles are driving over it, and Mr. Ring responded that it is not. He explained that DPW typically uses only one row of bricks, or it can crush with vehicles constantly driving over it. He explained that they use whatever is DOT approved for vehicle traffic.

Alderman Crawford explained that he just wanted to bring this forward, and he will put forth a PL next Tuesday to take \$15,000 out of the General Fund, and he will talk to Mr. Saradin and Mayor Aiello regarding possibly taking money out of the Sewer Fund. He explained that the Council can vote however they feel is right.

Alderman Dougherty asked if the tree in the subway is causing an issue, and Alderman Crawford responded that he does not know. Alderman Panus asked where the closest storm sewer is, and Mr. Ring pointed it out in the photo. Alderman Panus noted that it may be an issue caused by the tree. Mayor Aiello explained that he can't see where this would erode the sidewalk. He explained that in one photo, there are vehicle tracks in the subway, and vehicles driving in the subway. He explained that if the owner has a heavy vehicle driving over the sidewalk, this could cause an issue.

Alderman Witte asked if a contractor replaced the sidewalk or if the homeowner did, and Alderman Crawford responded that he doesn't know. Alderman Witte explained that in the past, DPW has pointed out to the Council that there is an appropriate thickness of sidewalks and driveways, and she is unsure if they did it the right way here, and it is possible that it is breaking up because it is not thick enough.

Alderman Crawford explained that the homeowner requested that the City fix the issue, as well as their apron and sidewalk, and at the end of the day he feels that a middle ground is necessary. He explained that the apron and sidewalk is still their property, and if we can alleviate the problem, they can focus on repairing their property. He explained that if we fix it all, the cost could be twice as much.

Alderman Panus noted that if we do spend this money, he would like it to be done good enough that we do not hear about it again. Alderman Crawford asked if the funding is to be put in Mr. Ring's budget, and Mr. Ring responded that it is, for material cost and a little bit of labor factored in.

Alderman Witte asked if the root of the tree is growing into the drainage, and if that's why it's not draining. Mr. Ring explained that tree roots could have heaved the road and created a low spot.

Mayor Aiello asked that the Council proceed with caution, as a lot of other areas in the City have the same problem. Alderman Witte explained that there are three areas on Main Street with the same issue.

Alderman Panus explained that he would like the City to think about, when they are redoing roads, to do something a little different than what they've done for the past 40 years, so issues like this can be resolved when the roads are redone. He explained that he feels that if the City puts a grate in here, that there will still be issues in the next few years. He asked that the Council and City think outside the box.

Alderman Crawford thanked the committee for indulging in this, and if nothing else, at least the constituents will know they are being heard.

#### b. Discussion – Sidewalk Program Funding

Alderman Crawford explained that he has a passion for walking around different neighborhoods, and he has had several different constituents ask if the sidewalk program will be run this year. He explained that when the Council went into the budget season, with COVID the Council really tried to be conservative. He explained that he sent questions to Mr. Ring to see where the City is in their sidewalk funding, as last year additional funding was set aside.

Mayor Aiello explained that he presented a report to each Alderman. Mr. Saradin explained that the City started the year with \$52,000, which included a budget transfer of \$17,500 from last year, and approximately \$18,000 was received from program participants. After \$85,000 was spent, there is a shortfall of \$14,179.36 in the account.

Alderman Crawford asked how this happened, and Alderman Witte explained that she thought that this was a separate Capital Fund. Mr. Saradin explained that it is all included, both the City's share for the resident and their share for the expenditure. Mayor Aiello asked if there are still outstanding balances for people who chipped in, and Mr. Saradin responded that he is unsure. Mr. Ring explained that he doesn't believe that there is, and that his office has been tracking this very closely. He explained that \$43,000 was spent. He explained that he did not prepare this, but if there are people around town who receive a sidewalk complaint, and they don't fix the sidewalk, that we fix it and the cost goes on their taxes.

Alderman Crawford explained that they will have to try to revisit this issue offline. He explained that Mr. Saradin provided for him a list of people who got funding back to them. He explained that they received a portion of the cost back if they spent money to repair a certain amount of sidewalk. Mr. Ring explained that they received \$6 per square foot up to \$1,000.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that there is a constituent match of \$18,952.90, and he asked if the constituent wanted to participate, and had to pay us to get sidewalks done. Mr. Saradin explained that this is the participants share. Alderman Gonzalez asked if they want to do their sidewalk, if that's the part they have to pay, and Mr. Saradin responded that it is. Mr. Ring explained that we spent \$43,000 and they spent \$19,000.

Alderman Dougherty explained that the program should have a separate account. He explained that the City has just one sidewalk account for the program, as well as sidewalks that we repair or replace as the result of a complaint. He explained that there should be two separate accounts.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that he thought that the point of the program was to encourage people to reach out to the City to have their sidewalks replaced. Alderman Crawford explained that he has a list of checks that were cut to homeowners, and that there are payments on the list of \$44,000 and \$11,000 to R. Patti. Mr. Ring explained that they are our contractor, and that the City does an annual contract for sidewalks, driveways and curbing.

Alderman Crawford asked if all the money connected to R. Patti is associated with repairs for the sidewalk program, or if ADA ramp costs were also put in. Mr. Ring responded that he doesn't know. Alderman Crawford asked if this is a catch all for sidewalk repairs, apron repairs, and such. Alderman Gonzalez explained that he thinks that it seems reasonable that there would still be money in the account. He explained that the Council transferred \$52,000 to seed the program. He explained that it is like Fleet Management, like a nest egg.

Mr. Saradin explained that the City does not have a general ledger account set up for sidewalks, so everything was funneled into the Capital Fund that was set up for sidewalks. He explained that in the future, a general ledger account maybe should be set up for sidewalks.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that he thinks that the Council wanted every name on this list to be a constituent, not R. Patti. Alderman Dougherty asked if there were people who wanted us to use our contractor for the work, so we paid the contractor directly. Alderman Crawford explained that these people's names show up because they went outside the City's contractor, and some names on the list are landlords who were told "repair or else". Alderman Crawford explained that he doesn't know why there is a check here for Wayne Concrete, and Mr. Ring responded that they are the concrete company for R. Patti.

Mayor Aiello explained that he knows that \$17,000 was added to the \$50,000 that was originally put into the account, which he thinks was leftover Contingency money at the end of the budget year. He explained that we are looking for a separation of what is just the sidewalk program for residents versus what was done for other repairs. Alderman Crawford responded that this is what we are looking for, and he thinks that it would be the proper way for

accounting's sake to set up a separate Capital Fund. He explained that if money gets put into that, even if R. Patti does the work, the notation should read "R. Patti – John Crawford" to indicate that's where the work was done.

Alderman Panus explained that if we tell people that, say, \$20,000 is being put into the program that the Council should be able to show where \$20,000 went to homeowners.

Mr. Saradin explained that the City normally receives every year a breakdown in March when they make the City whole how much they gave back for grass cutting, sidewalks, etc. He explained that this year they didn't. He noted that he put the money received into interest revenue, and he could make a transfer from the interest revenue account to the Sidewalk Capital Fund to wipe out the \$14,000 shortfall.

Alderman Crawford asked if we can get information from R. Patti regarding where the work was done, and Mr. Ring explained that his office has very detailed records. Mayor Aiello explained that he doesn't know why we can't find out this information from the County, and Mr. Saradin explained that he has tried.

Alderman Crawford explained that the reason he was bringing this up was to gauge the level of interest. He explained that maybe we don't set aside a full \$50,000, but maybe the Council would be okay putting \$20,000 aside given the circumstances for investment in the City's neighborhoods and walkability. Mayor Aiello asked what is in the 2020-2021 budget, and Mr. Saradin responded that there is nothing in the budget for sidewalks. He explained that resurfacing and street materials is the closest thing, and Alderman Crawford explained that he doesn't want to hit the budget. He explained that funding was previously transferred from the General Fund or Contingency.

Mr. Ring explained that he does not feel that the City is ready to split up resurfacing just yet. HE explained that he has been building up the fund over the past several years that he has been here, and he would eventually like to break up the account and have sidewalk and curbing programs. Alderman Crawford explained that he does not want to touch the current budget, and that he would rather transfer the money from General Fund or Contingency.

Mr. Saradin explained that if the Council is inclined to take \$20,000 from the fund balance, that he will make a general ledger account for sidewalk repairs so it is in the budget year after year after year.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that we want to be careful how we word this, as it is a customer driven program. Alderman Dougherty explained that if you don't have a bad sidewalk, that you don't qualify.

Alderman Crawford explained that there is some cleaning up that he needs to take offline, and he will work with Mayor Aiello, Mr. Saradin and Mr. Ring. He explained that as far as things happened in the past, the Council may need to reinstitute the Audit and Compliance Committee. As far as going forward, he would like to see money for this summer for people to invest in their residences. He would ask that \$20,000 be set aside. He explained that he will put together something for next week.

Mr. Ring explained that there is no active sidewalk program, and sometimes someone will come into their office and fill out a form, and the City will patch the area and send a letter to the property owner.

Alderman Anastasia explained that he applauds the Council for doing this, He explained that he participated in the program last July.

Alderman Crawford asked if the Mayor foresees any problems administering the program if the Council allots \$20,000, and Mayor Aiello responded that it shouldn't be an issue, and that we need to separate things out.

Alderman Panus asked what happens if there isn't a complaint and the sidewalk is in bad shape, and Alderman Dougherty responded that the property owner can essentially file a complaint against themselves. Alderman Crawford explained that in the past the neighbors wouldn't complain if they felt the homeowner wouldn't do anything, and not that there is a program, people are turning themselves in because of money that the City would spend to help them repair or replace their sidewalks. He noted that they would not qualify if nothing was wrong with the sidewalk.

Mr. Ring explained that it is a three step process that involves inspections prior to the work to ensure that the sidewalk is in need or replacement or repair, and inspection afterwards.

Alderman Crawford explained that he would like this to possibly be called a sidewalk reimbursement program, so constituents know it is a customer driven initiative.

## 5. Approval of Committee Reports

None

Alderman Gonzalez explained that he received a call, as he is sure many people did, regarding the situation at War Veterans Park. He explained that the suggestion was made that since vandalism has occurred multiple times, that the City put cameras in. Alderman Crawford asked if it is time to look at all of our park spaces to determine a potential impact, and Mayor Aiello explained that the area where the vandalism occurred is seen by cameras.



Alderman Crawford explained that these parks and monuments are assets in our community, and asked if it is time to open up more surveillance on City properties. Mayor Aiello explained that there are situations at Franchot Park, and cameras may need to be put up, but funding has always been an issue. He explained that there is also only so much room in the dispatch office now and expansion and more monitors would be required. He explained that the cameras at War Veterans Park are not monitored, and are on site and reviewed as needed. He explained that the camera in the Recreation Center can see the monuments, but it is from far away. He explained that there have been thoughts to put cameras on North Union Street at each roundabout. He explained that Olean was one of the first cities in the nation to have cameras in the 60's and 70's.

Alderman Crawford explained that if nothing else, and he is unsure what the other Aldermen's feelings are, the cameras can record to be reviewed later instead of being live streamed in dispatch so that if something happens, the Police Department can review the footage. Mayor Aiello explained that it all comes down to funding. Alderman Crawford asked if the Council could get numbers, and Mayor Aiello responded that he would get them for the Council.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that cameras could be added in phases, with a little here and a little here. He explained that historically there has always been resistance, and nobody wants cameras until something happens, and then they want them.

Alderman Witte asked if cameras record for 24 hours and if they need to be reset, and Mayor Aiello explained that he believes that the ones at the Recreation Center are for 30 day time periods. Chief Rowley explained that this is correct but that it depends on the amount of data that it records. He explained that there is not a lot of difference in cost between monitoring cameras live and recordings. He explained that if you're monitoring live, you're probably recording at the same time anyways. He explained that the dispatch center is loaded with cameras now. He noted that he has been an advocate of putting up more cameras for a long time, and it all comes down to money.

Alderman Anastasia asked if the City could bond for something like this, and Mayor Aiello responded that it depends on how far the Council wants to go out. Do they want to monitor every intersection and every park, or only places that are problem areas. Do they want to keep it simple or have higher powered zoom cameras? He doesn't know if someone can come in to do a study to say this is what we need, or do a five or ten year plan on monitoring. Alderman Gonzalez explained that he doesn't want to pay for a study, and Alderman Witte explained that she feels that the Police Department can tell the Council where they are needed.

Alderman Crawford explained that he doesn't know if a vendor would charge to do that. Chief Rowley explained that the company will come in and look over the City and what the Council

wants, and then would recommend cameras including power and resolution. He explained that it all depends. If the only cameras the Council wants are one or two just to look at the memorials then it is a small job, but if we are considering cameras in all the roundabouts, they will come in and recommend things.

Alderman Crawford explained that even if we took a park a year and rolled out a different area each year, it could help. He explained that he has caught things on his doorbell camera. He doesn't know how much the Police Department uses people's private surveillance systems, but he thinks that neighborhoods are filled with them today.

Alderman Dougherty explained that if you are trying to tackle a whole bunch of these at once for prime areas and then slowly add more over the next five to ten years, the City could bond. Alderman Witte explained that it all comes down to finances. The State is talking about cutting funding to municipalities and the Council is talking about bonding.

Alderman Panus explained that he has an issue with a paper street off of Kingston Drive that is kind of a neighbor dispute. He explained that the original status was that one of the homeowners groomed the street and took care of it, and then things changed. He explained that the neighbor net door is using the street and tearing it up, and the first neighbor isn't able to keep it groomed or taken care of. He explained that there was originally discussion about transferring the paper street to one of the property owners due to a drainage issue, but now the resident does not want it. He explained that the resident only wants something done about the neighbor using it and tearing it up. He asked who is responsible for maintenance of this street.

Mayor Aiello explained that he will need advice from the City Attorney on this, and that most paper streets are taken care of by adjacent homeowners. Alderman Panus explained that is what was going on, but then another neighbor has been creating drainage issues. He explained that the property owner contacted him and asked if the City can at least do something about an ATV or UTV that is tearing up the paper street. Mayor Aiello recommended that the City Attorney get involved in this. Mr. Ring explained that he was there over the weekend, and it is really bad. He explained that there are multiple ruts in the paper street, and you can see tracks going to the guy's shed. He explained that he will speak with Mayor Aiello and the City Attorney. Mr. Ring noted that he has drafted a letter, but he won't send it out until he speaks with Mr. DiCerbo.

## 6. 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.