

Ottawa, Illinois
June 11, 2015
6:00 p.m.

Special meeting of the Council of the City of Ottawa, Illinois

Present: Commissioners Dan Aussem, Wayne Eichelkraut, James Less, and Mayor Eschbach.

Absent: Tom Ganiere.

Commissioner Aussem updated the Council about the Fields Hill Sanitary Sewer Extension project. He noted that the residents did not qualify for the low to moderate income grant. He spoke with Tim Carrier and Tim added that 4 more houses were wanting to annex. Aussem proposed we enter into a cost sharing agreement and start the project, before the township does storm sewer work in the same area. City Engineer Dave Noble remembered that prior agreements have had a 60/40 split, but the parcels were all annexed. The project is estimated at \$140,000.00 and would include 14 houses on Beveridge Avenue. Aussem asked if letters could be sent to these 14 houses, noting that we would like to work something out with the township, because Carriers cannot get a permit for a new septic.

Aussem resurrected the White Lane Storm Sewer project. He said our engineer's estimate to fix the problem was \$32K for ditches or \$44K to bury the line. Tom Duttlinger, our Consulting Engineer, will get 3 quotes before Tuesday's Council meeting. Commissioner Less questioned the quoting process and wondered why we weren't bidding it out, since the project cost is over \$20,000.00 and not an emergency. Mayor Eschbach suggested Duttlinger still get the quotes and we see where we are at.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant Flood Wall was the next discussion item. While grant possibilities still might exist, we talked about this project during the budget sessions. Aussem wants to start the engineering. Commissioner Eichelkraut added that with the heavy rains up North and around the Kankakee area, we could be looking at a problematic situation, because the Fox River is backing up. Aussem received the okay to proceed with the engineering on this project.

The last discussion topic for Aussem was the storm sewer in the alley by Al Ruhland's property. Mr. Ruhland is apparently thinking of resurfacing the alley and with all of the roof drains and gutters still draining into the alley, we need to address this problem now before he starts his project. A 15" line is needed to drain the alley and the Mayor suggested recommendations be made regarding drainage. A 48" storm sewer already exists on Madison Street and by building the storm sewer before the road is paved, we could eliminate 3 CSO's, alleviate ponding on Clinton Street at Madison Street, and fix 4 blocks.

Lastly under New Business, Commissioner Aussem would like all plans and blueprints converted to electronic copies for efficiency. City Engineer Dave Noble concurred with this idea.

Commissioner Eichelkraut started a discussion regarding NCAT fare increases. He noted that the recommendation is to raise each ride to \$5.00 each way per ride. Economic Developer Reed Wilson added that a review was done in the Fall by the Executive Committee. Currently, we charge \$1.00 each way which equals \$0.35 per mile for everyone, but seniors or disabled persons. Some people are taking advantage of this. The proposal would be \$0.35 per mile outside of the City with a cap of \$5.00. Eichelkraut feels that \$3.00 is more doable with people living on fixed incomes. He does not support the steep jump and feels it's hurting our citizens more than LaSalle Peru residents. Aussem wondered if we could establish a hardship system. Eichelkraut proposed using the age of 62 and have the fees the same all across the County. Wilson reminded that the budget is due ASAP and that the \$5.00 number was agreed to by the administrative committee. Mayor Eschbach suggested we use the same criteria that we use for the City's Taxicab card program.

Under New Business, Eichelkraut spoke about the land the City is trying to acquire on the south side. The parcel is owned by the same church, who also owns a house located at 816 Sycamore Street, which needs to be demolished. It was suggested that our offer would be accepted if we take care of the water/sewer disconnections at the Sycamore Street house. City Clerk, Shelly Munks was directed to have Corporation Counsel, Keith Leigh draw up a real estate agreement for Tuesday's agenda.

Commissioner Less' New Business addressed the ventilation system and boiler at the Main Police and Fire Station. The possibility exists that we may not have to replace the boiler as originally anticipated. There will be an agreement for specs to be put together on Tuesday's Council agenda.

Mayor Eschbach presented Request.

Moved by Mayor Eschbach that the Request from the Ottawa Police Department to purchase 3 new squads from Bill Walsh in the amount of \$83,646.24 be approved and paid for from the General Corporate Fund.

Second by Aussem.

Ayes: Aussem, Eichelkraut, Less, and Mayor Eschbach.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

A discussion took place regarding the Little City Building. The EPA will be handling the demolition and bids. The project will take between 6-8 weeks and the work should take place in July and August. The North side of Madison Street will need to be closed, so an access plan is being developed. Commissioner Eichelkraut wondered about the impact on the next building. The buildings are actually 5 feet apart, so demolition shouldn't be a problem.

Mayor Eschbach explained the regional EDC. We currently have \$25K budgeted towards this line item. Reed Wilson passed out Jim Riley's power point presentation to the Council. IVCC has offered to house the entity. A lot of interest has been generated in the public sector with Bureau County, Princeton, Spring Valley, LaSalle and Oglesby already signing on. Commissioner Aussem thought this idea of pooling our resources is a step in the right direction and added that the group was geared towards industrial. Pricing to join was set at \$1.30 per capita and the group would like a 3 year commitment. The City's portion would be \$25K with a seat secured on the Board. A Resolution of Support for this regional EDC will be on Tuesday's agenda.

Two fireworks contracts were placed on file at the 6/2/15 Council meeting with the option of a standard 1 year agreement or a 3 year agreement. Commissioner Less noted that with Ottawa First selling raffle tickets to offset the City's down payment, it might be better to remain with a 1 year agreement, in case something comes up ex. low ticket sales etc. It was agreed that the Council will act on the 1 year proposed agreement at Tuesday's meeting.

At the close of the meeting, Commissioner Less asked that the press and public be made aware that Northbound and Southbound traffic on Route 23 will be closed in August to replace sections of track by CSX. A detour route is in the process of being planned.

Mayor Eschbach presented motion to adjourn.

Moved by Mayor Eschbach that this special meeting be adjourned.

Second by Less.

Ayes: Aussem, Eichelkraut, Less, and Mayor Eschbach.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

Council adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly L. Munks