

**City of Olivet  
Public Hearing & Regular Council Minutes  
September 13, 2021 – 6:45 p.m.**

**Council Call to Order**

Present: Mayor Laura Barlund-Maas, Gary Peterson, Joe Hoffdahl, James Frohm, Don Walker, and Pam Steward-Bess.

Absent: Steve Penny.

**Public Hearing – 2021/22 Proposed Sidewalks:**

There were no discussions on the current proposed sidewalks. There were discussions about sidewalks for future replacement.

**Visitors' Section Welcome**

Resident Erin Pavloski thanked the City for the nice new sidewalks. She also thanked the City for sponsoring Kanoe the Kazoo. She had a great time at the event.

**Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION** by Hoffdahl, supported by Steward-Bess, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

**Approval of Previous Minutes**

**MOTION** by Walker, supported by Hoffdahl to approve the August 2021 minutes. Motion carried 6-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Sidewalk Replacement – Action Item**

**MOTION** by Hoffdahl, supported by Frohm, to approve the additional sidewalk replacements as presented at a cost not to exceed \$3,500.00. Motion carried 6-0.

**B. Veterans' Memorial at the Park - Action Item.**

Commissioner Pam Steward-Bess stated she had met with Dan LaPoint regarding the Veterans' Memorial at Memorial Park. Discussion took place on the ideas that Dan LaPoint would like for the memorial. The following items were discussed:

- ❖ The boulder will hold a memorial plaque that will be 24" X 30". It will have 4" circles across the top of the plaque recognizing each branch of the military: Navy, Army, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard and a circle commemorating Prisoners of War (POW).
- ❖ The purchase of three metal benches with the words VETERANS' MEMORIAL cut out on the back of each bench to be set at the memorial site.
- ❖ Approximately 5 ½ ft. of concrete will be poured around the memorial site for the benches.
- ❖ Two 4 ft. wide concrete sidewalks, one from the Memorial Park parking lot to the memorial site and one from the memorial site to Main Street.
- ❖ Stamping a compass into the concrete sidewalk from Main Street.
- ❖ Placing a flagpole north of the memorial site toward Main Street.
- ❖ Installing a 3 ft. high push-button drinking fountain south of the memorial site toward the Kedron/Indian Creek drain.

Dan LaPoint stated the proposed ideas above would be completed with donations and this memorial project would be at no cost to the City of Olivet except for two shut-off valves and 10 ft. of copper water line for the drinking fountain.

**MOTION** by Steward-Bess, supported by Hoffdahl, to approve the Veterans' Memorial project to include a 24" X 30" plaque recognizing the armed services (to be approved by the Mayor), a concrete pad 5 ½ ft. around the memorial site, three green metal benches (two benches set at 45-degree angles to the monument and one bench to replace Becky Ramage's memorial bench), two poured 4 ft. wide concrete sidewalks (one from parking lot to memorial site and one from memorial site to Main Street), and a new flagpole north of memorial site toward Main Street. This memorial project will be funded by donations with the only cost to the City of Olivet being the 10 ft. copper water line and two shut-off valves if the drinking fountain is approved at a later date. The drinking fountain is postponed at this time due to COVID-19. Council will address it in the future. Motion carried 6-0.

#### **C. Drema Emerson Six-month Probationary Raise – Action Item**

**MOTION** by Walker, supported by Steward-Bess, to approve Drema Emerson's six-month probationary raise effective September 15, 2021. Motion carried 6-0.

#### **D. Halloween Hours and Open House - Action Item**

Traditional trick-or-treating hours are 6:00 pm. – 8:00 pm. on Halloween, October 31. Fire Chief John Collins stated the Olivet Firefighters' Association would like to hold its Halloween Open House on October 31, 2021, from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. They will follow the COVID-19 precautions put in place last year, holding the event outside the fire station with distancing and care regarding the candy and any other food.

**MOTION** by Steward-Bess, supported by Hoffdahl, to approve Halloween trick or treating hours on October 31 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm along with the Olivet Firefighters' Association Open House.

The Open House will be outside again this year with COVID-19 safety precautions in place. Motion carried 6-0.

## **Approval of the Bills**

**MOTION** by Steward-Bess, supported by Hoffdahl, to pay the bills as presented including the late FUG bill for the Olivet Fire Department shirts. Motion carried 6-0.

## **Department Head Reports**

**Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Drema Emerson** – Emerson stated that she has spoken to Recognition Inc. regarding an update on the plaques for the park. Recognition said they had verified the proof and the plaques are in production, but it will take a while longer due to COVID-19 and staffing shortages. Recognition will keep the City informed when the plaques are ready to ship. Emerson stated that Summer Taxes are due September 30 and water meters will be read September 15 and 16 with the bills to be mailed on September 30. She also informed Council that election equipment testing will take place later this week.

**Police Chief Shawn Garcia** – Garcia was absent from this meeting. Mayor Laura Barlund-Maas stated that Chief Garcia has been released back to full duty. Officer Sean Bailey will be working part-time through December to help the Police Department. Bailey will be working two to three days per week, either 4:00 pm to midnight or 5:00 pm to 1:00 am. Garcia is still depending on the academy sponsorship to get a new officer hired that Council agreed to earlier. Barlund-Maas also mentioned the Olivet College walk to Cutler field this weekend, that Council previously approved, will not happen due to personnel shortages.

**DPW Director Jerry Staggs** – Staggs informed the Council that he is working on scheduling meetings this week with T.F. Eifert regarding the work on the lift station retaining wall and with Meekhof Electric regarding the replacement of the lights in the DPW building. Staggs stated that D & J Excavating will be picking up leaves again this year for a six-week period starting mid-October through the end of November. The cost will remain the same as last year. Staggs said the Kanoe the Kazoo event went well and everyone had a good time.

**Fire Chief John Collins** – Collins stated that the department had a busy month with 29 calls. They have also been testing the fire hoses and running drills. This weekend he will be going to Roscommon to meet with sales reps to talk more in-depth regarding equipment the department purchases annually. Collins stated that it is difficult to do public fire prevention education due to the current situation with COVID-19 and the schools. Last month Collins trained the resident advisors at Olivet College on fire extinguishers and fire safety. He feels this is beneficial to the college and the community. He also stated that the continued construction on the highway is making things challenging with additional calls to I-69.

**Eaton County Commissioner Jim Mott** – Mott stated that the whole state would like to have broadband internet service. Counties are conducting broadband surveys. He also stated the County building could possibly be going to solar energy which would save money. They are in the process of getting estimates for new roofs as well as solar panels. Mott stated that solar looks to be cost-effective for the County buildings. Mott spoke about the Health & Rehabilitation Center in Charlotte and that the services they provide to the surrounding counties could be in jeopardy of closing due to COVID-19, vaccines, pay costs, and staff shortages. He stated that this would be devastating for the community and surrounding counties. Mott added that the Public Safety Committee needs to create an ordinance to regulate off-road vehicles (ORV).

## **Commissioner Comments**

**Joe Hoffdahl** – Hoffdahl thanked DPW for their work and for making the city safe. He also congratulated Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Drema Emerson on her six months with the City.

**Pam Steward-Bess** – Steward-Bess stated she had nothing to add.

**Gary Peterson** – Peterson stated that the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) has been discussing the opportunity to have Amazon move into the region to bring economic growth. Peterson stated that all three transit providers along with Tri-County will be standing beside LEAP, ready to provide the resources necessary to get employees from throughout the region to Amazon.

**Steve Penny** – Penny was absent.

**James Frohm** – Frohm stated he had nothing to add.

**Don Walker** – Walker stated he had nothing to add.

**Laura Barlund-Maas** – Barlund-Maas stated a group of students from the Olivet College wants to make a parody of horror movies and would like to film one scene in the City Cemetery on September 28. Barlund-Maas will draw up a waiver for the students to sign stating the City will not be held responsible if a student gets injured while filming and the students will be held responsible for any damage they may cause while filming. DPW Director Jerry Staggs suggested that the students pick an area of the cemetery for filming the scene and the City will take pictures of that area before filming to protect the City and the students from liability of damage to the City Cemetery.

Council meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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Laura Barlund-Maas, Mayor

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Drema Emerson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer  
Amy Huepenbecker, Clerk/Treasurer-absent