

City of Olivet
Regular Session Minutes
June 10, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

Council Call to Order

Present: Mayor Laura Barlund-Maas, Steve Penny, Pam Steward-Bess, Gary Peterson, Joe Hoffdahl, James Frohm

Absent: Larry Marsh

Mayor Barlund-Maas recognized visitors

Representative Angela Witwer – Witwer gave an update on what has been happening at the State House. Auto No-Fault insurance reform has passed with changes coming in July 2020. The greatest change will be in the way Personal Injury Protection is dealt with in lawsuits. Witwer stated that the law is very complex and she is available to answer anyone's questions on the issue.

The House version of the State budget is expected this week, but the State Senate version of the budget will be the one that is worked with by the Legislature. The State budget has been basically the same since 1999.

Representative Witwer has been working with area farmers and the Governor to find some type of relief for farmers to offset losses caused by the excessive rains our area has experienced recently.

Commissioner Peterson asked about the proposed 45 cents per gallon gas tax that was proposed by Governor Whitmer. Representative Witwer explained that if the gas tax were passed the funds would be constitutionally mandated to go to roads. The 6 cents per gallon sales tax on gasoline would stay the same and the money taken out of the General Fund would go back to schools for K-12 education. Witwer stated that she did not think that the proposal will be passed.

Commissioner Hoffdahl asked Witwer about making I-94 and I-69 into toll roads. Witwer stated that federal roads cannot be made into toll roads. Witwer explained that Michigan roadways are similar to Florida's in number of lane miles. Florida budgets \$5.1 billion for road fixes and additional \$1 billion to maintain the roads; Michigan budgets \$2.1 billion to maintain a similar amount of roadway.

Representative Witwer congratulated the City of Olivet on being awarded the Category B Road Grant. She spoke of the poor condition of Main Street in Bellevue and is making plans to get roads in the area improved.

Witwer recently spoke at Olivet College Graduation and their Anniversary Celebration. She invited everyone to come to her Coffee/Happy Hours to discuss any issues and to sign up for her e-newsletter at AngelaWitwer@house.mi.gov.

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Steward-Bess, supported by Penny, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes

MOTION by Steward-Bess, supported by Peterson, to approve the previous minutes as presented. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Marihuana Ordinance – Second Reading – Action Item

The ordinance prohibits marihuana establishments from operating within the City of Olivet. Residents may still have the 12 plants allowed by law in their private residences. [Note: The State of Michigan is one of a group of states that uses this spelling of marihuana.]

MOTION by Peterson, supported by Penny, to adopt the Marihuana Ordinance prohibiting marihuana establishments within the City of Olivet. Motion carried 6-0.

Hoffdahl – Yes	Marsh – Absent	Peterson - Yes
Penny – Yes	Frohm – Yes	Steward-Bess – Yes
Barlund-Maas - Yes		

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Eifert Lift Station Pump – FY 19/20 Action Item (590-536-801.000 Sewer Professional Services)

DPW Director Jerry Staggs stated that there are two pumps in the Washington Street Lift Station. The pumps are supposed to alternate operation. One pump is not operating properly: the unit will not stay on and is currently on standby and will only be used if absolutely necessary. It was recommended by T.H. Eifert that the pump be replaced for the Lift Station because there have been flooding issues at the site in the past. A time and materials estimate for \$7960.00 was received from T.H. Eifert. The amount covers removal and disposal of the old pump, installation of the new pump, and labor costs.

MOTION by Peterson, supported by Frohm, to hire T.H. Eifert to replace the pump at the Washington Street Lift Station for an amount of \$7960.00. (Account 590-536-801.000 Sewer Professional Services) Motion carried.

B. Investment CD – Informational

Kelly Hanna from Plante Moran recommended that the City invest \$250,000 in a Certificate of Deposit. Clerk/Treasurer Huepenbecker will research CD rates, then make a recommendation to Council.

C. Budget Amendments for FY 18/19 – Resolution 19-08 – Action Item

Budget Amendments for FY 18/19 budget were presented to the Council for review. Resolution 19-08 will align the budget for the end of the fiscal year. Mayor Barlund-Maas stated that she and Clerk/Treasurer Huepenbecker attended a meeting last week with one of the owners of Gabridge & Company, PLC, the firm who currently audits the City's financial statements, to discuss a timeline for this year's audit.

MOTION by Peterson, supported by Penny, to adopt Resolution 19-08 to amend the FY 18/19 budget. Motion carried.

D. Annual Pay Raise for All Employees – Action Item

A 3% annual pay raise for all employees was accounted for in the approved FY 19/20 budget. A vote is required to make the pay raises official.

MOTION by Penny, supported by Hoffdahl, to approve a 3% annual pay raise for all City of Olivet employees. Motion carried 5-0 by roll call vote.

Hoffdahl – Yes

Marsh – Absent

Peterson - Abstained

Penny – Yes

Steward-Bess – Yes

Frohm – Yes

Barlond-Maas - Yes

E. 6 Month Pay Raise – Chail Gentile – Action Item

Chail Gentile has served in his position with the Department of Public Works officially for six months and is eligible for the standard fifty cents per hour raise.

MOTION by Steward-Bess, supported by Frohm, to approve a fifty cents per hour raise to Chail Gentile. Motion carried.

Approval of the Bills

MOTION by Steward-Bess, supported by Penny, to pay the bills. Motion carried.

Employee Reports

Fire Chief John Collins – Officer Tom Parker spoke on behalf of Chief Collins. Parker stated that the brakes on the tanker truck had been repaired. The new doors on the Fire Station look nice and are working well. Tom Owen has completed his training with the County on the new radio system. Owen will be training the members of the Olivet Fire Department on the system as soon as the County distributes the radios. Planning for the Firemen’s Festival is going well so far. Raffle tickets and t-shirts are available for purchase.

Police Chief Shawn Garcia – Chief Shawn Garcia was absent.

DPW Director Jerry Staggs – Director Jerry Staggs stated that the doors at the Fire Station had been replaced. The valves at the Sewer Pond Lift Station will need work done to them in October after the discharge has taken place. The department is attending to the bathrooms at Trenton Shrontz Memorial Park. There has been less vandalism in the bathrooms this year compared to prior years. Commissioner Frohm asked about vandalism at the park as a whole. Director Staggs stated that there was an occurrence where some boards were broken. Chief Garcia was able to use video surveillance to identify the person who caused the damage and restitution was paid. Staggs stated that he was contacting firms to repair the eaves at City Hall. The Water Tower painting project is expected to begin around July 8th. Director Staggs reported that all of the equipment worked well during the recent power outage.

Clerk/Treasurer Amy Huepenbecker – Clerk/Treasurer Huepenbecker stated that the office is preparing the Summer Property Tax billings. Utility meter readings will begin on June 17 and this quarter’s bills will reflect the new water rates. The fiscal year ends June 30, 2019, Huepenbecker is

finishing up transactions for the FY 18/19 and preparing for the audit. Clerk/Treasurer Huepenbecker had a productive meeting with Kelly Hanna from Plante Moran last week.

Commissioner Comments

Joe Hoffdahl – Hoffdahl thanked those in the audience for coming and the employees for their hard work. Hoffdahl attended a meeting with a representative from Michigan Department of Transportation regarding the road grant the City of Olivet was awarded by the State of Michigan. Mayor Barlund-Maas, DPW Director Jerry Staggs, Clerk/Treasurer Huepenbecker and City Engineer Don Heck were also present for the meeting. The streets have been swept and will be done one more time this year. Commissioner Hoffdahl stated that he will be providing shuttle service for those in need of handicapped accessible transportation during the Olivet College Homecoming Festival in October.

Steve Penny – Penny stated that he assisted Olivet High School with Senior Night two weeks ago. OPD Officer Bailey came out and was interacting with the students. Commissioner Penny said that the season ended for the Olivet Girls' Softball team on Saturday with a 10-2 loss in the Regionals.

Pam Steward-Bess – Steward-Bess thanked DPW Director Staggs for replacing the doors at the Fire Station.

Gary Peterson – Peterson reported on some personnel changes in the Village of Bellevue.

James Frohm – Frohm thanked the residents for attending the meetings and encouraged new people to attend as well. Frohm asked if the excessive rain the area has been experiencing was causing any trouble with the sewer ponds. Director Staggs stated that there have been no issues.

Laura Barlund-Maas – Barlund-Maas had nothing to add.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Laura Barlund-Maas, Mayor

Amy Huepenbecker, Clerk/Treasurer