

**City of Olivet
Regular Council Minutes
April 11, 2022 – 7:00p.m.**

Council Call to Order

Present: Mayor Laura Barlund-Maas, Gary Peterson, Joe Hoffdahl, Steve Penny, James Frohm, and Don Walker.

Absent: Larry Marsh.

Visitors' Section:

Olivet Junior Eagle (OJE) volunteer Stacia Smith addressed the Council proposing a portable/collapsible fence be erected at the ballfield. She stated the fence at the ballfield is for an adult-size field of 300'. OJE would like to put up the fence to create a youth-size field of 200'. The 100' between the fences could be used for practice and warmups for other teams waiting to use the field. Smith stated that the price of the fence is \$1,800.00. She reported the OJE hopes to fund the fence with business sponsors. Businesses that donate will have a banner with their logo hung on the outfield fence at the ballfield. Smith stated that after paying for the fence, future banner sales can fund equipment and maintenance of the field. She confirmed that F.G. Cheney Limestone Co. gave her a quote for eight tons of ball mix dirt for \$120.00 and three tons of ball mix dirt for the tee-ball field for \$45.00. OJE will be responsible to haul the dirt. Questions were asked by Council members regarding who would put up the fence, maintain the fence, take down, and store the fence. Smith assured Council that OJE would be responsible for the fence. The ball season is May through June. Mayor Laura Barlund-Maas stated that the ballfield fencing is Item A. on the agenda under new business and further questions and concerns can be addressed at that time.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Penny, supported by Hoffdahl, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

Approval of Previous Minutes

MOTION by Walker, supported by Penny, to approve the March 2022 minutes with the needed addition to the bottom of page three related to the Code Enforcement Officer. Motion carried 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Ball Park Fencing – Action Item

Mayor Barlund-Maas reviewed that the fence is \$1,800.00 to be financed by the Olivet Junior Eagles. Commissioner Don Walker expressed his concern regarding an adult team wanting to use the ballfield. Smith stated that the fencing is rolled and with stakes flush in the ground, the fence can be

removed with ease. Commissioner Penny stated that very few adult teams use this field. Most of the time the adults will practice at this ballfield and the 200' section will work for that purpose. Penny also stated that the field could use more red dirt and diamond dust to help with the drainage of the field. DPW Director Jerry Staggs added that the High School allows the City to use their drag equipment to maintain the infield. Mowing the ballfield with the fence should not be a problem. Penny agreed to work with Smith and OJE on these purchases in Commissioner Larry Marsh's absence.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Frohm to allow the Olivet Junior Eagles to put up a temporary fence at the ballfield in the outfield at 200'. The City will contribute up to \$350.00 for the needed dirt at the ballfield. Motion carried 6-0.

B. Crack Seal Roads – Action Item

DPW Director Jerry Staggs received a quote from Scodeller Construction for \$1.43 per pound for crack sealing the roads. He confirmed that Scodeller Construction has done a great job in the past. Staggs also received a call from Asphalt Restoration with a quote of \$1.83 per pound. Staggs expressed his desire to stay with Scodeller Construction and he would like them to begin to crack seal as soon as the weather permits. Commissioner Penny agreed with Staggs stating that Scodeller Construction made things right when problems arose in the past when the City used their services. Commissioner Gary Peterson suggested Staggs talk with Eaton County Road Commission about crack sealing. Staggs stated that he will talk to the County about crack sealing in the future.

MOTION by Hoffdahl, supported by Penny, to approve Scodeller Construction to crack seal the roads in the City for \$1.43 per pound not to exceed \$18,000.00. Motion carried 6-0.

C. Lee Township/Walton Township Fire Contracts Approval – Action Item

Fire Chief John Collins reported that he had contacted the supervisor at Walton Township, and they will sign the contract with the increased rates at their next board meeting. Collins said the Fire Department could honor the Lee Township request to approve the contract with the lower rates and with Amy Maas of the Olivet Fire Department doing their billing.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Penny to approve the new fire contracts for Lee and Walton Townships as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

D. 2022-2023 Proposed Budget – Equipment Rental - 1st Reading

Mayor Barlund-Maas announced that there will be a public hearing in May regarding the proposed budget. She stated that she and Clerk/Treasurer Amy Huepenbecker have spoken with the accountant Kelly Hanna regarding the equipment rental fund. The equipment rental fund will now have a line item for each department. Each department will contribute funds to the equipment rental fund towards purchases of new equipment. This fund will allow Huepenbecker to easily see the fund balance for each department at all times. Commissioner Peterson asked if equipment rental is paid for using the F-550. Huepenbecker stated that there is rental paid and those funds go into water and sewer equipment rental revenue.

Approval of the Bills

MOTION by Hoffdahl, supported by Penny, to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Department Head Reports

Police Chief Shawn Garcia – Garcia stated that he knows of an officer that is retiring from another department in June and is interested in working for Olivet. He would like to hold off hiring a new officer at this time.

DPW Director Jerry Staggs – Staggs stated that he has been working to secure bids to refurbish the 1994 F-800 salt truck. The truck has 30,000 miles and runs well. Refurbishing the truck will cost approximately \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00 versus \$150,000.00 to \$200,000.00 for a new truck. Staggs informed Council that fire hydrants were replaced on the dead ends of Drury and Washington Streets. He stated there was a problem while replacing one of the hydrants and “boil water” notices were issued until testing was completed. Staggs reported that two hydrants will be arriving this fiscal year and three hydrants are planned for the 2022-23 budget. He asked Council for their recommendation on getting rid of the surplus of old fire hydrants. Different options were discussed. Mayor Barlund-Maas suggested Council brainstorm ideas for selling the old hydrants. Staggs also informed Council that runoff water on East Street from a crack on the street side of the curb was running under the bleachers and causing a washout. They have made necessary repairs to fix the issue.

Fire Chief John Collins – Collins stated it was a busy month with 35 calls. He informed Council that three firefighters have graduated from fire school. Collins said a special Eaton County Fire Chief’s meeting was held due to the situation at the Charlotte Fire Department. He stated that the fire chiefs are working together on a policy for maintaining fire response if disaster, sickness, or personnel issues affect a fire department. Collins reported that the demo fire truck that was discussed at the last council meeting has sold. The department will determine the needed specifications for a new fire truck equipped with everything they will need. Collins stated that Clerk/Treasurer Huepenbecker offered to contact Rural Development regarding the timeline to apply for a grant to help purchase a new truck. A new fire truck will take approximately a year and a half to build. He also informed Council that the Ainger Road bridge at I-69 will be closed for road work for approximately eight more weeks. Collins spoke with MDOT regarding fire service on the north side of the Ainger Road bridge. MDOT agreed to leave an emergency turnaround open on I-69 for fire services needed north of the bridge. Collins said the chainsaws were purchased with the Lions Club donation and the old saws will be given to the DPW department.

Clerk/Treasurer Amy Huepenbecker – Huepenbecker informed Council that the City has received its first payment from the collection agency for the past due parking tickets. She stated that the grant paperwork has been turned in for the tractor. She is currently working on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) reporting that is due this month. She will take Deputy Clerk Drema Emerson around town and show her the boundaries of the City for Code Enforcement duties. Huepenbecker offered to post the firefighters graduation pictures on the City website.

Commissioner Comments

Joe Hoffdahl – Hoffdahl thanked all employees for their hard work.

Larry Marsh – Marsh was absent.

Gary Peterson – Peterson informed Council that he had no news regarding Regional Transportation at this time.

Steve Penny – Penny said that spring break was quiet, and the Out of the Darkness walk went well. He said with the nice weather, it's good to see people out and about in the community.

James Frohm – Frohm stated he had nothing to add.

Don Walker – Walker thanked Staggs for the sidewalk improvements on Washington Street.

Laura Barlund-Maas – Barlund-Maas asked Chief Garcia if he is ready for the Black Lives Matter march at Olivet College. Chief Garcia said that he has contacted Director of Facilities Billy Hastings to do a walk-thru of the event.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Laura Barlund-Maas, Mayor

Amy Huepenbecker, Clerk/Treasurer