

**City of Olivet
Public Hearing & Regular Council Minutes
May 09, 2022 – 6:45 p.m.**

Council Call to Order

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

Absent: Larry Marsh and Steve Penny.

Public Hearing – 2022/23 Proposed Budget:

There was no discussion or comment regarding the proposed 2022-23 fiscal year budget.

Visitors' Section:

Eaton County 911 Director Kelley Cunningham presented Council with a copy of the Eaton County 2021 Annual Report. She also distributed an informational flyer regarding the Eaton County 911 millage that will be on the ballot August 2, 2022, for renewal and to restore the rate back to the initial rate of 0.9500 of a mill from the current rate of 0.9490 of a mill. Cunningham stated that the millage funds are for staffing, training, facilities, technology, and equipment. She stated that the 911 millage is different from the 911 surcharge. The surcharge is solely to pay for the radio system and infrastructure. Cunningham noted that she can be contacted if anyone has any questions. Her contact information is located on the bottom of the Eaton County 911 millage flyer.

Dan LaPoint stated that he will be hosting the Olivet Veterans Memorial celebration at Memorial Park on May 22, 2022, with a flag-raising, dedication ceremony, and meal. He said the Olivet Fire Department will set up tents and the Olivet Lions Club will set up tables and chairs along with Jim Pion. LaPoint invited Council to the celebration.

Olivet College Vice President and Chief of Staff Ryan Shockey stated that the Olivet College Board of Trustees will be voting on May 20, 2022, for the approval of the Olivet College Collegiate/Student Center project with a ceremonial groundbreaking at 12:10 pm in front of MacKay Gymnasium. Shockey invited Council and community members. Commissioner Gary Peterson asked Shockey if the Olivet College Board of Trustees will approve the project. Shockey stated that there are three different board committees and they met two weeks ago to endorse approving the project. Mayor Laura Barlund-Maas stated that once the Olivet College Board of Trustees approves the project, the College will begin working with the City of Olivet and Eaton County to obtain needed permits.

Jennifer Dingman addressed the Council regarding an Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) ordinance. She feels adopting an ordinance could be good for Olivet as it could increase customers in local businesses. Commissioner Don Walker asked if Bellevue has adopted an ORV ordinance or if they are drafting an ORV ordinance. Dingman said Bellevue has a draft ordinance and will have a public hearing this week before voting on the adoption of the drafted ORV ordinance. Clerk/Treasurer Amy Huepenbecker stated she has a copy of Bellevue's ORV draft if anyone is interested.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Hoffdahl, supported by Frohm to approve the agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Previous Minutes

MOTION by Walker, supported by Hoffdahl to approve the April 2022 minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Walking Bridge Opening – Plaque Placement

Clerk/Treasurer Amy Huepenbecker stated that the City of Olivet has two recognition plaques that need to be placed at Memorial Park. There had been a discussion about placing one at each end of the walking bridge. Huepenbecker and DPW Director Jerry Staggs concluded that there is not a good way to secure the plaques to the bridge due to their weight. They suggested placing the plaques on the park building between the two doors where they would be more visible. Council agreed as the plaques are acknowledging donations for park improvements, not only the bridge. Council also noted the plaques would be more secure on the park building.

MOTION by Frohm, supported by Hoffdahl, to place the park improvement plaques on the park building between the two doors. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. 2022-23 Proposed Budget – Resolution 22-02 – Action Item

MOTION by Walker, supported by Hoffdahl, to approve the resolution to adopt the 2022/23 fiscal year budget. Motion carried 4-0 with the following roll call vote:

Barlond-Maas – yes Frohm – yes Hoffdahl – yes Walker – yes Peterson - abstain

B. Water/Sewer Service Marshall Road – Action Item

Jeff Braden, owner of Braden Electric, would like to open a business outside the city limits of Olivet on Marshall Road and is seeking approval to hook into the city water/sewer system. DPW Director Jerry Staggs and Commissioner Gary Peterson have looked at the property with Braden. Peterson asked Braden if he is currently working on getting permits with the county and if he made contact with Dan LaPoint of D & J Excavating regarding the services requested. LaPoint stated that he could bore under the road with a 2” pipe to connect to the city water/sewer system. Braden said he will talk further with LaPoint regarding a plan of action. Peterson recommended that Braden be given two years to show progress on the project; if insufficient progress is made in two years, Braden would have to seek approval again. Braden was informed that all costs incurred to get city water/sewer services would be his responsibility as well as the quarterly bills.

MOTION by Peterson, supported by Frohm, to approve water/sewer service on Marshall Road to Jeff Braden’s property with the understanding that the project would be complete within two years of today’s date. All expenses are to be paid by Jeff Braden at the current rate for outside city limit services. Motion 5-0.

C. F-800 Salt Truck Refurbish – FY 22/23 – Action Item

Commissioner James Frohm stated that he spoke with DPW Director Jerry Staggs regarding refurbishing the 1994 F-800 plow/salt truck. Staggs had informed Frohm that he received two quotes and would like Lindco Equipment Sales to do the refurbishing work. Frohm stated that Lindco Equipment is more expensive, but the quote includes repairing damages as needed and covers more services in detail. Commissioner Don Walker voiced concern over the distance to Merrillville, Indiana where Lindco Equipment is located versus finding a local company. Commissioner Gary Peterson stated that Staggs did try to get local quotes, but received no response.

MOTION by Hoffdahl, supported by Frohm, for approval to have the 1994 F-800 plow/salt truck refurbished by Lindco Equipment Sales at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.00. Motion carried 5-0.

D. Cemetery Foundation Fee Increase – Action Item

Clerk/Treasurer Amy Huepenbecker stated that the City of Olivet has not increased its cost on cemetery foundations in several years. Huepenbecker and DPW Director Jerry Staggs have inquired with other local cemeteries and their rates for foundations are between \$.40 - \$.50 per square inch. Olivet's current cost for a cemetery foundation is \$.30 per square inch. Due to the rising cost of concrete, they suggest the City increase the fee by \$.10 per square inch to cover its costs.

MOTION by Frohm, supported by Hoffdahl, to increase the cemetery foundation cost from \$.30 per square inch to \$.40 per square inch. Motion carried 5-0.

E. Northern Pump & Well – Well #6 Service – Action Item

Commissioner Gary Peterson stated that well #6 is due for service. He stated that service involves pulling the pump and casings, tearing down, washing, and inspecting. Peterson said the City has used Northern Pump & Well in the past and is happy with their service. He stated if any repairs are needed he could discuss and approve with Mayor Laura Barlund-Maas.

MOTION by Peterson, supported by Hoffdahl, to approve using Northern Pump & Well for routine maintenance on well #6 at a cost not to exceed \$4,575.00 with any needed repairs approved by Mayor Barlund-Maas and the Water/Sewer Commissioner. Motion carried 5-0.

F. Revised Fire Contract – Lee Township – Action Item

Mayor Barlund-Maas stated that the Olivet Fire Department contracts with Lee and Walton Townships were approved at the previous meeting. Lee Township would like to change the contract previously approved to include the same hourly rates as Walton Township. Lee Township will start doing its own billing with the new contract.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Peterson to approve the updated 2022-24 fire contract for Lee Township. Motion carried 5-0.

G. Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Ordinance – Informational

Commissioner James Frohm stated the Planning Commission would like to recommend moving forward on the ORV ordinance with some revisions on the definition of ORV made more clear. Mayor Barlund-Maas said that the Ordinance Committee will need to make decisions regarding what is best for the City of Olivet before writing the ORV ordinance. Commissioner Gary Peterson asked Eaton County Commissioner Jim Mott how the County proceeded to write its ORV ordinance. Mott said that their committee gathered different county resolutions that were passed, but every city makes its own decisions. Frohm asked 911 Director Kelley Cunningham if 911 had many calls regarding ORV incidents. Cunningham stated there had been no major difference in calls since the adoption of the ORV ordinance.

Approval of the Bills

MOTION by Peterson, supported by Hoffdahl, to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Eaton County Commissioner Jim Mott stated that a new roof is needed on the County building before solar panels are installed on the roof. The County plans on using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the project. Mott also stated that Crandell Brothers will be making improvements to Crandell Park. A DNR grant will help pay the cost of a fishing pier, benches, a loading dock, and a paved walking trail around the lake.

Department Head Reports

Police Chief Shawn Garcia – Garcia informed Council that he spoke with the police officer that he had hoped to hire and that officer no longer wants to work in law enforcement after retirement. Garcia stated he will be placing an ad for a new officer with MCOLES. Garcia said all law enforcement agencies are struggling to fill positions. He would like the ability to offer a competitive wage along with a sign-on bonus to any potential new hire.

Fire Chief John Collins – Collins stated that the Olivet Fire Officers would like to thank Council for their raise in salary. The first responders would like to thank Council for their bonuses using ARPA funds. He informed Council that Dan LaPoint will be retiring after 51 years of service with the Fire Department. Collins thanked LaPoint for his commitment and wished him well. Collins stated that he attended the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) International Firefighting Conference and Exhibition show. He used this opportunity to look at fire trucks and speak to engineers regarding newly equipped fire trucks. Collins will look into qualified bidders for a new truck. Collins said that Bellevue Fire Department has invited the Olivet Fire Department to train with them and the interaction between the fire departments is good.

Clerk/Treasurer Amy Huepenbecker – Huepenbecker stated that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) reporting was completed in April. She thanked Dan LaPoint for his 51 years of service to the Fire Department. Huepenbecker asked Chief John Collins if he had pictures of the firefighters who graduated from Firefighters School to post on the City website. She stated there are a couple of residents that need attention regarding Code Enforcement. Huepenbecker said those residents are calling Code Enforcement Officer Drema Emerson and giving her updates. Huepenbecker and Emerson are happy with the progress of Code Enforcement.

DPW Director Jerry Staggs – Staggs was absent.

Commissioner Comments

Joe Hoffdahl – Hoffdahl thanked all employees. Hoffdahl also thanked Dan LaPoint for his service.

Don Walker – Walker thanked Dan LaPoint for all he has done for the City.

Gary Peterson – Peterson stated that he did not have a lot to report regarding EATRAN or Clinton County. There will be an executive meeting tomorrow and he will update us at the next council meeting. He congratulated Dan LaPoint.

James Frohm – Frohm thanked Dan LaPoint and all employees.

Larry Marsh – Marsh was absent.

Steve Penny – Penny was absent.

Laura Barlund-Maas – Barlund-Maas thanked Dan LaPoint and all employees who serve the City of Olivet.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Laura Barlund-Maas, Mayor

Amy Huepenbecker, Clerk/Treasurer