

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

**Council Call to Order**

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

Absent: Gary Peterson and Steve Penny.

**Visitors' Section:**

Olivet Chamber of Commerce Director Courtney Mead introduced herself to the Council. She stated that the Olivet Chamber has two more cruise-in car shows scheduled for July 15 and August 12. Mead also informed the Council that the Olivet Chamber will be hosting a beer tent with a live band from 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm located on the vacant lot next to the Coachlight building on Main Street during the Firefighters Festival on July 30. Commissioner Joe Hoffdahl asked who had the license for the beer tent. Mead stated that the Olivet Chamber has the license. Mayor Laura Barlund-Maas suggested the beer tent end at 9:30 pm to encourage people to attend the fireworks.

Resident Jennifer Miller asked the Council if something could be done with the front of the old Coachlight Restaurant as it needs repair. She also stated that a damaged car is sitting in a college parking lot on the corner of Church Street and Cottage Street that needs to be removed.

Olivet Chamber of Commerce Treasurer Tammy Wine introduced herself to those present, saying she is a lifelong resident of Olivet and looks forward to giving back to the community.

**Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION** by Hoffdahl, supported by Frohm to remove Item B Olivet College Homecoming Road Closures from the agenda and approve as amended. Motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of Previous Minutes**

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

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Olivet College Night on the Town City Parking Lot Use – Action Item**

Olivet College Associate Dean of Student Engagement Jason Meadows informed Council that Olivet College is again partnering with Olivet Chamber of Commerce to host Night on the Town. The event is scheduled for August 15 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Meadows asked permission for Olivet College to use the Goodrich parking lot next to the Nelson Building for this event. The parking lot will be the hub of the event where dinner will be served to welcome the students back to campus.

**MOTION** by Walker, supported by Hoffdahl, to approve the use of the Goodrich parking lot on August 15 for Olivet College's Night on the Town event. Motion carried 5-0.

### **C. Grant & Firefighters Festival Update – Informational Item**

Fire Chief John Collins asked the Council's permission to close East Street from Court Street to Main Street from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm on Saturday, July 30, for the Firefighters Festival.

**MOTION** by Walker, supported by Frohm, to approve closing East Street from Court Street to Main Street on July 30. Motion carried 5-0.

Collins gave an update regarding the Firefighters Festival and grant information. Mayor Barlund-Maas stated that she received permission from Olivet College to use their property located at the corner of Yale Street and Church Street for the parade pick-up staging area. Collins said other fire departments that have trucks equipped with features the Olivet Fire Department has an interest in will be in the parade. This will allow the Council to look at the trucks firsthand.

Collins stated that Justin Southern has been doing the bulk of all grant writing. He stated that Southern applied for a FEMA grant in the hope to purchase air packs, but Southern has not received any information yet from FEMA regarding the status of the grant. Collins confirmed the fire department's air packs are fifteen years old and past their lifespan. He suggested joining with other fire departments to apply for a regional grant through FEMA because these combined grant requests typically have a higher success rate. The cost to be part of this regional grant is \$1,000.00 and is in the fire department budget.

**MOTION** by Walker, supported by Hoffdahl, to approve spending \$1,000.00 to join the regional grant request for air packs. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Approval of the Bills**

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

Eaton County Commissioner Jim Mott stated that the County parks have been neglected due to lack of funding. The County Board of Commissioners has voted for a parks millage to be added to the November ballot.

### **Department Head Reports**

**Police Chief Shawn Garcia** – Garcia informed the council that Stacy DuBois was hired as a full-time officer. He stated that DuBois previously worked with the department and brings experience. Garcia stated that he has spoken with the Olivet Community School Superintendent John Mertz regarding hiring a school resource officer to possibly be funded between the Olivet Community Schools and the City of Olivet. Garcia will keep us updated.

**DPW Director Jerry Staggs** – Staggs stated the DPW employees have been doing a great job keeping up with day-to-day operations along with pavement markings on the roads before the

Firefighters Festival. He offered DPW assistance to the Fire Department for barricades for the festival.

**Fire Chief John Collins** – Collins stated that the Olivet Fire Department has a new hire making 22 personnel. He stated that three personnel will be attending fire school. Collins reported that the number of calls last month was more in the normal range, although highway calls are increasing.

**Clerk/Treasurer Amy Huepenbecker** – Huepenbecker stated that City Hall has seen an increase in foot traffic as people are paying their water bills and taxes. She stated that the office is getting ready for next month's elections. Huepenbecker informed the Council that she attended the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerk Conference which was interesting and informational.

### **Commissioner Comments**

**Joe Hoffdahl** – Hoffdahl thanked Chief Garcia for directing traffic as the DPW worked on pavement markings on the roads. He stated the City looks great thanks to all employees.

**Steve Penny** – Penny was absent.

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

**Larry Marsh** – Marsh stated that all departments are running well.

**Gary Peterson** – Peterson was absent.

**James Frohm** – Frohm thanked the DPW for clearing the drains during the heavy rain and thanked Chief Collins for safety information on turnout gear.

**Laura Barlund-Maas** – Barlund-Maas stated she had nothing to add.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

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Laura Barlund-Maas, Mayor

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Amy Huepenbecker, Clerk/Treasurer