

**City of Olivet  
Regular Council Minutes  
September 13, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Council Call to Order**

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

Absent: None.

**Visitors' Section:** No visitor comments.

**Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION** by Penny, supported by Hoffdahl, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

**Approval of Previous Minutes**

**MOTION** by Walker, supported by Penny, to approve the August 2022 minutes as written. Motion carried 7-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Olivet College Road Closure – Relay for Life – Action Item.**

Olivet College student and Relay for Life Chairperson Griffen Rice asked for Council's approval to host a Relay for Life "walking" event on September 28 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Rice is requesting road closures of College, East, and Cottage Streets around College Square for this event. Main Street will remain open, and participants will walk on its sidewalk. Donations from this event will go to support the American Cancer Society.

**MOTION** by Walker, supported by Penny, to allow the above road closures for the Relay for Life Walk. Motion carried 7-0.

**B. Olivet College Road Closure – Black Lives Matter March – Action Item.**

Olivet College student and ELITE member Anthony Brown asked for Council's approval to host the Black Lives Matter March to follow the Relay for Life Walk on September 28 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Brown is requesting a continuance with the road closures on College, East, and Cottage Streets around College Square for this event. Mayor Laura Barlund-Maas stated that Campus Safety Assistant Director Brad Baker, Chief of Police Shawn Garcia, members of ELITE, and herself will meet to discuss safety concerns. Barlund-Maas asked Clerk/Treasurer Amy Huepenbecker to alert the bus garage as the road closures may affect their bus route.

**MOTION** by Penny, supported by Hoffdahl, to allow the above road closures for the Black Lives Matter March. Motion carried 7-0.

### **C. Olivet High School Homecoming Road Closures – Action Item**

Olivet High School teacher/advisor Brityn Rabakon stated that the Olivet High School homecoming is on October 7. The parade lineup will start at 5:00 pm at the old football field and the parade will begin at 5:30 pm. She is requesting road closures on College Street, Main Street, and First Street. The parade will go up College Street to Main Street to First Street and back to the school. Because of the extra traffic from I-69, Main Street will be closed from Butterfield Hwy. to First Street. Discussion took place regarding road closures.

**MOTION** by Walker, supported by Penny, to allow the above road closures for the Olivet High School Homecoming parade. Motion carried 7-0.

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

It was suggested to have traditional trick-or-treating hours from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm on Halloween, October 31. Fire Chief John Collins stated the Olivet Firefighters' Association would like to hold its annual Halloween Open House on October 31, 2022, from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the fire station.

**MOTION** by Marsh, supported by Hoffdahl, to approve the Halloween trick-or-treating hours and the Olivet Firefighters' Association Open House on October 31 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Motion carried 7-0.

### **E. Leaf Pick-Up - Action Item**

Commissioner Joe Hoffdahl stated that D&J Excavating has provided Council with a quote of \$14,999.00 for the 2022 annual leaf pick-up service. This quote includes a \$1,000.00 increase from prior years due to fuel and labor costs. The expected leaf pick-up will last six weeks from mid-October through the end of November. The cost of this service is within the budget. Bids will be taken again in 2023 for leaf pick-up service.

**MOTION** by Hoffdahl, supported by Penny, to hire D&J Excavating to provide leaf pick-up service at a cost not to exceed \$14,999.00. Motion carried 7-0.

### **F. CD Renewal – Action Item**

Clerk/Treasurer Amy Huepenbecker stated that there are two CDs in sewer and one CD in roads that are reaching their maturity date. At this time all three CDs are currently earning a rate of 2%. The renewal rate is .4%. She asked Council if they would like to use the \$38,000.00 sewer CD to pay down the sewer lagoon debt or renew the CDs. Discussion took place.

**MOTION** by Walker, supported by Penny, to renew all three CDs for 48 months. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Approval of the Bills**

**MOTION** by Hoffdahl, supported by Marsh, to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

## **Department Head Reports**

**Police Chief Shawn Garcia** – Garcia stated that he had an initial meeting with Olivet Community School Superintendent John Mertz regarding hiring a school resource officer. Mertz suggested the possibility of applying for a 50/50 Federal Government grant to help fund this position. The grant would pay 50% of the resource officer's salary and the other 50% would be split between the entities that utilize the resource officer. He said that Fern Persons Elementary School is out of the jurisdiction, and he will have to contact the Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police regarding the authority to have a resource officer at that location. Discussion took place regarding the employment of this officer when school is not in session and MCOLES certification. Garcia also reported that as of September 23, 2022, Eaton County will no longer have road patrol from 12:00 am – 6:00 am. Instead Michigan State Police will have two cars with two officers to cover emergency calls, and non-emergency calls if time permits. Garcia said that Eaton County will re-evaluate road patrol in January 2023. Commissioner Penny voiced his concerns regarding criminals having this information and advised everyone to stay vigilant.

**Fire Chief John Collins** – Collins informed Council that the Firefighters Association will be hosting a retirement party for Dan LaPoint on October 16 at 2:00 pm at the Olivet Community School cafeteria. The public is welcome to attend. The Fire Department has been busy, averaging more than one call per day. He stated that Sparrow Hospital has plans to hire Mobile Medical Response (MMR) ambulance service and do away with Eaton Area EMS ambulance service. This change would leave small communities like Olivet and Bellevue without service. Collins will talk with the Marshall Fire Department about utilizing their stand-alone ambulance service. He reminded Council that seven new firefighters will be attending Medical First Responder (MFR) class in Calhoun County. Collins stated that fire safety education week is from October 9 through October 15. He has reached out to the Olivet Community Schools to educate the kids on fire prevention and fire safety. He stated the Fire Association has raised money for a much-needed storage shed. Collins is asking Council's permission to put a cement pad on the land for the portable storage shed and stated that the Fire Association would cover all costs. He said that he will be attending the Michigan Fire Memorial Festival in Roscommon from September 16 through September 18 and encouraged people to attend.

**Clerk/Treasurer Amy Huepenbecker** – Huepenbecker stated that she is busy preparing for the annual audit and elections. She said the Planning & Zoning committees have been active and the office has been busy with tax payments and preparing for utility bills that will go out at the end of September. She stated that Code Enforcement is going well.

**DPW Director Jerry Staggs** – Staggs was absent.

## **Commissioner Comments**

**Joe Hoffdahl** – Hoffdahl stated that the annual leaf pick-up will be starting soon. He also thanked the Department of Public Works for doing a great job removing dead and problem trees. He said the refurbishing work on the plow truck should be done in time for winter.

**Steve Penny** – Penny stated the Police department has been busy with the increased traffic in town. He said the department will be busy with the fall season approaching.

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

**Larry Marsh** –Marsh stated that he gave DPW Director Jerry Staggs permission to cut down a storm-damaged tree and a dead pine tree located by the fire station.

**Gary Peterson** – Peterson stated Eaton County Transportation Authority (EATRAN) personnel met regarding a contract for the new Executive Director to sign. He said the EATRAN executive committee will vote on Wednesday regarding hiring Brad Funkhouser for the Executive Director position. Due to labor negotiations, the union is concerned with Funkhouser coming from Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA). Peterson stated that Clinton County is not fully on board with the cross-boundary agreement with CATA. Peterson will have more information at the next meeting.

**James Frohm** – Frohm appreciated the communication between the Fire and Police Chiefs, residents, and commissioners.

**Laura Barlund-Maas** – Barlund-Maas appreciates the Police Department along with the Fire Department helping with road closures for Olivet College. She said Night on the Town was a success with lots of people in town and business owners happy.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

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Laura Barlund-Maas, Mayor

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Amy Huepenbecker, Clerk/Treasurer