

**City of Olivet
Public Hearing & Regular Council Minutes
November 14, 2022 – 6:15 p.m.**

Council Call to Order

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

Absent: Joe Hoffdahl and James Frohm.

Public Hearing – Inoperable Vehicles:

Mayor Laura Barlund-Maas stated that Drema Emerson has been reviewing the Olivet Code of Ordinance book as part of her Code Enforcement duties. Emerson found two different statements regarding the storage of inoperable vehicles on property located within city limits. One statement said the inoperable vehicle must be in an enclosed building and the second statement said the inoperable vehicle must be stored within a structure of adequate material. Barlund-Maas said she is looking for public and Council opinions and ideas regarding inoperable vehicles. Discussion took place regarding “adequate material” for storing an inoperative vehicle, where inoperable vehicles will be listed in the ordinance book, and whether the violation will be treated as a nuisance or a misdemeanor. Barlund-Maas requested the Ordinance Committee (herself, Larry Marsh, and Steve Penny) meet to discuss and clarify these ordinances. They will need to present their opinions to Council for approval before moving forward with a public hearing and amendment to the ordinance.

Visitors’ Section: No visitor comments.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Penny, supported by Walker to approve the agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Previous Minutes

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Don Walker spoke with the Lions Club regarding the Rotary Park playground structure as discussed at the October 10, 2022, Council meeting. The Lions Club is interested in helping with the purchase of new playground equipment. Mayor Barlund-Maas asked Parks Commissioner Larry Marsh to work with DPW Director Jerry Staggs to decide which playground equipment they would like to purchase. Walker asked Staggs to provide a catalog of playground equipment with suggested ideas and pricing for the Lions Club to consider.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Sewer Lift Station Repair Budget Amendment – Action Item

DPW Director Jerry Staggs informed Council that the pump at the main lift station needed to be replaced due to a broken shaft. The pump was installed today and should be running by tomorrow. [This was an emergency purchase that was approved by Mayor Barlund-Maas, Water/Sewer Commissioner Gary Peterson, and Road Commissioner Joe Hoffdahl]

MOTION by Peterson, supported by Marsh, to amend the sewer capital outlay budget, increasing it to \$39,380.00 to replace the pump on the main sewer lift station. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Safe Purchase – Security Grant - Action Item

Clerk/Treasurer Amy Huepenbecker stated that an election security grant is available. Each precinct is eligible for up to \$1,500.00. She would like to purchase another safe for City Hall to keep election equipment, laptops, voting records, and ballots locked and secured.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Marsh, to approve the purchase of a safe not to exceed \$1,500.00. The purchase would be reimbursed by the election grant with proof of purchase using the retailer's receipt. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Police Department Vest Purchase – Action Item

Police Commissioner Steve Penny stated that he would like authorization to purchase a new armored vest for Officer Stacy DuBois. Police Chief Garcia provided a quote for the vest. The cost of the vest with shipping and handling is \$825.00.

MOTION by Penny, supported by Walker to authorize the purchase of a new armored vest not to exceed \$825.00. Motion carried 5-0.

D. Risk Reduction Grant Resolution – Police Department Body Cameras – Action Item

Commissioner Steve Penny informed Council that the Olivet Police Department has identified a need for two body cameras. The Police Department has an application for the Michigan Township Participating Plan Risk Reduction Grant that will reimburse up to \$5,000.00 for the cost of the body cameras. Penny is seeking approval to proceed with the Risk Reduction Grant with the expense of \$2,000.00 for the body cameras which will be reimbursed.

MOTION by Penny, supported by Walker to allow the Olivet Police Department to apply for the Risk Reduction Grant to purchase two body cameras not to exceed \$2,000.00. The \$2,000.00 would be reimbursed if the department is awarded the Risk Reduction Grant. Motion carried 5-0 with the following roll call vote:

Penny – yes Walker – yes Peterson – yes Marsh – yes Barlund-Maas – yes

Absent: Hoffdahl and Frohm.

Approval of the Bills

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

Department Head Reports

DPW Director Jerry Staggs – Staggs stated that employee John Krohn did a great job taking care of the city in Staggs' absence. He also said that Krohn has taken a water certification test and is awaiting the results. D & J Excavating has done a good job picking up leaves. Staggs informed Council that D & J Excavating has also replaced another hydrant. Currently, five or six old hydrants are taking up space at the Public Works building that he would like to have removed. The plow trucks are ready for winter.

Fire Chief John Collins–Collins stated the Olivet Fire Department has hired two new personnel. All equipment has been serviced and tested. The department is seeing an increase in calls averaging two calls per day. Collins stated he is busy working on ISO reports. The truck committee met regarding replacing a truck. Dan LaPoint's retirement party was well-attended. The Halloween Open House had good attendance and went well.

Police Chief Shawn Garcia – Garcia stated that Officer Stacy DuBois has been busy writing overnight parking tickets. Halloween went well with no incidents. The number of larceny incidents has slowed down. Commissioner Don Walker asked about placing an immobilization device on vehicles with unpaid parking tickets. Garcia stated implementing the boot on vehicles is allowed according to statute with six or more unpaid tickets.

Clerk/Treasurer Amy Huepenbecker – Huepenbecker stated the turnout for the election was good and everything went well. She said the last loan payment was made for the City water tower. She is looking for suggestions for using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. She also asked for suggestions on getting rid of the old fire hydrants. The office has been busy and property taxes will go out at the end of the month. Mayor Barlund-Maas would like to add the disposal of the old fire hydrants to next month's agenda.

Commissioner Comments

Steve Penny – Penny stated that traffic has slowed down now that I-69 has finished construction for the season and has opened up for traffic. Potholes are appearing on Main Street from the extra traffic. He said Halloween went great and he thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their part in making it a successful evening. Penny said he enjoyed Dan LaPoint's retirement party and thought it was a well-planned and attended event. Penny would like to host a holiday dinner after the Council Meeting next month. He stated that he will provide the meat if everyone could bring a dish to pass. Mayor Barlund-Maas said she thought it would be wonderful to bring everyone together again for the annual potluck.

Don Walker – Walker stated that Dan LaPoint's retirement party was very nice and he was happy that LaPoint was acknowledged in such a special manner.

Larry Marsh – Marsh stated that he worked the elections at Walton Township during the day and was amazed by the turnout. He said all seven voters stations were filled all day.

Gary Peterson – Peterson informed Council that Eaton County Transportation Authority (EATRAN) has hired its new executive director. Unfortunately, there are still not enough drivers to service Eaton County and meet the demand. He congratulated Dan LaPoint on a job well done.

Hoffdahl – Hoffdahl was absent.

James Frohm – Frohm was absent.

Laura Barlund-Maas – Barlund-Maas thanked Dan LaPoint for his service. She stated the Ordinance Committee needs to schedule a meeting date to move forward on an ordinance regarding inoperable vehicles.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Laura Barlund-Maas, Mayor

Amy Huepenbecker, Clerk/Treasurer