

**City of Olivet
Regular Council Minutes
April 10, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.**

Council Call to Order

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

Absent: Joe Hoffdahl

Visitors' Section:

Olivet Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Courtney Mead asked the Council's permission to host two Farmer's Markets per month at Memorial Park in the grassy area between the road and the park. She stated that the Farmer's Market will be the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm June through September. Discussion took place regarding the number of vendors attending and cleaning up. Mead said they have over twenty interested vendors and the Olivet Chamber will be responsible for cleaning the area after each market.

Jennifer Dingman addressed the Council and asked how the City of Olivet was progressing on adopting an Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) ordinance that was discussed in March of 2022. Mayor Barlund-Maas stated that the Planning Commission has met to discuss and compare ORV ordinances from neighboring communities. Dingman stated that she and others are interested in a Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) for the ordinance versus an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) due to lower speed and being more street legal.

Justin Southern with the Olivet Firefighters Association asked the Council to consider a UTV show at the Firefighters Festival. Mayor Barlund-Maas stated this is on the agenda this evening.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Penny, supported by Frohm, to approve the agenda with the addition of agenda Item F. Olivet Chamber of Commerce Farmer's Market location. Motion carried 6-0.

Approval of Previous Minutes

MOTION by Walker, supported by Penny, to approve the March 2023 minutes as written. Motion carried 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. School Resource Officer – Update

Commissioner Penny gave a brief update on the School Resource Officer (SRO) position. Mayor Barlund-Maas reiterated that the SRO position was approved last month, stipulating that the Council will meet to authorize the final draft of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Olivet

Community Public Schools and Olivet Police Department detailing the roles and responsibilities. Frohm asked about the hiring process and Walker asked about workers' compensation for the SRO. Mayor Barlund-Maas stated that these are good questions and will be detailed in the MOU.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Family Dollar Zoning Recommendation for Zoning Board of Appeals – John Hedstrom & Associates – Action Item

Mayor Barlund-Maas explained that the proposed Family Dollar/Dollar Tree store will be within 500 ft of a park therefore the Board of Appeals shall request recommendations from the Planning Commission and City Council to approve its appearance according to the City Zoning Ordinance. John Hedstrom with Hedstrom Associates stated that ten Family Dollar/Dollar Tree stores will open in Michigan this year. He informed the Council that this 10,500 sq. ft. store will add between \$1.3 - \$1.5M to the property value. Hedstrom said they currently have 37 parking spaces and do not feel that the City requirement of 60 parking spaces is necessary. Mayor Barlund-Maas stated that the Zoning Board could grant a zoning variance for the parking spaces at the Planning and Zoning meeting. Walker asked when the store would be open. Hedstrom stated a store takes 120 days to build and hoped to start May 15, but the opening date depends on when they receive the transformer from Consumers Energy.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Marsh to approve the Council giving its recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding the appearance of the Family Dollar/Dollar Tree store and to go forward with the parking variance. Motion carried 6-0.

[This vote was determined to be invalid due to some Council members owning property within the 300 ft. rule. A vote was done by Mayor Barlund-Maas by phone to approve the Council giving its recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding the appearance of the Family Dollar/Dollar Tree store and to go forward with the parking variance.

Roll call: Don Walker, yes; Gary Peterson, yes; Joe Hoffdahl, yes; Mayor Barlund-Maas, yes. Motion carried.]

B. Black Lives Matter Road Closures – Action Item

Olivet College student and ELITE member Anthony Brown asked for Council's approval to hold a Black Lives Matter March on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, for approximately two hours in the evening. He is requesting road closures of East, College, and Cottage Streets around the College Square for this march with Main Street to remain open to the public.

MOTION by Marsh, supported by Penny, to allow the above road closures around the College Square for the Black Lives Matter March. Motion carried 6-0.

C. Fire Department Truck Light Repair – Action Item

Fire Chief John Collins informed the Council that the 1997 Engine has multiple red lights, turn signals, and safety lights that are not working. He said the engine will have to go to Spencer Manufacturing for repair. Collins stated the expense is not to exceed \$3,000.00 and will come from the department's truck repair budget, 336-932.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Frohm, to approve the repair of the lights on the 1997 engine at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.00. Motion carried 6-0.

D. UTV Show-Firefighters Festival – Action Item

Mark Murphy asked the Council's permission to have a Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) show during the Firefighters Festival. The UTV show will be combined with the tractor show in the parking lot by Dole Hall, from 8:00 am to the parade's end. The UTVs will have an identification sticker to signify they are registered for the show only and will leave town at the parade's end. Murphy stated that all proceeds from this UTV show registration will go to the Firefighters Association.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Penny, to allow the special event UTV show at the Firefighters Festival. Motion carried 6-0.

E. Lions Club Cram the Cart – Action Item

Commissioner Walker, who is also a Lions Club member, asked the Council's permission to host a Cram the Cart event in the dirt parking lot at Memorial Park. He stated the event will be on April 29 and 30 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The food collected from this two-day event will be given to the Good Neighbor food pantry.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Penny, to allow the Lions Club to host its Cram the Cart event in the dirt parking lot at Memorial Park. Motion carried 6-0.

F. Olivet Chamber of Commerce Farmers Market location – Action Item

Penny stated that a Farmers Market has been requested for the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from June through September. This market will operate from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and be located at Memorial Park in the grassy area between the road and the park. Staggs asked if they would need more trash barrels for this event. Olivet Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Courtney Mead stated that she will encourage the vendors to take their trash but would let Staggs know if she needed anything.

MOTION by Penny, supported by Frohm, to allow the Olivet Chamber of Commerce to host a Farmer's Market on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from June through September from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at Memorial Park in the grassy area between the road and park. Motion carried 6-0.

[This vote was determined to be invalid due to no clear motion or support by Council members. The Council will vote on this again at the May 8 meeting.]

Approval of the Bills

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

Department Head Reports

DPW Director Jerry Staggs – Staggs informed the Council that the surveillance cameras have been installed at the DPW building and the new tractor is in. He stated the DPW has opened the park and

spring cleaning has begun in town. Staggs suggested listing the old tractor, two mowers, and a painter on the auction site. He thanked Krohn and King for doing a great job.

Police Chief Shawn Garcia – Garcia informed the Council that Officer DeBois will be graduating college on May 13, 2023, and will be leaving the Olivet Police Department. He said that he will talk with Officer DeBois about possibly working part-time until a new officer is hired.

Fire Chief John Collins – Collins stated the fire department is well-staffed with personnel and they had 21 calls last month. He asked about roof repair for the fire station as it is still leaking. Peterson stated that he thought the leak was from ice build-up and lack of a drip edge and suggested having Harton Roofing come to look at the roof and get an estimate for repairs. Collins asked Walker and Peterson about setting another meeting regarding the fire truck replacement. Mayor Barlund-Maas stated that a grant is being written for the 1993 tanker pumper truck at this time and when the 1997 engine truck reaches thirty years, we can write a grant for that when the time comes.

Clerk/Treasurer Amy Huepenbecker – Huepenbecker stated that nominating petitions are due by April 25, 2023, at 4:00 pm. She informed the Council that she will be attending a meeting at the county regarding early voting, and she stated the office has been busy with utility bill payments. Huepenbecker asked Fire Chief Collins if he had spoken to Lee Township regarding help purchasing fire trucks.

Commissioner Comments

Steve Penny – Penny stated that he has been busy attending committee meetings regarding the Fire Department truck purchase and the School Resource Officer (SRO) position and that both have been productive.

Don Walker – Walker stated he had nothing to add.

Larry Marsh – Marsh stated he had nothing to add.

Gary Peterson – Peterson stated he had nothing to add.

James Frohm – Frohm stated he appreciated the people who attended the meeting regarding UTVs.

Joe Hoffdahl – Hoffdahl was absent.

Laura Barlund-Maas – Barlund-Maas stated that all department heads should have received a copy of their budget that has comments from the accountant. She said to review your prospective budgets and any questions or amendments should be brought to the finance committee consisting of herself, Commissioner Walker, and Commissioner Penny. She stated the finance committee will meet to approve in May. She informed the Council that she spoke with Hoffdahl, and he expressed his appreciation to everyone and said he is feeling better. She confirmed she will be speaking in her role as the “Mayor” at the Black Lives Matter event on Wednesday, April 12, 2023.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.