

COUNCIL MEETING
July 27, 1987

The Council of the City of Oregon met Monday,
July 27, 1987 at 7:00 P.M., Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor James Barnes
Commissioner Norman Collins
Commissioner Gail Crenshaw
Commissioner Jim Lauer
Commissioner Roger Logan

Roll Call

Council Absent: None

City Attorney David Smith
Chief of Police Thomas Miller
City Clerk Julienne Crowley

Mayor Barnes opened the meeting with the Pledge of
Allegiance.

Pledge of
Allegiance

Commissioner Collins moved that the minutes of the
July 13, 1987 meeting be approved as recorded.
Seconded by Roger Logan.

Minutes 7/13/87

Said motion carried on roll call as follows: Ayes: Collins,
Crenshaw, Lauer, Logan, Barnes. No nays.

Commissioner Logan moved that the payroll in the amount
of \$13,217.47 and claims as listed be allowed:

Payroll & Warrants

Federal Assistance Monitor, \$197.00
City & State, \$15.00
James Barnes, \$17.54
Postmaster, \$100.00
Moehle, Smith & Nieman, \$225.00
Callaghan & Company, \$42.05
Department of Conservation, \$1.00
Moehle, Smith & Nieman, \$761.95
W. S. Darley & Company, \$16.70
Radio Shack, \$26.95
Ray O'Herron Company, \$56.40
Spanglers, \$18.94
Time Insurance, \$4,153.80
Delta Dental Plan, \$295.50
Hank's Shop, \$227.52
IBM Corporation, \$95.00
Pitney Bowes, \$126.00
J. H. Patterson, \$106.80
Motorola, \$790.50
Commonwealth Edison, \$5,425.66
N-I Gas Company, \$377.17
Ehmen Industries, \$55.66
Sidener Supply Company, \$2,772.50
Graphic Controls Corporation, \$105.47
Oxford Chemicals, \$57.43
Sewer Equipment Company, \$159.85
Aqualab, \$49.50
Illinois Valley Millwright Service, \$135.00
John Lindhorst, \$1,800.00
Seconded by Norman Collins.

Said motion carried on roll call as follows: Ayes: Collins,
Crenshaw, Lauer, Logan, Barnes. No nays.

Commissioner Lauer moved that Resolution No. 480, a
resolution establishing the expense reimbursement policy
for training and meetings for the officials, officers and
employees of the City of Oregon, be passed.
Seconded by Norman Collins.

Resolution #480

Said motion carried on roll calls as follows: Ayes: Collins,
Crenshaw, Lauer, Logan, Barnes. No nays.

Commissioner Logan moved to introduce and file for public inspection Resolution #481, a resolution to authorize the Mayor to sign police department documents. Seconded by Gail Crenshaw.

Resolution #481

Said motion carried on roll call as follows: Ayes: Collins, Crenshaw, Lauer, Logan, Barnes. No nays.

Commissioner Lauer moved that Ordinance #942, an ordinance to vacate an alley between Eighth and Ninth Streets and Jefferson and Madison Streets, be passed. He further moved that the City Clerk record said ordinance with the Ogle County Recorder. Seconded by Roger Logan.

Ordinance #942
Alley Vacation

Said motion carried on roll call as follows: Ayes: Collins, Crenshaw, Lauer, Logan, Barnes. No nays.

Deb Wuebben, representing the majority of the Chamber of Commerce Board members, read a prepared statement opposing the denial of a resolution to apply for a State Grant for street lighting. Several other business owners and Oregon residents spoke - some for the street lighting project and some against. Commissioner Logan explained that to approve the resolution would have been illegal, as the statutory time requirement of being on file for seven days had not been met.

Attorney Bill Fearer, on behalf of Commissioner Crenshaw, asked Mayor Barnes for a public apology to Commissioner Crenshaw for accusing her of collusion in regard to the street lighting project decision. The Mayor refused, stating he did not feel he was wrong. He still feels that Logan, Lauer and Crenshaw got together before the meeting and discussed the issue.

The City Council agreed to work on a comprehensive plan for the City which would include street lights, sewers, streets and other problem areas of the City.

Attorney Smith advised that the Terrace View #2 stipulation agreement had not been signed and returned by Attorney McGuire and Barbara Williams. No building permits can be issued in that area until the agreement is executed. Commissioner Lauer advised he would like to accept the agreement now and if any changes were to be made, the agreement could be amended.

Terrace View #2
Agreement

Commissioner Lauer moved to accept the stipulation agreement as written on Terrace View #2. Seconded by Norman Collins.

Said motion carried on roll call as follows: Ayes: Collins, Crenshaw, Lauer, Logan, Barnes. No nays.

The Council approved the Clerk's recommendation to issue a raffle license to Ogle County Homemakers Extension.

Raffle License

Mayor Barnes presented an award to Chief Miller from the Illinois Coalition of Safety Belt use.

Award

The Clerk requested from the Council instructions on the disposition of a claim filed with her stemming from a vehicle accident on Depot Street on May 4, 1987 in which the vehicle drove over an upside down manhole cover causing it to flip up and damage her vehicle. Attorney Smith advised that the City was not responsible for the claim because the City was not aware of the condition of the cover at that time and the problem has been taken care of since then.

Vehicle Damage
Claim

Commissioner Lauer thanked the Police Department for their assistance during the recent storm and advised that the City is picking up the brush and downed trees now. He also thanked Hank's Shop for donating a large chain saw to use for the clean up.

Thanks For Help
During Storm

Warren Miller inquired about the demolition ordinance. The Clerk advised that the way it is written, it only covers the fire limits. Attorney Smith, Commissioner Collins and the Clerk will meet and re-write the ordinance and have it ready for the next meeting. Commissioner Logan suggested the ordinance be acted on at the special meeting to be called Thursday, July 30, 1987.

Demolition Ordinance

Glenn Bennett asked for the Council to find a solution for the raw sewage coming up in basements during a storm. He and others on South Sixth Street have this problem. Also complaints of the problem in the downtown area. The Council agreed that some solution has to be initiated.

Citizen Complaint

Mayor Barnes expressed his concern over a statement made to him in a restaurant that Commissioner Lauer had fired our engineer. Barnes asked Lauer to explain what he meant. Lauer then read the memo sent to Mayor Barnes on July 15th.

July 15, 1987

MEMO

FROM: Jim Lauer, Commissioner
of Street and Ex-officio
of Public Improvements

Due to a wide variety of engineering problems, in the future I will no longer use Infratek as an engineering firm on street and public improvement projects.

I feel we are not receiving the best engineering available to us for the amount of money we spend for this service. I have encountered many problems since taking office due to the type of engineering we have received. I feel it is in the best interest of the City to immediately look at other firms more qualified to perform this service.

I am therefore contacting the following firms in regards to this matter: Beling Associates; Harold B. Wendler and Associates; McClure Engineering Associates, Inc.; Wilett Hoffmann & Associates, Inc.

Commissioner Lauer then elaborated on the different problems he had encountered since taking office. Dennis McMullen, representative of Infratek Consultants, responded to the comments saying he had not been aware of the problems before it was brought out in public. Mayor Barnes stated he felt it should have been brought up at a meeting and not taken upon by Commissioner Lauer to fire the engineer. Mayor Barnes read the following memo from Commissioner Logan:

July 17, 1987

TO: Jim Lauer
FROM: Roger Logan

RE: Engineering Services

Your decision to seek a different firm of consulting engineers has my wholehearted endorsement and I will support the motion to hire a new firm when it is acted on by the Council.

I would like to suggest that the new firm be signed to a formal contract and preferably one including an arrangement for a retainer. A professional engineer, like any other professional, should be compensated for his time with clients.

I absolutely oppose entering into another one of those "we attend your meetings for free" arrangements. I prefer to receive compensated for advice rather than free advice which leads only towards fat engineering fees later, on projects of questionable necessity.

Make your selection carefully and wisely because I don't ever again want to hear another engineer for this City referred to as the "bagman" for the Council by contractors or anyone else.

cc: J. Barnes
N. Collins
G. Crenshaw
J. Crowley
D. Smith

Mayor Barnes stated he felt that the "bagman" expression was out of line and unfair. Commissioner Logan advised that he had heard the comment and when he wrote it in the letter it was because the statement was made to him. Logan said that was an inter-council memo which you have now made public. That remark came from a contractor.

Mike Bowers, Street Superintendent, advised that he had contacted the engineer frequently with problems and that nothing was done about them.

Commissioner Logan asked for an explanation from Mayor Barnes in regard to firing the engineer. He asked how it was possible since there is no formal contract with the City and the engineer is not an employee of the City. Mayor Barnes expressed that was his feeling also.

Mayor Barnes stated that if the Council did not want Infratek Consultants there, bring it up at a council meeting.

Gary Schultz, 404 South Sixth Street, requested that the Council put a stop sign at Sixth & Adams Streets because of the heavy traffic. Commissioner Lauer and Chief Miller will review the area.

Stop Sign Request

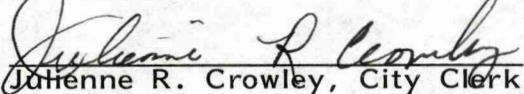
There being no further business, Commissioner Collins moved that the meeting be adjourned to reconvene at 7:00 P.M., July 30, 1987.
Seconded by Jim Lauer.

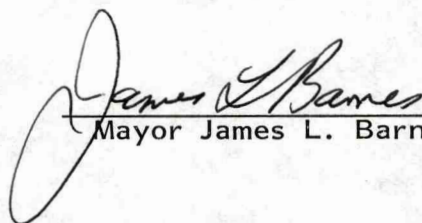
Adjournment

Said motion carried on roll call as follows: Ayes: Collins, Crenshaw, Lauer, Logan, Barnes. No nays.

Adjourn: 9:20 P.M.

ATTEST:


Julianne R. Crowley, City Clerk


Mayor James L. Barnes