

City of Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois
Committee of the Whole Meeting
August 25, 2015

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

The City Council of the City of Geneseo met Tuesday August 25, 2015 at the Council Chambers, 115 South Oakwood Avenue. Mayor Nadine Palmgren called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Alderman Paula Simosky, Robert Wachtel, Martin Rothschild, James Roodhouse, Kathy Carroll-Duda answered roll call. Jason Robinson and Keith Kennett were absent. Others in attendance included City Administrator Lisa Kotter, City Clerk Loree K Phlypo, Chief Piotrowski, Director Opsal, Director VanDeWoestyne, Inspector Mills, HRS Jill Laingen, City Accountant Kara Wiesemeyer the press and various audience members.
A Quorum was present.

Public Comment

None

Mayor announced that The Cellar was voted having the “Best Steak”, congratulations to Scott Stetter!

Proclamation

Mayor Palmgren read the Labor Day Proclamation.

Consideration of request from the Park District for a reduction to the Building Permit Fees.

Administrator Kotter reported that in 2010 an ordinance was passed allowing the City to refund Building Permit fees after being paid in the amount of 20% if requested. There are some Municipalities that waive fees between taxing districts. The Park District fees will be approximately \$11,000 for building permit, \$2,700 for electric, and \$300 for plumbing for a total of \$14,700 in fees. The Park District’s taxing district includes 144 square miles. The City Inspection, Public Works and Electric departments have already invested several hours in reviewing plans and meeting with Park District architects. It was discussed to research what the City has done for other big projects such as the hospital, fire department, and library.

Motion by Simosky, second by Rothschild to move this item to the September 8th City Council to further discuss a reduction in the building fees for the Aquatic Center Project.

Voice Vote. 5 Ayes. 2 Absent.

Motion Carried

Consideration of an ordinance allowing Video Gaming within the City Limits

Alderman Rothschild reported that he would like to see the Video Gaming reconsidered. This is free money and there is no overhead to the City. He also stated that the State is threatening to charge Cities for not participating in Video Gaming. In 2012 when it was a referendum question the language was unclear but it was the required by the State to be used.

Motion by Rothschild, second by Carroll-Duda to include Video Gaming as an item on the September Committee of the Whole Meeting agenda.

Voice Vote. 5Ayes. 2 Absent.

Motion Carried.

Consideration of Resolution R-15-132 Recognizing Alderman Justin Snodgrass

Mayor Palmgren reported that Justin Snodgrass retired from Public Office due to moving outside the City limits. She then read the resolution.

Motion by Rothschild, second by Roodhouse to approve R-15-132 Recognizing Alderman Justin Snodgrass.

Voice Vote. 5 Ayes. 2 Absent

Motion Carried

Consideration of Board Appointments

Administrator Kotter reported that in the past the process was for a board members term to expire and the Mayor to ask if they would like to stay on the board. This new process would have the appointments come to City Council for confirmation. It would be an annual approval after a term expires. It would make the policy consistent on appointments. The Police Pension Board is regulated by State Statute.

No Discussion

Motion by Wachtel, second by, Carroll-Duda to confirm the appointment of members of the Plan Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Board of Police Commissioners as presented.

Voice Vote. 5 Ayes. 2 Absent.

Motion Carried.

Consideration of contract for incoming City Attorney Dan Alcorn

Discussion was held on considering a contract for the upcoming new City Attorney Dan Alcorn.

Motion by Rothschild, second by Simosky to place the City Attorney contract for Dan Alcorn on the September 8 Council agenda.

Voice Vote. 5 Ayes. 2 Absent.

Motion Carried.

Payment of City and Utility Bills

Administrator Kotter and Council discussed the need for clearer reports on the bills. A report is needed to indicate prior approval of checks by the Administrator. The report on approvals lacks description of amounts paid. Simosky requested a budget to actual numbers report to be supplied to the Council quarterly. Administrator Kotter stated that she and the Accountant would be working on the reporting.

Motion by Carroll-Duda, second by Simosky to approve the bills as presented.

ROLL CALL

Ayes 5 Wachtel, Simosky, Roodhouse, Rothschild, Carroll-Duda

Nays

Absent 2 Robinson, Kennett

Abstain

Motion Carried

Public Comment

Chamber Director Rhonda Ludwig and Resident David Smith brought forward their concerns about the downtown music that is played during holidays. The City holds the BMI license and would need to house the timer and controls at City Hall. The current speaker system is 40 years old and is tinny at best. The past hours of play were from 9am to 8:30pm. Stores downtown close at 5 to 5:30pm so it was suggested that the time be not past 5 or 5:30pm. Rhonda Ludwig contacted Reference Audio and they are coming out to take a look at what the possibilities are. They are suggesting smaller speakers at a lower level. Mayor Palmgren suggested that maybe we could use some tourism dollars or hotel tax to fund this project. David Smith asked that the music not start until after Thanksgiving and end Christmas Eve. Control on the volume and limit the times the music is played are the most important to the downtown residents. Electrical Director Opsal reported that the current wiring provided by the Telephone Company will not support a new system, if the City relocated the timer and controls at City Hall we would have to cut the cement to run wiring to each light pole to have a speaker mounted on it. Once we hit the railroad tracks we would have to secure a permit from the railroad to bore underneath it to run wire to the South end of downtown and there probably wouldn't be enough time to get it done this year before the holidays. This would have to be a City project. Alderman Wachtel suggested that this be brought to the City Council meeting as a report in 2 weeks for further discussion. Mayor Palmgren asked for a motion to put the speakers, volume and times the music is played on the City Council agenda.

Motion by Wachtel, second by Roodhouse to put an item on the City Council agenda regarding downtown speakers, volume of music and times the music is played.

Voice Vote. 5 Ayes. 2 Absent.

Motion Carried.

Executive Session

RE: Health Insurance Plans for Retirees

Pursuant to personnel matter pursuant to: **5ILCS 120/2(c)(1)** The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

RE: Sale of Property off Roos Hill Road

Pursuant to property matter pursuant to: 5ILCS 120/2(c)(6) The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body.

Motion by Rothschild, second by Carroll-Duda to enter into executive session at 7:11 pm.

ROLL CALL

Ayes 5 Wachtel, Simosky, Roodhouse, Rothschild, Carroll-Duda

Nays

Absent 2 Robinson, Kennett

Abstain

Motion Carried

Motion by Wachtel, second by Carroll-Duda to return to open meeting at 8:05 pm.

Voice Vote. 5 Ayes. 2 Absent.

Motion Carried

Motion by Roodhouse, second by Rothschild to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Voice Vote. 5 Ayes. 2 Absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Loree K. Phlypo
City Clerk