

**City of Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois**  
**Committee of the Whole Meeting**  
**September 22, 2015**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

The City Council of the City of Geneseo met Tuesday September 22, 2015 at the Council Chambers, 115 South Oakwood Avenue. Mayor Nadine Palmgren called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Alderman Paula Simosky, Jason Robinson, Keith Kennett, Martin Rothschild, James Roodhouse, Kathy Carroll-Duda answered roll call. Bob Wachtel was 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**

**Proclamation**

Proclamation recognizing the Heroism of Don Fredericks. Alderman Kennett summarized the events of September 12, 2015 and how Coach Fredericks was instrumental in bringing the bus to a safe stop avoiding multiple possible head-on collisions. Mayor Palmgren read the proclamation and thanked Coach Fredericks for his quick thinking and actions. Alderman Carroll-Duda thanked Coach Fredericks on behalf of her family and the families of the other students on the bus. Coach Fredericks was humbled by the recognition and doesn't consider himself a hero and would like to think that anyone in his position would have done the same.

**Recognition of Retiring City Attorney Virgil Thurman**

Mayor Palmgren presented City Attorney Thurman a plaque on behalf of the City and thanked him for his over 32 years of service as the City of Geneseo Attorney. She stated that he has been the peacemaker and always maintained an unbiased truth of the law.

**Consideration of Partnership with FORC, Friends of Off Road Cycling, to further develop Prairie Park with More Trails and Hotel Motel Tax Funding for Promotion and Signage.**

Administrator Kotter reported that the organization FORC, Friends of Off Road Cycling out of the Quad Cities, has shown an interest in partnering with the City to develop the trails in Prairie Park for mountain biking. They have developed over 30 miles of trails in the Quad Cities. The City would promote the trails and park. She asked that Hotel Motel Tax dollars be used to create signage on Highway 82, electronic mapping of the trails designated by colors, brochures at the site and clean up the parking area. By promoting this site we will also promote the seven other sites that they maintain. Ben Stohl and Scott Schauer were in attendance to answer any questions that arose.

**Motion by Carroll-Duda, second by Roodhouse to recommend to Council to proceed with a partnership agreement with FORC, Friends of Off Road Cycling, for expansion of the Prairie Park Trail.**

**Voice Vote. 7Ayes. 1 Absent.**

**Motion Carried**

**Alderman Simosky left the meeting at 6:25pm and returned at 6:26pm.**

**Consideration of a request from First Presbyterian Church to reimburse 20% of Building Permit Fees.**

Administrator Kotter reported that ordinance 1961 was adopted allowing for non-profits to request a 20% rebate on building permit fees. This request involves a building permit cost of \$258.58 with a 20% rebate of \$51.70.

**Motion by Rothschild, second by Robinson to reimburse the First Presbyterian Church for 20% of the cost of building permit number 15000463 in the amount of \$51.70.**

**Voice Vote. 7Ayes. 1 Absent.**

**Motion Carried.**

**Consideration of Sommers Avenue designation as a one-way or a two-way street.**

Administrator Kotter reported that the north end of Sommers Avenue was vacated at the First United Methodist Church's request and the church sanctuary now sits on it. The northern most part of the road between Park and Orange which is now the church parking lot. There was a resolution passed to make the northern 98.28 feet on the West and 93.33 feet on the East a one-way street running north. The southern part of this block is currently being treated as a two way. There is no evidence that this was approved to be a two-way street. It is recommended by staff that the entire block be a two way, even the church lot. If this change is approved then a letter would be sent to all businesses and residents that would be effected by the change. Pastor Chris Ritter from First United Methodist Church is not in favor of the street being a two-way street.

**Motion by Robinson, second by Simosky to recommend to Council approval of Sommers Avenue between Park Street and Orange Street to a two-way street.**

**Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 1 Absent.**

**Motion Carried**

**Consideration of Video Gaming**

Alderman Rothschild led the discussion and reported that the City is in need of revenue for infrastructure and video gaming would be a way with minimal expense to the City to have additional revenue. It is controlled by the State of Illinois under strict guidelines. Bill Smith from Beck Oil of Illinois gave an overhead presentation highlighting the current Beck locations that have gaming, Princeton IL being the closest to Geneseo. The gaming area is sectioned off and if you didn't know that it was there you wouldn't know it, this is to offer respect to both the player and non-player. Snacks and soft drinks/coffee are offered to players, no alcohol. Lt. Underwood of the Princeton Police department stated that the gaming started in Princeton in 2013, 18 businesses participate, there are 56 machines and there have been no problems. Craig Cahon from J&J Gaming reported that IL has the toughest gaming regulations. The Municipalities only responsibility is to collect a per machine fee and issue a City liquor license if applicable. There are 3 ways to obtain a gaming license, be a truck stop with at least 3 acres that sells truck diesel and has parking, a bar or tavern with a pouring liquor license and a licensed fraternal organization. Business owners from several downtown establishments were present and all stated that they could use the extra revenue. Several pastors from City of Geneseo Churches voiced their opposition of allowing video gaming in the City of Geneseo siting degradation of a family way of life. Pastor Ritter President of the Ministerial Association read the statement from the Ministerial Association that is opposed to the gaming issue and that 18 local pastors have signed the statement in opposition. Discussion was held on the referendum question that was posed in the past and that some residents were confused by the wording. The wording for the referendum question was provided by the State and is the wording that was required to be used. Residents spoke out in opposition siting that very little of the revenue comes back to the City and none of it goes to the schools. Most of the benefit of gaming after the player goes to the establishment owner and the State.

**Motion by Rothschild, second by Simosky to direct staff to create an ordinance allowing video gaming that will be considered at the October 13 Council meeting.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes 2 Simosky,Rothschild**

**Nays 5 Roodhouse,Carroll-Duda,Kennett,Robinson,Smith**

**Absent 1 Wachtel**

**Motion Denied**

**Consideration of formation of a committee to explore and open dialogue with the Circuit Court to be held in Geneseo.**

Mayor Palmgren asked to form a committee to start a dialogue with the County Court System and the Chief Judge to see if there is any possibility of the Court resuming in Geneseo. She stated that she would like to see 2 Aldermen, herself, the City Administrator, Chief of Police and the Building Inspector Rick Mills be on the

Committee. Alderman Carroll-Duda volunteered and Alderman Wachtel name was suggested to be the other member.

**Motion by Kennett, second by Robinson to form a committee consisting of the Mayor, City Administrator, Chief of Police, Building Inspector, Alderman Carroll-Duda and Alderman Wachtel to start a dialogue with the County and Chief Judge on the possibility of the Court resuming in Geneseo.**

**Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 1 Absent.**

**Motion Carried.**

#### **Payment of City and Utility Bills**

Administrator Kotter stated that the bills were in the packet with the addition of the final payment of the Solar facility to J.F. Edwards for \$240,000.

**Motion by Carroll-Duda, second by Rothschild to approve the bills as presented including the addition bill.**

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Ayes 5 Kennett, Simosky, Roodhouse, Rothschild, Carroll-Duda, Robinson, Smith**

**Nays**

**Absent 1 Wachtel**

**Motion Carried**

#### **Public Comment**

**None**

#### **Executive Session**

##### **RE: Retirement Benefits; Part-Time Employment**

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: Consideration of Land Acquisition for Wastewater and Electric Utilities**

Pursuant to property matter pursuant to: **5ILCS 120/2(c)(5)** The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

**Motion by Smith, second by Robinson to enter into executive session at 8:08 pm.**

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Ayes 7 Robinson, Kennett, Simosky, Roodhouse, Rothschild, Carroll-Duda**

**Nays**

**Absent 1 Wachtel**

**Motion Carried**

**Motion by Carroll-Duda, second by Kennett to return to open meeting at 9:08 pm.**

**Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 1 Absent.**

**Motion Carried**

**Motion by Rothschild, second by Robinson to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 pm.**

**Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 1 Absent.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Loree K. Phlypo  
City Clerk