

City of Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois
Committee of the Whole Meeting
November 24, 2015

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

The City Council of the City of Geneseo met Tuesday November 24, 2015 at the Council Chambers, 115 South Oakwood Avenue. Mayor Nadine Palmgren called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Alderman Martin Rothschild, Bob Wachtel, James Roodhouse, Paula Simosky, Kathy Carroll-Duda and Michael Smith answered roll call. Jason Robinson and Keith Kennett was absent. Others in attendance included City Administrator Lisa Kotter, City Clerk Loree K Phlypo, Chief Piotrowski, Director Opsal, Director VanDeWoestyne, Inspector Mills, City Accountant Kara Wiesemeyer the press and various audience members.

A Quorum was present.

Public Comment

David Smith addressed the Council on the downtown music. He handed out handouts with suggested times for playing music, dates and pros and cons to downtown music. He doesn't feel that the music should be played 8 hours a day for 365 days a year. Administrator Kotter reported that selections of music geared toward shopping have been selected, it was the premise that the music would be played every day in the downtown when the new system was purchased. There were letters sent out to property owners as well as renters in the downtown area and there were no complaints lodged against playing the music and there haven't been any since we started playing it. A schedule of dates and times will have to be discussed.

Consideration of R-15-140 A Resolution directing City Administrator to follow State of Illinois Statute on Vacation pay out at Separation/Retirement/Termination.

Administrator Kotter reported that staff had seen a report on vacation policies of "use it or lose it", the City of Geneseo does have this within their Personnel Policy Manual. City Attorney Alcorn reported that the IDOL recently changed Sub Paragraph H, which says that you forfeit unearned vacation time. Employers can require that use it or lose it if the employees are given a reasonable amount of time to use the given vacation time. City Administrator explained that the vacation time is accrued in the year before so your first year you don't get vacation time until January of the 2nd year. So technically if you separate from the City after a full year of employment but in the middle of the second year the employee would have earned a full year plus a prorated amount for the 6 months they worked in the second year. There could also be a cap put on vacation time wherein if you have 5 weeks of vacation and you can carry over 2 weeks and get paid for 1 week then you would only receive 3 weeks the next January, basically it would be saying that you cannot have more than 5 weeks of vacation in your bank at any time.

Motion by Roodhouse, second by Simosky to recommend to Council adoption of Resolution R-15-140 which allows the City Administrator to pay out vacation benefits upon an employee's termination, separation or retirement according to State Statutes until the Personnel Manual is updated and Section 5.05 is corrected.

Voice Vote. 6 Ayes. 2 Absent.

Motion Carried

Consideration of O-15-152 Night Winter Parking hours from November 1 to April 1.

Administrator Kotter reported that the staff was not in favor of having limited street parking. We would like to propose an Ordinance giving the Mayor the ability to declare a Snow Emergency. All vehicles would need to be off the streets after 3" of snow or with the knowledge that a big snow storm is coming.

Motion by Wachtel, second by Smith direct City Attorney Alcorn to draft an Ordinance allowing the Mayor to declare a Snow emergency when needed for the December 8th City Council meeting.

Voice Vote. 6 Ayes. 2 Absent.

Motion Carried.

Consideration of a one way versus a two way declaration for Sommers Avenue.

Discussion was held on whether or not Sommers Avenue should be a two way or a one way. The southern part of this block is currently being treated as a two way but there is no evidence that it was ever approved to be a two way. Administrator Kotter suggested that there be curbing installed and signage to assist with enforcing the directionality. Mayor Palmgren wanted to try the signage alone first. Staff is suggesting that from Orange north to the parking lot make it a two way and from Park into the parking lot heading north make it a one way.

Motion by Rothschild, second by Carroll-Duda to recommend to City Council for approval Resolution R-15-135 regarding traffic flow for Sommers Avenue between Park Street and Orange Street: the block shall be a one way street in a northerly direction for the first 98.28 feet on the west side and 93.33 feet on the East side and the portion South of this section to Orange Street will be a two way street.

Voice Vote. 6 Ayes. 2 Absent.

Motion Carried.

Consideration to purchase two LED billboards to be installed on City owned property near I-80.

Administrator Kotter reported that the City is entertaining the idea of having electronic billboards located at Wind Turbine Park and in front of the Richmond Hill Barn Theatre. Initially the size discussed was a 50X100 but that may not be large enough to be effective. River City Signs has a portable 100X100 sign that they can bring out and show you the 50X100 and the 100X100 so that we can drive by on the freeway and compare the sizes. It was recommended by Kathy Foes from Henry County Tourism to have a billboard out on the freeway. The consensus was to have River City Signs bring out their portable sign to compare sizes and then bring it back to the Council.

No Action Taken

Consideration of the 2016 Property Tax Levy.

Administrator Kotter reported that this is the first Property Tax Levy that Kara and she have worked on for the City. The past practice of the City has been to keep the tax levy below 105% otherwise we have to hold a Truth in Taxation Hearing. The requested levy in 2014 was \$812,338.00. The current levy at 104.97% would be \$852,434.00. Mayor Palmgren noted that in 2014 the Hospital filed as a Tax Exempt property so the City didn't get the full levied amount. Staff is directed to prepare an Ordinance to be taken to the December 22nd Committee of the Whole for discussion and then we will hold a Special City Council meeting on that same night to approve it.

Motion by Wachtel, second by Smith to move the proposed 2016 Property Tax Levy Ordinance to Committee of the Whole on December 8 for discussion.

Voice Vote. 6 Ayes. 2 Absent.

Motion Carried.

Consideration to allow the Richmond Hill Players to allow the Geneseo High School Drama department to utilize the Richmond Hill Barn Theatre facilities that they currently lease from the City of Geneseo.

A letter was sent requesting that the Richmond Hill Players be allowed to sublet the Barn Theatre to the Geneseo High School Drama Department for the school year 2016-2017 while the school drama department is under construction.

Motion by Roodhouse, second by Wachtel to recommend to Council approval of Resolution R-15-139 granting permission to the Richmond Hill Players to sublease the barn theatre for the 2016-2017 School year to the Geneseo School District for theatrical performances and practices.

Voice Vote. 6 Ayes. 2 Absent.

Motion Carried.

Payment of City and Utility Bills

Administrator Kotter stated that in addition to the bills in the packet there is an additional Louisa bill in the amount of \$51,000.00 and an Ancel Glink bill which was sent to us in error and would be deducted in the amount of \$52.50 for a new total of \$393,044.85. Alderman Carroll-Duda had questions on some of the bills that were answered by Administrator Kotter and staff.

Motion by Carroll-Duda, second by Rothschild to approve City and Utility bills with the addition of the Louisa bill for \$51,000.00 and a deduction of the Ancel Glink bill for \$52.50.

ROLL CALL

Ayes 6 Wachtel,Roodhouse,Rothschild,Carroll-Duda,Smith,Simosky

Nays

Absent 2 Kennett,Robinson

Motion Carried

Public Comment

Resident Kathy Allen thanked the City workers for the holiday decorations downtown and doesn't feel that the music should be played downtown 8 hours a day every day.

Executive Session

RE: Retiree Health Insurance

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: Streets/Cemetery Union

Pursuant to Collective Negotiating matters pursuant to: **5ILCS 120/2(c)(2)** Collective Negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

Motion by Smith, second by Roodhouse to enter into executive session at 7:18 pm.

ROLL CALL

Ayes 6 Wachtel,Roodhouse,Rothschild,Carroll-Duda,Simosky,Smith

Nays

Absent 2 Robinson,Kennett

Motion Carried

Motion by Wachtel, second by Roodhouse to return to open meeting at 8:01 pm.

Voice Vote. 6 Ayes. 2 Absent.

Motion Carried

Motion by Roodhouse, second by Rothschild to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 pm.

Voice Vote. 6 Ayes. 2 Absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Loree K. Phlypo
City Clerk