

City of Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois
Committee of the Whole Meeting
March 28, 2017

The City Council of the City of Geneseo met Tuesday March 28, 2017 at the Council Chambers, 115 South Oakwood Avenue. Mayor Kathy Carroll-Duda called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Alderman Bob Wachtel, James Roodhouse, Paula Simosky, Brenda Johnson, Jason Robinson, Sue Garlick and Martin Rothschild answered roll call. Kent Anderson was absent. Others in attendance included City Administrator Lisa Kotter, City Clerk Loree K Phlypo, Public Works Director Chad VanDeWoestyne and Director of Electrical Operations Lewis Opsal, IT Manager Garrett Griswold, HR Generalist Brandon Maeglin and Inspector Rick Mills.

A Quorum was present.

Public Comment

Karen Russell from the Humane Society stated that she was surprised and disappointed that after 42 years of dealing with the City that they would feel that they needed to put in a Resolution that if they don't move by December 1st that they have to start paying \$500 a month rent. The Humane Society has always taken the City's animals and never charged for the care. The Humane Society takes care of the testing and medical expenses of the animals. The work being completed is all contingent on the contractor getting the work done. She felt that she was pressured into giving a date of September 1 to the insurance company. If the contractor gets an emergency call for another job then they go do that and we have to wait for them to return. The building trade's students are working on the dry walling but that is just 2 hours a day and she assumed that would end when school is out for the year. So she stated that they would be out of the City building as soon as possible.

Mrs. Jolly from Doug Jolly Construction asked why they have to register as a contractor and pay a fee and now the City is proposing that all businesses register again and pay another \$10 fee. It seems that businesses that have a building are actually being charged twice while home businesses are exempt from registering. City Attorney Price responded that it is against the law to register home businesses and the Council can add an exemption for the \$10 fee to businesses who are registered under the Contractor Registration Fee although they would still need to fill out the form.

Proclamation – Junior Achievement of the Heartland Day April 6, 2017

Mayor Carroll-Duda read the proclamation and proclaimed April 6, 2017 as Junior Achievement of the Heartland Day. Administrator Kotter stated that 3 staff members participated in Junior Achievement this year.

Discussion on Resolution R-17-02 A Resolution Regarding the Henry County Humane Society Use of City Dog Pound Building.

Administrator Kotter reported that several staff members and the Mayor toured the Humane Society and were given a move date of September 1, 2017. A resolution was written allowing the Humane Society an extra 2 months to vacate the City building. The City needs to get into the building to determine any repairs that need to be done so that it can be used by the City. The Administrator stated that it was never meant to have a negative effect on the Humane Society, but more that the City wanted to let the Humane Society know that we want to get into the building and determine what needs to be done so that the City can start using it again. Karen Russell reiterated that she feels that this is a bad faith gesture by the City by putting in a resolution that if they aren't moved out by December 1 that they have to start paying rent and \$500 would be a great burden on the Humane Society. She stated that they are at the mercy of the contractors and the building trades are only there 2 hours a day to install the drywall. She stated that stating a finish date of September 1 was just going out on a limb for the insurance carrier. Bob Johnson is volunteering as the Project Manager and that she would talk to him about a realistic finish date and report back to the City.

Motion by Wachtel, second by Rothschild to recommend to City Council to adopt Resolution R-17-02 that sets a December 1, 2017 departure date at the City's Dog Pound for the Henry County Humane Society.

Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Absent.

Motion Carried

Discussion on Business Registration Ordinance.

Administrator Kotter stated that in the event that an emergency arises and the City needs to get a hold of a business we don't have a comprehensive list of businesses. The list from the Chamber is not an exclusive list. Since we are non-home rule we don't have the ability to license businesses, but we can create a business registry with a small annual fee. This registry would exclude home based businesses due to state laws, a home business isn't empty at night. There can be an exemption added to the resolution in the event the business is already registered by the contractor's registration but the business will still need to fill out the registry form.

Motion by Simosky, Second by Wachtel to recommend to Council to direct staff to prepare a business registration ordinance and present it at the April 11 Council meeting for final consideration.

ROLL CALL

Ayes 7 Simosky,Robinson,Garlick,Wachtel,Roodhouse,Rothschild,Johnson

Nays 0

Absent 1 Anderson

Motion Carried

Discussion on addition to the Liquor License Ordinance – BYOB

Administrator Kotter reported that there are businesses that are serving alcohol to customers either free or for a donation to a Charity without a liquor license. The State Law says that you can't serve alcohol to customers purchasing non-alcoholic products. A BYOB license would give businesses the option to allow their customers to bring their own alcohol. The business owner would have to secure dram shop insurance, be Bassett trained and be responsible for monitoring customers overserving themselves. Another option would be for the business to partner with a non-profit and have them apply to the City for a Special Event Liquor License. Council requested more information on this and to review at a future meeting.

No Action

Discussion on Park Equipment Project at City Park.

Administrator Kotter reported that the City has budgeted \$75,000 from the Capital Fund for new park equipment at City Park. It will cost an estimated \$5,500 for the surface material. This equipment will be handicapped accessible. The City applied for funds to fund the remainder of what isn't covered from Geneseo Foundation and plans on applying with Geneseo Communications. The old equipment will be taken down and removed by Kids Around the Country, a company that takes used park equipment and gives it to 3rd world countries. Aldermen asked that we add additional swings for the older kids to the new equipment. This would require a larger area to allow for a fallout area around the swings.

Motion by Rothschild, second by Robinson to recommend to the City Council to purchase the new playground equipment for City Park not to exceed \$125,000 from Burke and to direct staff to work on a capital campaign to raise the remaining \$50,000 for the extra pieces.

ROLL CALL

Ayes 7 Simosky,Robinson,Garlick,Wachtel,Roodhouse,Rothschild,Johnson

Nays 0

Absent 1 Anderson

Motion Carried

Discussion on Ordinance O-17-11 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 35 of the City Code of Ordinances and Repealing Ordinance No. 1805.

Administrator Kotter reported that the current Personnel Policy is in the form of an Ordinance. City Attorney Kostopoulos recommended repealing this ordinance and making it a Personnel Policy, in the event that it needs to be updated it is easier to update and employees still have to follow it.

Motion by Wachtel, second by Garlick to recommend to the City Council the adoption of Ordinance O-17-11 that repeals previous Ordinance 1805 which is the Personnel Ordinance.

ROLL CALL

Ayes 7 Simosky,Robinson,Garlick,Wachtel,Roodhouse,Rothschild,Johnson

Nays 0

Absent 1 Anderson

Motion Carried

Discussion on Small Cell Regulations Ordinance.

Discussion was held on a regulation ordinance that covers Micro towers and Micro poles. Mobilite has applied for a license to install a Small Cell Tower in the Right-of-Way behind the Cellar Building on Center Street. The City Attorney says that we can't refuse them but we can regulate certain aspects of the placement.

Motion by Wachtel, second by Roodhouse to recommend to the City Council to adoption of the Ordinance presented by staff on Small Cell Regulations.

ROLL CALL

Ayes 7 Simosky,Robinson,Garlick,Wachtel,Roodhouse,Rothschild,Johnson

Nays 0

Absent 1 Anderson

Motion Carried

Payment of City and Utility Bills

Additional sheets were handed out. There was a change on the Double S check amount, they worked on the 2 new buildings and the numbers were transposed, it reads \$106,000 and it should be \$160,000, so that will be a \$54,000 difference. The purchase of a washer and dryer are for the Water Building and there will be a set bought for the Electric department. Uniforms are provided for all the departments per the union contracts.

Motion by Wachtel, second by Robinson to approve City and Utility bills as presented.

ROLL CALL

Ayes 7 Roodhouse, Garlick, Robinson, Wachtel, Rothschild, Johnson, Simosky

Nays 0

Absent 1 Anderson

Motion Carried

Public Comment

Kathy Allen reported that she appreciates the agenda on the overhead but can't read it and if the City has to charge the Humane Society a rental fee it should be reduced to \$100 a month. She stated that she is proud of the City Council and their research on the items brought to them for discussion.

Executive Session - RE: Retirees and Vacation Benefits

Motion by Johnson, second by Wachtel to go into Executive Session under Pursuant to Litigation Matters pursuant to: 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting and 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 at 7:51 PM.

Ayes 7 Roodhouse, Garlick, Robinson, Wachtel, Rothschild, Johnson, Simosky

Nays 0

Absent 1 Anderson

Motion Carried

Motion by Roodhouse, second by Robinson to re-enter the opening meeting at 8:28 PM.

Voice Vote. 7Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Absent.

Motion Carried

Motion by Wachtel, second by Robinson to adjourn at 8:29 PM.

Voice Vote. 7Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Absent.

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Loree K. Phlypo
City Clerk