

City of Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois
Public Hearing
May 12, 2015
5:45 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

The City Council of the City of Geneseo met Tuesday May 12, 2015 at the Council Chambers, 115 South Oakwood Avenue. Mayor Nadine Palmgren called the meeting to order at 5:48 pm. Alderman James Roodhouse, Paula Simosky, Jason Robinson, Keith Kennett, Kathy Carroll-Duda, Justin Snodgrass and Bob Wachtel answered roll call. Martin Rothschild was absent. Others in attendance included, Administrator Kotter, City Attorney Thurman, City Clerk Phlypo, Public Works Director Chad VanDeWoestyne, Director of Electrical Operations Lewis Opsal and HRS Laingen.

There was a quorum.

Motion by Robinson, second by Snodgrass to open the Public Hearing at 5:48 pm.

Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 1 Absent.

Motion Carried

Discussion was opened on the following topics:

- Fiers Breweries LLC, DBA Lionstone Brewing Co. located at 1225 S. Oakwood Avenue Geneseo, IL 61254
- Geneseo Brewing Co. located at 102 S. State Street Geneseo, IL 61254
- 2015-2016 City of Geneseo Budget
- City of Geneseo Liquor License Changes –
 - a. Changes to Class F
 - b. Creation of Class G
 - c. Creation of Class H
 - d. Creation of Class B Supplement
 - e. Creation of Class C Supplement
 - f. Clarification of Background Checks on Applicants
 - g. Addition of falsification of information on application
 - h. Clarification on window obstructions
 - i. Clarification of consumption on public property 131.046
 - j. Approval of fees through a resolution
 - k. Addition of Bassett Training requirement
 - l. Required Site Plan Submittal Increase the liquor license total number to 32
 - m. Increase Class G to 3
 - n. Addition of Starting time for off premise sales

There were several letters that had been submitted in favor of the Geneseo Brewing Co. siting that they are a positive addition to the downtown business community. One letter in opposition of the changes to the Liquor License Code asking for a postponement of them.

Administrator Kotter reviewed the changes and why they are being presented:

- Class F is currently being used for both profit and non-profit organizations, proposal is to make Class F for Non-profit only
- Class G when created did not have the required Public Hearing.
- Class H would be used as a Special Event License for Liquor License Holders
- Class B Supplement is proposed for Class B license holders who want to engage in Special Events that involve consumption on the premises. Limited to 12 a year with notification to the City 10 days in advance.
- Class C Supplement would allow Class C license holders to engage in the retail sale of wine and beer other than for consumption on the premises.
- Background check will be required initially and then only if the owners, sole proprietor or resident manager changes.

- Falsification of information on application, applicants are expected to provide accurate and complete information and in the event that it is not would be grounds for denial.
- Window Obstructions included information from Chief Piotrowski on the importance of his officers being able to see into an establishment for the Public's safety and he feels that the current ordinance should just be followed that states; "No Obstruction". The reason for window coverings was glaring sun at certain times of the day.
- Consumption on public property 131.046; currently there are two sections of the liquor code that state two different things. One says that you can drink alcoholic beverages on public property as long as you have a valid liquor license and the other section says you cannot drink alcoholic beverages on public property, so we propose that you add language to the section that says you can't to say that "only if you have a valid liquor license can you drink alcoholic beverages on public property".
- Approval of fees through a Resolution; we propose that all fees are removed from Ordinances and approved through a Resolution, this is an easier process if changes need to be made.
- Bassett Training requirement; the State has required it in Cook County and soon could require it State wide, so to be proactive we propose that it be required in the City of Geneseo. This is a short classroom or online training class for a minimal fee. This is sometimes offered through some insurance agencies. Once certified you must recertify every 3 years. Establishment owners present at the meeting voiced support of the requirement stating that it is an added layer of protection in the event of a law suit and it is showing responsibility to the community.
- Site Plan Submittal; site plans must be submitted when there is any change to the location within the licensed establishment of the alcohol sales, consumption or storage. Site plans that the City currently has will be sent to establishments and ask them to sign off stating that they are correct.
- Increase Liquor License number to 32; with the sale of the Victorian Manor and the impending request for a Class C license it will be needed to leave Class C at 3 and increase Class G to 3 for future expansion.
- Increased Start time for off premise sales; the proposal is to increase the start time for off premise sales to 7:00am so that if you go to the grocery store and you want to purchase any alcohol you won't have to make a second trip after 9:00am to buy alcohol.

Discussion was heard on the pros and cons of the proposed changes. Administrator Kotter was commended on her undertaking of this project to clean up and clarify the liquor ordinance.

Motion by Kennett, second by Roodhouse to close the Public Hearing at 6:38pm.

Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 1 Absent

Motion Carried

Motion by Carroll-Duda, second by Wachtel to open the City Council meeting at 6:39pm.

Aldermen Roodhouse, Simosky, Carroll-Duda, Kennett, Wachtel, Snodgrass, and Robinson were present.

Rothschild was absent.

Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 1 Absent.

Motion Carried

Chamber of Commerce Report

There were 4 new members that joined the Chamber. Upcoming events include; Porch Parties and more. The Chamber presented two \$750 Scholarships to Kyle Gillmore and Tyler Williams. For more information on events through the Chamber visit their website at www.geneseo.org.

City Engineer Report

Nothing to report

Consideration of approval of O-15-143 Plan Commission Case #15-006 zoning classification change for property located at 301 S. Spring Street and 302 S. Russell Avenue from R-2 to R-3 to allow for the construction of a Triplex.

Developer Jim Ries reported that the plan is to construct a triplex on the 2 lots by combining them. Separately they don't meet the size needed for a triplex. This would mean 3 more utility customers for the City. The Plan Commission voted 4 Ayes and 1 Abstain passing this item on to Council for recommended approval.

Motion by Carroll-Duda, second by Kennett to approve O-15-143 An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Map of Ordinance No. 1206 by changing the Zoning of 301 S. Spring Street and 302 S. Russell Avenue from R-2 Residential to R-3 Residential.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: 7 Simosky,Wachtel,Robinson,Roodhouse,Kennett,Snodgrass,Carroll-Duda
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1 Rothschild

Motion Carried

Mayoral Comments

Reserved for later

Consent Agenda

- **City Council Minutes 4/14/15**
- **Committee of the Whole Minutes 4/28/15**
- **Special City Council Minutes 4/28/15**
- **City Council Orientation 5/5/15**

Motion by Wachtel, second by Roodhouse to approval minutes from the listed meetings.

Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 1 Absent.

Motion Carried

Public Comment

None

Consideration of funding sources to correct Storm Water Infiltration to the Sanitary Sewer System

City Administrator Kotter led the discussion. Sources of funding would be looked at from grants, City funds and borrowing. Most grants require that you have low to moderate income residents and Geneseo as a whole City doesn't have that, but it may be possible to look at individual neighborhoods where the work needs to be performed. Residents in that area would need to fill out documents on income and it would then be evaluated as to whether a neighborhood could qualify. If we need to borrow money then it may be better financially to combine multiple projects for the best savings.

Motion by Kennett, second by Wachtel to direct the management team to continue research on the most impacted storm water infiltration areas and research funding sources and options to include grant funds, existing City funds, and the creation of a storm water utility and current water and sewer rates.

Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 1 Absent.

Motion Carried

Consideration of changes to the liquor license ordinance

The changes to the Liquor Ordinance listed on the agenda were discussed and the following changes were agreed on:

- Create Class G
- Create Class B Supplement
- Create Class C Supplement
- Background Checks for initial application and then only if owners, sole proprietor or resident manager changes
- Addition of Falsification of Information on Applicant would be grounds for denial
- Consumption on Public Property; additional language would be added to section 131.046 to include "Licensed Event"
- Creation of Class H for Special Events held by Current Liquor License Holders
- Fees removed from Ordinance and approved through a Resolution
- Requirement of BASSETT Training; wording added "or training provided by the insurance company providing coverage to a License Holder, Class F would be exempt from this requirement
- Site Plan submittal would be required; current plans would be sent to license holder to sign and date confirming that the plans are correct and current
- Increase the total license number to 32; due to the Victorian Manor requesting a Class C we would need to keep Class C at 3 and increase Class G to 3 for future expansion

- Addition of starting time for off premise sales; this would increase Class B and E to allow shoppers to purchase alcohol prior to 9:00am instead of having to return to the store after 9:00am
- Window Obstruction; after a lengthy discussion the following language was added to the ordinance; “shall prevent a clear view into the interior of the licensed premises from any public street, public road, or public sidewalk adjacent to parts of the establishment at all times, this includes any signs, posters or banners that cover more than 25% of any window area”

Consideration of O-15-141 An Ordinance amending Title XIII (General Offenses) Chapter 131 (Offenses against Public Morals)

Administrator Kotter reported that in a section of 131.046 it states that you cannot consume any alcoholic beverage upon public sidewalks, thoroughfares, public streets, public highways, public parks and all other public areas within the City limits is prohibited, but in the Liquor Ordinance it states that you can drink alcohol on public property if you are a valid liquor license holder. We would like to add the wording to Chapter 131.046 “unless part of an approved Class F Special Event or Class H Special Use licenses Stated in 110.37 and 110.19 so that they aren’t conflicting.

Motion by Wachtel, second by Snodgrass to approve O-15-141 An Ordinance Amending Title XIII (General Offenses) Chapter 131 (Offenses Against Public Morals; to include the additional language to section 131.046 “Unless part of an approved Class F Special Event or Class H Special Use Licenses Stated in 110.37 and 110.19.”

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: 7 Simosky,Wachtel,Robinson,Roodhouse,Kennett,Snodgrass,Carroll-Duda
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1 Rothschild

Consideration of approval of an upgrade to the City Website with allocations from the Hotel Motel Tax Fund

Administrator Kotter reported that our web site is not mobile friendly and this could be a deterrent to visitors to Geneseo. A quote to upgrade our website is \$4,860.00 from Websites to Impress.

Motion by Snodgrass, second by Simosky to approve the price of \$4,860 from Websites to Impress to upgrade the City website with funding coming from Hotel Motel Tax Fund.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: 7 Simosky,Wachtel,Robinson,Roodhouse,Kennett,Snodgrass,Carroll-Duda
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1 Rothschild

Consideration for approval of Right-of-Way Permit ordinance O-15-242 changes to update and remove the fee component.

Administrator Kotter reported that the language in this ordinance needed to be clarified the fee and give the contractor the opportunity to fix any repairs needed as a result of their permitted digging. Also this would take the fee out of the ordinance and put it in a Resolution, making it easier to change if needed.

Motion to approve ordinance O-15-142 the Right-of-Way Opening Permit Ordinance and Resolution R-15-125 which sets the fees.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: 7 Simosky,Wachtel,Robinson,Roodhouse,Kennett,Snodgrass,Carroll-Duda
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1 Rothschild

Consideration of quotes for the hiring of a Test Well Consultant with proceeds from the Water Garage Sale.

Administrator Kotter reported that this item due to not receiving all the quotes back would like to move this item to a Special City Council meeting to be held on Tuesday May 26, 2015.

Motion by Robinson, second by Wachtel to move the consideration of quotes for hiring of a Test Well Consultant to the Special City Council Tuesday May 26, 2015.

Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 1 Absent.

Motion Carried

Discussion of City Accountant Position

- **Salary Range**
- **Qualifications**

Administrator Kotter led the discussion. We currently pay \$19.00 an hour for the accountant position and we feel that we will need to increase what we offer in wages to get a strong qualified person for this position. We feel that we need to include language in the job description that they would either have a CPA or be eligible for one. The City has a \$20 million dollar budget that this position is in charge of the wages and qualifications should reflect what we want in a candidate. The salary range suggested was \$55 to \$63 thousand a year. The position has been presented as Accountant/Treasurer, the Treasurer part would need to be removed from the title as this is an addition and doesn't necessary accompany the Accountant position and is appointed by City Council.

Motion by Simosky, second by Kennett to approve changing the salary to \$55 to \$63 thousand annually and add the following language:

- **Essential Functions; add Responsible for the preparation of the annual budget; Responsible for the preparation of the annual tax levy; coordinates the completion of accounting projects as directed by management; responsible for preparation and publication of the monthly and annual Treasurer's Report**
- **Knowledge of; Working knowledge of internet and email**
- **Acceptable Experience and Training; Preferred two years of increasingly responsible related government or business accounting experience; Certified Public Accountant, or able to obtain**
- **Remove the word "Treasurer" from the title of the position**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: 7 Simosky,Wachtel,Robinson,Roodhouse,Kennett,Snodgrass,Carroll-Duda
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1 Rothschild

Payment of City and Utility Bills

No Discussion

Motion by Wachtel, second by Carroll-Duda to approve payment of City and Utility bills.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: 7 Simosky,Wachtel,Robinson,Roodhouse,Kennett,Snodgrass,Carroll-Duda
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1 Rothschild

Public Comment

Mayor Palmgren commended Administrator Kotter on her extensive work on the City Council Orientation Book and program that took place May 5.

Alderman Snodgrass congratulated the new members of Council and commented on what a cohesive group it is.

Adjournment

Motion by Simosky, second by Wachtel to adjourn at 8:25pm.

Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 1 Absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Loree K Phlypo
City Clerk