

City of Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois
City Council
August 11, 2015
6:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

The City Council of the City of Geneseo met Tuesday August 11, 2015 at the Council Chambers, 115 South Oakwood Avenue. Mayor Nadine Palmgren called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Aldermen Paula Simosky, Jason Robinson, Keith Kennett, Kathy Carroll-Duda, Martin Rothschild and Bob Wachtel answered roll call. James Roodhouse was late arriving. Others in attendance included, Administrator Kotter, City Attorney Thurman, City Clerk Loree K Phlypo, HRS Jill Laingen Public Works Director Chad VanDeWoestyne, Director of Electrical Operations Lewis Opsal and Inspector Rick Mills.

There was a quorum.

City Engineer Report

Greg Ryckaert reported that he is working with Bob Pettit on the Stoneview project.

Chamber of Commerce Report

Rhonda Ludwig reported that the Rock the Rail is this weekend everyone is looking forward to the event. Trains, Planes and Automobiles will begin with the Stearmen Fly-In on Thursday, September 10th, followed by Cruise the Canal and the Car show. Information on the Chamber Fall Breakfast will be the end of October. For a more detailed list of Chamber events please visit www.geneseo.org.

Mayoral Comments

Mayor Palmgren stated that the National Night Out was a huge success and she thanked all the staff involved with the preparations and serving that night. Thank you to the Aldermen that assisted also. They served 400 hot dogs and could have served more.

Alderman James Roodhouse joined the meeting at 6:10 PM.

Public Comment

Alderman Wachtel thanked the 3 candidates interested in the First Ward Alderman vacancy.

The three candidates; Sue Garlick, Wendi Johns and Michael A. Smith each gave a summary of their background and any governmental experience, why they are interested in being an Alderman and if they are looking to commit long term or just fill in for the rest of the term.

Consideration of the appointment of Kara Wiesemeyer as City Treasurer.

City Administrator Kotter reported that Kara started last Monday and started working with the software to get familiar with where things are located. Kara stated that her and her husband bought a house and are working on getting moved.

Motion by Kennett to recommend Kara as the new City Treasurer.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion Carried

Mayor Palmgren swore-in Kara Wiesemeyer in as the new City Treasurer.

Recognition of "Certificate of Excellence in Financial Accounting for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2014".

Kara Wiesemeyer accepted the Award on behalf of the City. Mayor Palmgren added that the City has received this award for many years.

Consideration of the Consent Agenda:

- a. City Council Minutes 7/14/15
- b. Committee of the Whole Minutes 7/28/15

Motion by Wachtel, second by Robinson to approve the minutes as presented.

Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays.

Motion Carried.

Consideration of approval from Zoning Board of Appeals recommendation of a variance to the Geneseo Floodplain Ordinance on property located at 1041 S. State Street.

Administrator Kotter reported that the requested variance is for Crowe Ford. This would allow the new addition to have the floor at the same height as the existing floor, otherwise it would be a step up. This addition will make Crowe Ford compliant with the requirements set by Ford for showroom size. This property is in the floodplain. George Koustas owner of Crowe Ford stated that he has to increase his showroom floor or move to another building. To his knowledge there has never been water in the building and he isn't required to carry flood insurance. The foundation of the new building will be the correct height for being in the floodplain it will be the actual floor that will be lower.

Motion by Wachtel, second by Kennett to approve the variance requested to the Geneseo Floodplain ordinance on property located at 1041 S. State Street.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: 7 Simosky,Wachtel,Robinson,Roodhouse,Kennett,Carroll-Duda,Rothschild

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried

Consideration of Plan Commission recommendation to approve case #15-016 a requested Zoning classification change from B-4 to B-3 to allow a Cell Tower to be erected at corner lot on East 1st Street and Spring Street on the Northwest side of the corner.

Administrator Kotter reported that this item and the next item have gone through the Plan Commission and they recommend approval of it. The site was chosen through a process involving a search ring and a site is then chosen within that area. The preference is City property versus private property. Rezoning the property would remove the setbacks and make it buildable. This site was used for coal storage years ago. Verizon would like to erect a cell tower at the height of 165 feet, this is 15' over the allowable height, but it would allow them to have more co-locators. This would generate more revenue for the City as well as increase cell and data signals. Central States Tower Co. would be the company that the City would have the agreement with for the tower. The rental agreement would be for 50-55 years and could include such provisions as COLA increases. The area would be fenced with an aesthetically pleasing fence and landscaping can be negotiated through the lease negotiations. Once Central States Tower Co. has the approval they would then perform environmental testing for ground contamination due to the rail road. Tower lighting requirements are dictated through the FCC. Negotiations can also include allowing the Sherriff's department to install a repeater on the tower to expand their reach and this will not affect Amtrak. There was concern expressed over the aesthetics of the tower and its size.

Administrator Kotter stated that negotiations of a contract haven't started because no one wanted to go to all the work of getting an agreement worked out and then it isn't approved. Director of Electrical Operations stated that he is all for this he needs the strong signal for his department phones. Letters were sent to residents.

Motion by Rothschild, second by Carroll-Duda to approve a tower permit for Buell Consulting, Central States Tower and Verizon at the Northwest Corner of East First Street and South Spring Street and to rezone this same property from B-4 to B-3 contingent upon final approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: 7 Simosky,Wachtel,Robinson,Roodhouse,Kennett,Carroll-Duda,Rothschild

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried

Consideration of Ordinance O-15-149 an Ordinance Amending Title XIII (General Offenses) Chapter 130 (Offenses against the Peace)

Administrator Kotter reported that currently the Police Department handles noise complaints under the Disorderly Conduct Ordinance. The City doesn't have a noise ordinance on the books that regulates any time parameters. By passing this ordinance it provides a tool for enforcement. Residential areas times are not before 7 am and commercial times are 6 am and this doesn't apply to snow removal. Mayor Palmgren asked that the word reasonably be changed to "unreasonably" and strike "annoys".

Motion by Carroll-Duda, second by Robinson to recommend to Council adoption of Ordinance O-15-149 which creates a noise ordinance with changes stated above.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion Carried

Consideration of recognition of City Employee's Tenure and Retirement Policy.

Administrator Kotter reported that there has not been a formal policy on recognition of employees that hit milestone anniversaries such as 5, 10, 15 years of service to the City. The retirement policy has been applied differently in different departments. This policy proposed would provide opportunities for employees to be recognized by the Mayor and Council two times per year. With a recognition breakfast once a year served by the management team. Retirees would be recognized by both the Council and co-workers.

Motion by Robinson, second by Kennett to adopt the recognition of City employees Tenure and Retirement Policy as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion Carried

Consideration of Plumbing Ordinance O-15-138 An Ordinance Amending Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 152 (Plumbing Code), and Title V: Public Works Chapter 51 (Sewer) and 53 (Water) of the City Code.

Administrator Kotter reported that the state is requiring the adjustments in the City code. The water/sewer lateral service was moved to the water/sewer sections of the City code.

Motion by Rothschild, second by Wachtel to adopt Ordinance O-15-138 which amends Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 152 Plumbing Code, and Title V Public Works Chapter 51 Sewer and Chapter 53 Water of the City Code.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion Carried

Consideration for approval to continue using Cottingham & Butler as City Employee Healthcare Insurance Broker for 2016 and go out the following year for RFP's.

Administrator Kotter reported that Cottingham & Butler have been the broker for the City 2 years and the Health Insurance Committee is happy with the service that the employees have received from them. They would like to retain them for 1 more year and then send out for RFP's in 2016. Mayor Palmgren stated that there are 3 capable insurance brokers in Geneseo and she would like to see the service kept local.

Motion by Carroll-Duda, second by Simosky to retain Cottingham & Butler as the City's Health Insurance broker for 2016 and to request RFP's for health insurance brokers mid 2016 for the year 2017.

Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays.

Motion Carried.

Consideration for approval of the carryover of 2014-2015 Budgeted Funds to 2015-2016.

Administrator Kotter reported that as presented at the Committee of the Whole, some funds that were budgeted in a year and that near the year end the invoice has not yet arrived. Those items include the clarifier, signs, the squad car, conference table and chairs and cameras. We cannot charge the expense back to the previous year and so a request can be made to transfer funds into the new/ current year Council approval.

Motion by Robinson, second by Carroll-Duda to approve the carryover funds from the 2014-2015 Budget into the 2015-2016 Budget year in the amount of \$72,393.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion Carried

Consideration for approval Resolution R-15-130 A Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Personal Property, Disposal of a 2009 Chevy Impala from the Police Department.

Chief Piotrowski reported that he has a 2009 Chevy Impala with 90,000 plus miles on it and he would like to dispose of it via the auto auction.

Motion by Wachtel, second by Rothschild to declare the 2009 Chevy Impala as surplus and allow it to be disposed of at an auto auction.

Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays.

Motion Carried.

Consideration for approval of a 3% COLA increase to the salary of the City Administrator.

Mayor Palmgren asked HRS Laingen what the Personnel Handbook says about the 3% increase, she stated that the Council ok's the 3%. The Mayor added "or what is budgeted". Alderman Rothschild asked if anyone who is contracted or has a contract with the City is eligible for the 3% increase, HRS Laingen stated that she is an employee of the City and is eligible.

The Mayor read section 2.04 of the Personnel Policy Manual that states the following: "The City Council will establish salary ranges and/or hourly rates of pay for each employee based on the job classification. The established salary range and/or hourly rates of pay are reflective of a particular job. Individual pay rates may vary provided the work experience warrants the rate and is related to the job to be performed. The City Council will not give an increase to an employee who has performed at an unacceptable level. Salary adjustments may be reviewed by the Council on an annual basis, depending on the City's determination of C.O.L.A., growth, ability to pay, budget considerations and effects of the surrounding economy. Salary adjustments, if authorized, shall be effective July 1 of every year. Employment hiring agreements may supersede the July 1 date." Mayor stated that it doesn't say 3% and the budgetary impact on a salary of \$90,000 is \$2,700 for the year.

Motion by Kennett, second by Wachtel to approve a 3% salary increase for the City Administrator.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion Carried

Consideration of Resolution R-15-131 A Resolution Authorizing Signatures with the Depository Institutions of the City of Geneseo.

Administrator Kotter stated that this is to add the new accountant Kara Wiesemeyer to the list of signors for the City. Alderman Wachtel stated that now that we have a Professional Administrator on staff and signing checks is a day to day operational function we should remove the elected officials from the list of signors. There was concern with having enough checks and balances and the signors were left as previous with the addition of the new City Accountant Kara Wiesemeyer.

Motion by Rothschild, second by Wachtel to approve Resolution R-15-131 Authorizing Signatures with the Depository Institutions of the City of Geneseo adding City Accountant Kara Wiesemeyer.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: 7 Simosky,Wachtel,Robinson,Roodhouse,Kennett,Carroll-Duda,Rothschild

NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried

Consideration of Appointment of First Ward Council Member.

There were 3 Candidates that submit letters of interest. Sue Garlick, Wendi Johns and Michael A. Smith. The 3 candidates made a presentation of their background, experience, reason for the interest in being on Council and if this is a long term interest or just to fill the remainder of the term. Council then asked any questions that they may have.

Mayor Palmgren nominated Wendi Johns as First Ward Alderman.

Concern was raised as to whether or not Mayor Palmgren could be the tie breaking vote. City Attorney Thurman didn't have a definitive answer and decided at the meeting that she should be able to.

Motion by Rothschild, second by Simosky to appoint Wendi Johns as First Ward Alderman.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: 3 Simosky,Carroll-Duda,Rothschild
NAYS: 3 Wachtel,Kennett,Robinson
ABSTAIN: 1 Roodhouse
ABSENT: 0

Tie Breaker Aye Mayor Palmgren

Motion Carried

Consideration of appointment of Jerica Minton to the Police Pension Board to fill Vacancy.

Administrator Kotter reported that Cathy Rothschild term expired due to performing accounting work for the board. Jerica Minton replaced Rothschild on the Police Pension Board. Mayor Palmgren clarified that Cathy Rothschild acquired another account and the business handles the payroll for the board so it was a conflict. Jerica's term will expire in June of 2016.

Motion by Carroll-Duda to appoint Jerica Minton to the Police Pension Board to fill the vacancy from Cathy Rothschild's resignation set to expire in June 2016.

Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays.

Motion Carried.

Consideration of appointment of Plan Commission Member.

Mayor Palmgren reported that Rick McDaniel had served on the Plan Commission before moving out of town, he has since returned to Geneseo and has expressed interest on being on the board. Inspector Mills reported that he was a good asset to the board and is a Civil Engineer. Mayor Palmgren stated that she has reached out to Rick but hasn't heard back. He can be approved for appointment and if he doesn't want to be on then we can bring it back.

Motion by Wachtel, second by Carroll-Duda to approve the appointment of Rick McDaniel to fill the vacancy for Mike Talbott's term on the Plan Commission which expires May 2016.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion Carried

Consideration of recommendation from committee to Select City Attorney

City Attorney Thurman announced his retirement as the City Attorney. Thurman has been City Attorney for 32 years and will continue in his ever expanding Private Practice.

The attorney selection committee interviewed 5 candidates and has selected Dan Alcorn from Alcorn and Karlin in Galesburg IL. Mr. Alcorn has experience with a Charter City and handles other Cities.

Motion by Carroll-Duda, second by Rothschild to approve the recommendation of the selection committee and appoint Dan Alcorn of Alcorn and Karlin as City Attorney.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried

Consideration of recommendation from committee to select City Engineer.

City Administrator Kotter reported that the committee interviewed 2 candidates for City engineer and decided to recommend Missman. They want to participate in more project bids on specific projects and develop a relationship with McClure.

Motion by Wachtel, second by Simosky to appoint Missman as City Engineer and appoint Dan Alcorn of Alcorn and Karlin as City Attorney.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: 7 Simosky, Wachtel, Robinson, Roodhouse, Kennett, Rothschild, Carroll-Duda

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried

Enterprise Zone Finance Update

Administrator Kotter reported that the State did not recommend Geneseo to be in the Enterprise Zone for Henry County. It hasn't been made official yet, we will find out more at a luncheon being held for the Cities involved.

No Action

Payment of City and Utility Bills

Mayor Palmgren reported that a new list was distributed at the meeting tonight so she gave everyone a chance to review the new list. Administrator Kotter reported that there is a large payment of \$900,000 to Edwards for the solar field completion. Mayor Palmgren questioned the Ancel Glink bill dated August 7 in the amount of \$1,813.21. Administrator Kotter stated that the bill included reviewing documents for retirees, a conference call on 7/10 for an hour, and 5.5 hours on 7/14 attending the City Council meeting for 5.5 hours and 2 hours of travel, plus duplication charges and UPS for \$28.00.

Mayor Palmgren stated that she didn't realize that the City is supplying khaki pants for employees. Administrator Kotter reported that the charge in question was negotiated through FOP negotiations and the khaki pants and polo shirts are for the front counter. They are supplied with the initial startup of items as follows; full time 3 pants, 2 long sleeve and 2 short sleeve and part time are 2 pants and 1 of each of the shirts. They will then receive a \$250 clothing allowance to purchase the following years clothing supply as stated above. This creates a more professional look at the front counter.

Motion by Simosky, second by Robinson to approve payment of City and Utility bills.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: 7 Simosky, Wachtel, Robinson, Roodhouse, Kennett, Carroll-Duda, Rothschild

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Motion by Rothschild, second by Simosky to adjourn at 8:04pm.

Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays.

Respectfully submitted,

Loree K Phlypo
City Clerk

