

City of Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois
Committee of the Whole Meeting
June 23, 2015

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

The City Council of the City of Geneseo met Tuesday June 23, 2015 at the Council Chambers, 115 South Oakwood Avenue. Mayor Nadine Palmgren called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Alderman Paula Simosky, Keith Kennett, Robert Wachtel, Justin Snodgrass, Martin Rothschild, Kathy Carroll-Duda, James Roodhouse answered roll call. Jason Robinson was absent. Others in attendance included City Administrator Lisa Kotter, City Attorney Virgil Thurman, City Clerk Loree K Phlypo, Director Opsal, Director VanDeWoestyne, Inspector Mills, HRS Jill Laingen, the press and various audience members.

A Quorum was present.

Public Hearing – Backyard Chickens

A public hearing was held to allow the residents that ability to voice their concerns and support for backyard chickens. Kirsten Mortenson brought this item before Council a year ago and it was put in abeyance to allow for further information gathering. Some of the concerns voiced included smell, noise, dirty, attraction to rodents, disease, drainage into sewer system and a decrease in property values. Attendees in favor of backyard chickens sited that they felt that it was a good learning process for children, self-sufficiency and with a well written ordinance this could be an asset for the City. Items to be considered in the ordinance would be yard size limitations, so that someone with a small yard would probably not be able to have a flock. Limited number of permits issued each year, required sanitation education for applicants and some type of notification to neighbors of an applicant. Cities such as Naperville have already passed this ordinance and have had no problems so far. There were several written submissions in favor of and against backyard chickens.

Motion by Rothschild, second by Wachtel to move this item to the July Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

Voice Vote. All Ayes. 0 Nays.

Motion Carried.

Public Comment

Pamela Palmer and Darin Dralle reported a problem with water drainage in the 100 block of South Russell. When it rains hard there is up to 4 feet of water in the basements. This is an issue for several residents and has been for 25 years. Mr. Dralle sited that the street is build up and the rain off the street drains off into yards. Ms. Palmer stated that she has had to replace her furnace several times and that she has complained to City Hall in the past. Director of Public Works acknowledges the problem and doesn't know if it is ground water or sewer water and is currently working on the Cities infiltration problem.

Consideration to renew the Municipal Hearing Officer Ted Hamer's contract for another year

Discussion was held on renewing the Municipal Hearing Officer's contract for another year. City Administrator Kotter stated that this is just looking at renewing the contract not whether or not we should keep the Municipal Adjudication System in place. Some Aldermen felt that this should go out for RFP's. Kotter stated that this system has no teeth so it is not working as well as first thought it would so we would need more time to gather information on why it's not working very well and if it is worth keeping in place. There is a bill HB2745 that is coming up for a vote that would give the Adjudication System the ability to be enforceable like a judgement. This would give the system the teeth that it needs to work more efficiently. There is a 30 day clause in the contract so if within the year it is decided to change processes then the City could give the Hearing Officer a 30 day notice and wouldn't be bound by the year contract.

Motion by Snodgrass, second by Roodhouse to move this item to the July 14th City Council to renew the Municipal Hearing Officer contract with Ted Hamer.

Voice Vote. All Ayes. 0 Nays.

Motion Carried.

Consideration of Resolution R-15-129 for 2015-2016 MFT Tax

This is an annual Resolution for expenditures authorized by IDOT guidelines. City Administrator Kotter stated that the amount in the Budget passed was \$160 thousand for this expenditure and the Resolution states \$106 thousand, this is due to the possible reduction from the state and some money set aside for projects.

Motion by Wachtel, second by Snodgrass to recommend to Council adoption of Resolution R-15-129 for Maintenance of Streets and Highways by Municipality Under the Illinois Highway Code as required by IDOT for fiscal year July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$106,000 for the expenditure of Motor Fuel Tax Funds.

Voice Vote. All Ayes. 0 Nays.

Motion Carried

Payment of City and Utility Bills

No Discussion

Motion by Roodhouse, second by Rothschild to approve the bills as presented for payment.

ROLL CALL

Ayes 7 Wachtel, Kennett, Simosky, Roodhouse, Snodgrass, Rothschild, Carroll-Duda

Nays

Absent 1 Robinson

Abstain

Motion Carried

Mayoral Comments

Mayor Palmgren that the Evangelical Church for holding the Elected Officials Luncheon it was very nice. She also thanked the Administrator and staff for the job performed over the weekend with the Music Fest.

Executive Session

Motion by Kennett, second by Carroll-Duda to enter into executive session at 7:42 pm 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.

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.

ROLL CALL

Ayes 7 Wachtel, Kennett, Simosky, Roodhouse, Snodgrass, Rothschild, Carroll-Duda

Nays

Absent 1 Robinson

Abstain

Motion Carried

Motion by Wachtel, second by Snodgrass to return to open meeting at 9:16 pm.

Voice Vote. All Ayes. 0 Nays.

Motion Carried

Motion by Simosky, second by Roodhouse to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Loree K. Phlypo
City Clerk