

**City of Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois**  
**Committee of the Whole Meeting**  
**October 27, 2015**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

The City Council of the City of Geneseo met Tuesday October 27, 2015 at the Council Chambers, 115 South Oakwood Avenue. Mayor Nadine Palmgren called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Alderman Jason Robinson, Keith Kennett, Martin Rothschild, Bob Wachtel, James Roodhouse, Kathy Carroll-Duda answered roll call. Paula Simosky 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**

**None**

**Proclamation**

Proclamation recognizing National Indian Heritage Month for the month of November was read by the Mayor and proclaimed.

**Consideration of Hotel/Motel Tax Refunding for the Chamber of Commerce**

Administrator Kotter reported that there are certain events that directly benefit the City that are promoted by the Chamber. The City currently partners with the Chamber in the amount of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of 1% of sales tax received. The Chamber would like to see an increase to help offset the expenses that they incur to promote tourism in the City of Geneseo. Rhonda Ludwig reported that the Chamber's sole financial support comes from member dues and that they appreciate all that the City contributes but would like to see an increase in the contribution from the City because the events that the Chamber promotes have gotten to a level that increased dollars would allow them to be promoted at a higher level and attract more tourism. She requested either an increase in the percentage or a flat dollar amount. A flat amount would give the Chamber a better idea about what they are going to be able to afford when planning their budget. A minimum dollar amount or an increase in the percentage was discussed.

**Motion by Rothschild, second by Carroll-Duda to recommend to Council to increase the sales tax designated for the Chamber to 1%.**

**Voice Vote. 7Ayes. 1 Absent.**

**Motion Carried**

**Consideration of a request from First Presbyterian Church to reimburse 20% of Building Permit Fees.**

Administrator Kotter reported that ordinance 1961 was adopted allowing for non-profits to request a 20% rebate on building permit fees. This request involves a building permit cost of \$258.58 with a 20% rebate of \$51.70.

**Motion by Rothschild, second by Robinson to reimburse the First Presbyterian Church for 20% of the cost of building permit number 15000463 in the amount of \$51.70.**

**Voice Vote. 7Ayes. 1 Absent.**

**Motion Carried.**

**Consideration of An Ordinance O-15-151 snow removal on corner lots.**

Administrator Kotter reported that the current ordinance on snow removal is unclear as to who maintains the ramps on the corners so the snow ends up piling up and anyone that is disabled or in a wheelchair would not be able to pass safely. The current ordinance states that the homeowner is responsible for the sidewalks abutting their property but does not address who is responsible for the corners. Legally you can wait until the snow plow goes by and then shovel but once the plow has passed you cannot throw snow into the street.

**Motion by Carroll-Duda, second by Robinson to recommend to Council approval of Ordinance O-15-151 which requires corner lot property owners that abut a handicap ramp to keep the walkway clear of snow with the additions of, line 1A “fall and other accumulations or deposits of precipitation”.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes 7 Wachtel, Rothschild, Roodhouse, Carroll-Duda, Kennett, Robinson, Smith**

**Nays 0**

**Absent 1 Simosky**

**Motion Carried**

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

Administrator Kotter reported that currently the City prohibits parking downtown on specific streets from 1:00 to 5:00 AM all year long. There is also a restriction of parking in any street within 12 hours after a snowfall of three inches or more has occurred. The staff would like to propose that we limit parking from 1-5 AM on all City streets from November 1 to April 1. This would allow for more time to clear streets following a snow storm. Further discussion was held on declaring snow routes and pinpointing problem streets and restricting the parking on those streets.

**Motion by Smith, second by Kennett to layover item O-15-152 to the Committee of the Whole on November 24, 2015 to allow for further discussion.**

**Voice Vote. 7Ayes. 1 Absent.**

**Motion Carried**

**Consideration of change in Elected Officials Compensation.**

Administrator Kotter reported that Mayor Palmgren and Alderman Kennett requested to have this item placed on the agenda for consideration. Mayor Palmgren stated that it has been 16 years since the Aldermen had an increase in compensation and 25 years for the Mayor. If a change is approved it wouldn't affect the current elected officials, it would go into effect for the right side of Council in 2017 and the Mayor and left side in 2018. Alderman Kennett stated that the City is looking for ways to generate more revenue and fund needed repairs within the City. He doesn't feel that anyone should be an elected official for the money therefore he feels that the Aldermen compensation should go down to \$1 and the rest could be used to pay for sidewalks in the City. This would be a financial gain for the City of about \$20,000. It was stated that School Board members and Park Board members do not receive compensation. Discussion was held to make the compensation zero.

**Motion by Kennett, second by Wachtel to move to City Council on November 10 to adjust the elected official's compensation to zero this does not include the Liquor Commissioners compensation.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes 4 Kennett, Wachtel, Robinson, Smith**

**Nays 3 Roodhouse, Rothschild, Carroll-Duda**

**Absent 1 Simosky**

**Motion Carried**

**Consideration of Amendment to Personnel Policy Manual Section 1.08 B Recruitment and Selection and Section 2.01 Employment Classification, hours worked per calendar year.**

Administrator Kotter reported that the current City policy is that Part Time employees may not exceed 1000 hours in all departments except the Police Department which is 1200 hours. IMRF retirement rules require that once an employee reaches 1000 the City must pay in to IMRF. There are occasions where retaining a part time lower hourly wage employee, even if they reach 1000 plus hours is a cost effective approach to get work completed. If an employee is never vested then what the City has paid in on their behalf it goes to the City's unfunded balance. The City pays 13.44% and the employee pays 4.5% on wages reported to IMRF. We can request the City Attorney to draft an amendment to allow certain City employees to work 1200 hours. This would exclude summer hires, and co-op students.

**Motion by Rothschild, second by Smith to recommend to Council that Personnel Ordinance sections 1.08 and 2.01 be changed to allow the City Administrator the authority to allow part time employees, on a**

limited basis to exceed the 1,000 hour for all part time employees and the 1,200 hour limit for tele-communicators. However, no part time employee may exceed 28 hours a week.

**Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 1 Absent.**

**Motion Carried.**

**Consideration of Cell Tower Use Permit and Rezoning of Lot at Spring and First.**

Administrator Kotter reported that Jim Weinmann provided his report on his findings of the proposed Cell Tower site. Tom Ferry has requested that Verizon's application be tabled for further discussion and review of residents' concerns.

**Motion by Roodhouse, second by Carroll-Duda to move to put this item on the agenda when Tom Ferry contacts the City.**

**Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 1 Absent.**

**Motion Carried.**

**Consideration to transfer balance of Section 125 remaining balance to Fund 70 in the amount of \$4,326.56.**

Administrator Kotter reported that these monies are from employees over several years and there is no avenue to say whose money it is and the auditor's want the account closed. Fund 70 is Healthcare and Wellness.

Motion by Wachtel, second by Robinson to recommend to Council to transfer the balance of \$4,326.56 in the Section 125 Cafeteria Plan to Fund 70 to be used toward health and wellness programs.

**Payment of City and Utility Bills**

Administrator Kotter stated that Alderman Carroll-Duda had some questions about the bills. Chief Piotrowski stated that the Sex Offender Registration Fees get paid to the City and then the City sends the money in to the State and they reimburse us a certain amount. Kotter reported that sidewalk expenses were for the supplies for repairs, \$1900 in testing was for dispatch candidates, officers and new employee; Third Phase Training is for Electric Linemen; and the City reroofed the dog pound.

**Motion by Carroll-Duda, second by Rothschild to approve City and Utility bills as stated.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes 7 Kennett, Wachtel, Roodhouse, Rothschild, Carroll-Duda, Robinson, Smith**

**Nays**

**Absent 1 Simosky**

**Motion Carried**

**Public Comment**

**None**

**Executive Session**

**RE: Personnel Issues**

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: Land Acquisition**

Pursuant to property matter pursuant to: **5ILCS 120/2(c)(5)** The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

**RE: Structure Condemnation**

**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.

**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 Roodhouse, second by Robinson to enter into executive session at 7:50 pm.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes 7 Robinson, Kennett, Wachtel, Roodhouse, Rothschild, Carroll-Duda**

**Nays**

**Absent 1 Simosky**

**Motion Carried**

**Motion by Roodhouse, second by Wachtel to return to open meeting at 9:14 pm.**

**Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 1 Absent.**

**Motion Carried**

**Motion by Kennett, second by Robinson to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm.**

**Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 1 Absent.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Loree K. Phlypo  
City Clerk