

City of Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois
City Council
December 8, 2015
6:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

The City Council of the City of Geneseo met Tuesday December 8, 2015 at the Council Chambers, 115 South Oakwood Avenue. Mayor Nadine Palmgren called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. Aldermen Paula Simosky, Keith Kennett, Kathy Carroll-Duda, Bob Wachtel, Jason Robinson, Martin Rothschild, Roodhouse and Michael Smith answered roll call. Others in attendance included, Administrator Kotter, City Attorney Alcorn, Clerk Phlypo, City Accountant Wiesemeyer, Public Works Director VanDeWoestyne, Director of Electrical Operations Opsal and Inspector Mills.

There was a quorum.

City Engineering

No Report

Chamber of Commerce

Director Ludwig reported that the 30th Annual Christmas Walk is Saturday the 12th and will start off with a 5K in the morning. They have had 40 entries into the Lighted Parade. She thanked the City employees for all their cooperation and help with the preparation of the Christmas Walk.

Proclamation

Mayor Palmgren read the National Drunk & Drugged Driving Month of December Proclamation.

Mayoral Comments

Mayor Palmgren reported that the State MFT Funds bill has been passed and Governor Rauner will be signing it so that Municipalities can receive money for road salt and other covered expenses.

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes City Council 10/13/2015
Correction: Under the Police Garage floor painting item, Alderman Kennett abstained from the vote and Under the Verizon Cell Tower discussion remove the word "reported" and replace with "stated that Verizon believes".
2. Minutes Committee of the Whole 10/27/2015
Correction: Under Elected Official Compensation, vote needs to read, Roll Call Ayes 4 and Nays 3 with Alderman Simosky Absent.
3. Minutes Special City Council
4. Minutes Committee of the Whole 11/24/15

Motion by Robinson, second by Carroll-Duda to approve the consent agenda as presented with the stated corrections.

Voice Vote. 8 Ayes. 0 Nays.

Motion Carried

Consideration of Plan Commission Case # 15-018 a requested conditional use permit for Jim & Rob Ries to construct a duplex on lot 2 of Larry Vandersnick Subdivision on S. Illinois Street.

Administrator Kotter reported that in the packet a deed bringing the 2 plots of land together has been provided. The City Building Inspector will not issue any permits for building until the 2 plots are combined. An addition to the motion should be that a portion of parcel 08-21-407-063 will be included.

Motion by Carroll-Duda, second by Simosky to approve the Conditional Use Permit for Jim & Rob Ries for the two parcels zoned R-2 north of Chestnut Street on the east side of South Illinois Street described as parcels 08-21-407-067 and a portion of 08-21-407-063 to construct a duplex contingent on the new lot subdivision being recorded and approved by the City Building Inspector, City Administrator and County.

Voice Vote. 8 Ayes. 0 Nays.

Motion Carried

Consideration of a change in Elected Officials Compensation.

Discussion was held on whether or not to increase, decrease or leave the Aldermen's compensation as it currently is. City Attorney Alcorn reported that by law Elected Officials have to take the compensation but then it is up to them what they do with it. They can donate it to a charity or the City and they can specify what they would like the money spent on.

Died for lack of a motion

The current \$20 a meeting compensation that is currently paid to City Council and Committee of the Whole members will be stopped due to Ordinance #1404 stating that only certain boards receive meeting compensation dated October 13, 1987.

Discussion of changes to City Charter in 1987 and 1988 by Referendum on Mayor's Term and compensation

City Attorney Alcorn's opinion is that the changes to the Mayor's term and compensation were conducted properly and legally through referendum. Alderman Wachtel complemented Attorney Alcorn on the opinions that he has submitted to the City on being clear and easy to read.

No Action Taken

Consideration to approve Resolution R-15-139 A Resolution allowing the Richmond Hill Players to sublet the Barn Theatre to Geneseo High School Drama Department for the 2016-2017 school year.

Richmond Hill Players have sent a request to the City to allow the Geneseo High School Drama Department to use the Barn Theatre facilities for the 2016-2017 school year while there building is under construction.

Motion by Wachtel, second by Smith to approve Resolution R-15-139 granting permission to the Richmond Hill Players to sublease the barn theatre for the 2016-2017 school year to the Geneseo School District for theatrical performances and practices.

Voice Vote. 8 Ayes. 0 Nays.

Motion Carried

Alderman James Roodhouse left the meeting at 6:42pm.

Consideration to approve Resolution R-15-140 A Resolution directing City Administrator to follow State of Illinois Statute on vacation pay out at separation/retirement/termination.

No Discussion

Motion by Smith, second by Carroll-Duda to approve Resolution R-15-140 which allows the City Administrator to pay out vacation benefits upon an employee's termination, separation or retirement according to State Statutes until the Personnel Manual is updated and Section 5.05 is corrected.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion Carried

Consideration to approve Resolution R-15-135 A Resolution amending the use of Sommers Avenue.

No Discussion

Motion by Rothschild, second by Wachtel to approve Resolution R-15-135 regarding traffic flow for Sommers Avenue between Park Street and Orange Street: the block shall be a one way street in a northerly direction for the first 98.28 feet on the west side and 93.33 feet on the east side and then the portion South of this section to Orange Street will be a two way street.

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

Motion Carried

Consideration to approve Ordinance O-15-152 An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Title IX, Chapter 92, Section 92.57, of the City Code, regarding parking restrictions due to snowfall.

Discussion was held as to how the City should manage street clearing after a weather event. To best serve the residents and clear the streets of snow or whatever weather has hindered driving on them the Council discussed snow routes, parking restrictions and the ability to declare a weather emergency. The Ordinance presented was to declare a snow emergency. After discussion it was decided to eliminate section E on the first page, amend section 92.58 by removing the wording "not to exceed \$50". Section D should be changed to reflect that, "it shall be unlawful for any person to place or permit to stand any vehicle for a period of more than *10 minutes*". Public Notification would be by City website, City Face Book page, Monitor in the City Hall lobby and news channel.

Motion by Smith, second by Robinson to adopt Ordinance O-15-152 which allows for the Declaration of Snow and other Weather Emergencies.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion Carried

Consideration of Street and Cemetery IBEW Contract, December 2015 to June 30, 2018.

The Council discussed the Union Contract at the last meeting, it is very similar to the Water/Wastewater contract. Included in the packet highlighted are the changes from the water/wastewater contract. The employees have ratified it and once the City passes it will be sent to the State Labor Board for approval.

Motion by Wachtel, second by Rothschild to approve the December 2015 to June 30, 2018 IBEW Union Contract for the Street and Cemetery employees as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion Carried

2015 Tax Levy

Consideration of Ordinance O-15-159 2015 Tax Levy Ordinance for the City of Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017.

Consideration of Ordinance O-15-155 Ordinance Providing for the Abatement of the *AD VALOREM* Taxes Levied to Pay Principal of and Interest on certain of the Outstanding General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Waterworks and Sewage Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2014B, of the City of Geneseo, Illinois; and Concerning Matters.

Consideration of Ordinance O-15-156 Ordinance Providing for the Abatement of the *AD VALOREM* Taxes Levied to Pay Principal of and Interest on certain of the Outstanding General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Water and Sewer Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2013, of the City of Geneseo, Illinois; and Concerning Matters.

Consideration of Ordinance O-15-157 Ordinance Providing for the Abatement of the *AD VALOREM* Taxes Levied to Pay Principal of and Interest on certain of the Outstanding General Obligation Refunding (Alternate Revenue Source) Bonds, Series 2014A, of the City of Geneseo, Illinois; and Concerning Matters.

Consideration of Ordinance O-15-158 Ordinance Providing for the Abatement of the *AD VALOREM* Taxes Levied to Pay Principal of and Interest on certain of the Outstanding General Obligation Alternate Bonds, Series 2007A, of the City of Geneseo, Illinois; and Concerning Matters.

Discussion was held on the 2015 Tax Levy Ordinance and Tax Abatement ordinances. Taxes are abated on debts that we do not want to levy property taxes to make the payments.

Motion by Carroll-Duda, second by Robinson to adopt Ordinance O-15-159 2015 Tax Levy Ordinance for the City

of Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017; Ordinance O-15-155 Ordinance Providing for the Abatement of the *AD VALOREM* Taxes Levied to Pay Principal of and Interest on certain of the Outstanding General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Waterworks and Sewage Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2014B, of the City of Geneseo, Illinois; and Concerning Matters; Ordinance O-15-156 Ordinance Providing for the Abatement of the *AD VALOREM* Taxes Levied to Pay Principal of and Interest on certain of the Outstanding General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Water and Sewer Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2013, of the City of Geneseo, Illinois; and Concerning Matters; Ordinance O-15-157 Ordinance Providing for the Abatement of the *AD VALOREM* Taxes Levied to Pay Principal of and Interest on certain of the Outstanding General Obligation Refunding (Alternate Revenue Source) Bonds, Series 2014A, of the City of Geneseo, Illinois; and Concerning Matters and Ordinance O-15-158 Ordinance Providing for the Abatement of the *AD VALOREM* Taxes Levied to Pay Principal of and Interest on certain of the Outstanding General Obligation Alternate Bonds, Series 2007A, of the City of Geneseo, Illinois; and Concerning Matters.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Chief Piotrowski arrived at 7:13PM.

Payment of City and Utility Bills

An extra bill list was handed out. Questions on bills included:

1. Fabric High back Chair – 3 Chairs were purchased in the Police Department.
2. South State Street Water/Sewer Final Payment, this project came in at 10.91% under engineering costs.

Motion by Smith, second by Rothschild to approve payment of City and Utility bills as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Public Comment

Resident Kathy Allen stated how proud she was of the City Officials for unity and working together.

Executive Session

Motion by Wachtel, second by Carroll-Duda to go into Executive Session under the following statute at 7:20PM.

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.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Motion by Wachtel, second by Simosky to return to open meeting at 8:02PM.

Voice Vote. 7 Ayes. 1 Absent.

Motion Carried.

Actions after Executive Session

Consideration to approve Resolution R-15-141 regarding Retiree Health Insurance.

Motion by Carroll-Duda, second by Simosky to lift the caps on retirees starting January 1, 2016 after signing a release.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Mayor Palmgren asked for any other motions on retiree health insurance. There were none.

Public Comment

Mrs. Dawson asked if this was stage 1 and would it be brought up again. Administrator Kotter stated no, that each retiree would meet with the City to review their individual situation with the caps being removed. A release would be given to each retiree and upon signing the release the caps would then be removed.

Mayor Palmgren stated that she did not agree with the Council decision on no pay back.

Adjournment

Motion by Wachtel, second by Rothschild to adjourn at 8:07pm.

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

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Loree K Phlypo
City Clerk