

**City of Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois**  
**Committee of the Whole Meeting**  
**January 26, 2016**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

The City Council of the City of Geneseo met Tuesday January 26, 2015 at the Council Chambers, 115 South 6Oakwood Avenue. Mayor Nadine Palmgren called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Alderman Martin Rothschild, Bob Wachtel, Jason Robinson, Keith Kennett, Kathy Carroll-Duda, Paula Simosky, James Roodhouse and Michael Smith answered roll call. Others in attendance included City Administrator Lisa Kotter, City Attorney Dan Alcorn, 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

Mayor stated that Kathleen Repass would be leaving her position with the Henry County Economic Development as of February 1, 2016, but would stay on to assist part-time for as long as needed.

**Consideration of Ordinance O-16-161 Regulating Visibility into Commercial Properties under Construction**

Administrator Kotter stated that this would assist in regulating commercial properties that are under construction so that City Staff could recognize when a reminder is needed that a Building Permit is required. This would give additional safety for workers in the event someone fell off a ladder or something and a passerby could see into the building to call for help. Building Inspector Mills stated that normally he doesn't have a problem with being invited into building's under construction to inspect. It was decided not to take any action since it didn't seem to warrant it.

**No Action was taken**

**Discussion on designating a limit on cats and dogs in a residential family home**

Administrator Kotter stated that resident Julie Rubitsky contacted Alderman Kennett and herself about this item. Research has shown that some Cities have regulations and some don't. Mayor Palmgren received a letter from the Humane Society on this discussion and that Mrs. Rubitsky's letter was a concern for animal welfare, being current on shots and having adequate care. Alderman Kennett stated that he believed that the County had set animal number limitations due to the case out on Wolf Road several years ago. When asked, CSO Mallum reported that there have been no animal complaints in a year. Attorney Alcorn stated that animal issues can be handled under the City Nuisance Ordinance. Chief Piotrowski stated that the State Statute is utilized for animal control issues reported to the Police Department. Mayor Palmgren stated that Mrs. Rubitsky's letter was concerned with animals being current on their shots and their welfare more than anything. If you know of an address where an animal resides and you want to check and see if their shots are up to date you can go on the State Website and look the address up. Alderman Smith reported that he had a couple complaints on barking dogs and they said that the Police Department handles those cases very well. It was decided that no action would be taken.

**No Action taken**

**Consideration of the requested expansion of the Geneseo Education Foundation Monument in the City Park**

Administrator Kotter and Director of Public Works VanDeWoestyne met with the Geneseo Education Foundation Director Barb Fehlman to discuss the expansion of Geneseo Education Foundation Monument in the City Park. They would like to add two three foot sections slanted to resemble an open book to add donor's names. The current monument is full. Alderman Carroll-Duda asked if there would be an issue with mowing, Director

VanDeWoestyne stated there wouldn't be as it would have four foot footings. The total width of the monument would be twelve foot six inches. Alderman Wachtel asked that the overall size be watched so that it isn't overpowering to that area of the park.

**Motion by Roodhouse, second by Robinson to recommend to City Council approval for the Geneseo School Foundation to add two additional sides to the monument in City Park.**

**Voice Vote. 8 Ayes. 0 Nays.**

**Motion Carried.**

#### **Consideration of LED signage along I-80**

Administrator Kotter reported that for those who were out at the wind turbine site to view the signs know that the sign sample that was displayed during the day was 50x100 and the evening signs displayed were 50x100 and 100x100. The consensus was that they were too small for the traffic flow speed. The Mayor asked for additional sizes and costs which are; 150x200 16'7" at a cost of \$58,932.25; 150x300 25' at a cost of \$86,166.15; 200x200 16'7" at a cost of \$76,737.15; and 200x300 25' \$114,483.76. Kotter stated that the City is pursuing the Blue Signs on the highway and that you can have 6 small signs on one large one and 4 large ones total per IDOT. There is a cost to those but Room Tax monies can be used. The chamber has a billboard, it's not lit and would probably need to be painted. It would cost about \$3,000 for solar lights and due to it not being located on City property we couldn't run fiber to it. Mayor Palmgren asked that may be the Chamber could take up donations and share the cost since the City covered the music downtown and increased the City's contribution percentage to the Chamber. Mayor Palmgren asked how close the sign could be put to the highway at Richmond Hill Park, Director VanDeWoestyne stated that Missman said that it could be anywhere on City property. A Marketing Consultant up to \$20,000 was approved at a prior meeting to work with other entities within the City to create branding for the community. Kathy Foes has other Cities that have benefited from signage so maybe we can get that information for a further discussion.

**Motion by Smith, Second by Simosky to move the discussion to the Committee of the Whole on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.**

**Voice Vote. 8 Ayes. 0 Nays.**

**Motion Carried.**

#### **Consideration to allow the Mayor to sign the letter of support for maintaining the tax exempt statue for bonds secured by local governments**

Administrator Kotter reported that IMUA has requested that we go on record in support of maintaining the tax exempt status for boards secured by local government, it has been this way for 100 years and there is discussion on making a change in this law. If it changed there would be more debt for municipalities.

**Motion by Robinson, second by Carroll-Duda to recommend to Council that Mayor Palmgren sign a letter supporting the tax exemption along with other municipal leaders.**

**Voice Vote. 8 Ayes. 0 Nays.**

**Motion Carried.**

#### **Consideration of an amendment to the March 10, 2015 minutes regarding the debt issue for the Solar project**

Administrator Kotter reported when reviewing the minutes from March 10, 2015 regarding the interest rate that the Council agreed to charge the electric utility on the loan from the general fund we noticed that the wording didn't reflect the actual financing for the Solar Project. The Council decided to take the \$1.5 million out in a bank loan and use the other \$1 million that would be replaced after the grant funds are received fall of 2015 from the City General Fund. The minutes currently sound like the City took out a short term bank loan. The request is to clarify the minutes that the short term note or loan was taken out from the City at an interest rate of 1.25%.

**Motion by Wachtel, second by Roodhouse to recommend to Council that the March 10, 2015 minutes be amended to include a motion that the solar project funding includes a \$1 million short term note from the City General Fund to the electric utility at a 1.25% interest rate.**

**Voice Vote. 8 Ayes. 0 Nays.**

**Motion Carried.**

**Consideration to give authorization to allow Chief Piotrowski to waive the bid process to replace a 2001 Chevy Tahoe**

Chief Piotrowski reported that in September 2009 the department seized a Chevy Tahoe and it has been used by the department. He would like to replace the vehicle and waive the bid process. Funds to cover this new purchase will come from Article 36 Funds, value to trade in, alternately seized funds or available funds. The state bid on a Tahoe is \$40,000 and a Ford Explorer is \$28,000 to \$30,000.

**Motion by Carroll-Duda, second by Rothschild to waive the requirement to bid out a purchase over \$20,000 and to replace the 2001 Chevy Tahoe and sell or trade in the 2001 Chevy Tahoe with new vehicle funding coming from Article 36 funds, alternatively seized funds and available funds.**

**Voice Vote. 8 Ayes. 0 Nays.**

**Motion Carried.**

**Payment of City and Utility Bills**

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

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes 8 Wachtel,Roodhouse,Rothschild,Carroll-Duda,Smith,Simosky,Kennett,Robinson**

**Nays**

**Absent**

**Motion Carried**

**Public Comment**

None

**Motion by Rothschild, second by Wachtel to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 pm.**

**Voice Vote. 8 Ayes. 0 Nays.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Loree K. Phlypo  
City Clerk