

**City of Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois  
Committee of the Whole Meeting  
November 22, 2016**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

The City Council of the City of Geneseo met Tuesday November 22, 2016 at the Council Chambers, 115 South Oakwood Avenue. Mayor Kathy Carroll-Duda called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm. Alderman Bob Wachtel, Martin Rothschild, Paula Simosky, Brenda Johnson, Jason Robinson, James Roodhouse, Sue Garlick and Kent Anderson answered roll call. Others in attendance included City Administrator Lisa Kotter, City Clerk Loree K Phlypo, Finance Director Kara Wiesemeyer, Public Works Director Chad VanDeWoestyne and Director of Electrical Operations Lewis Opsal, IT Manager Garrett Griswold, HR Generalist Brandon Maeglin, City Attorney Derke Price, Inspector Rick Mills, Illinois State Representative Don Moffit and Steve Welch.

A Quorum was present.

**Proclamation – Geneseo Education Foundation Week December 4<sup>th</sup>**

Mayor Carroll-Duda read proclamation and proclaimed the week of December 4<sup>th</sup> as Geneseo Education Foundation Week.

**Guest: Illinois State Representative Don Moffit**

Mr. Moffit's term ends January 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 11:59 PM. He has been a State Representative for 24 years. Mayor Carroll-Duda thanked Representative Moffit for his service to Geneseo and the State of Illinois. Representative Moffit reminded everyone that the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November is the day in 1963 that JFK was assassinated. He complimented the City of Geneseo on how well its government operates and that the City has a balanced budget. He stated that during his time in office he helped put the program in place to allow fire departments to purchase new Fire Trucks on interest free revolving loan funds. To date there have been 180 Fire Trucks purchased under this program. Representative Moffit presented the Mayor with a State and Federal flag that have been flown over the State Capital along with the Certificates and a Blue Book. City Council thanked Representative Moffit for his service.

**Public Comment**

None

**Discussion on Maple Leaf Heights Subdivision Development Agreement and Intergovernmental Agreement**

Administrator Kotter reported that she has been working with Mel Foster and the Ficke Family on this project. She has attended all the Taxing District meetings to present the project except the School District. Mr. Kuffel took care of that meeting. In December they will vote on whether or not they want to be a part of the project. The City's part will be 9% and the funds will come from Reserve funds out of Capital Funds account. The City will front the funds for all the taxing districts and then they will pay the City back with a variety of different payment options based on financial need. The payments will be set with little or no interest. Past administrations didn't want to borrow the money for this project so this is a collaboration of all taxing districts and is positive growth for the community. The first release will be 40 lots and Mel Foster will pay for the water and sewer to be put in. This will just be a renewal of permits with IDOT since it was already submitted.

**Motion by Roodhouse, second by Robinson to recommend to the City Council the approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the School District, Park District, Library District, Town and Road District, Fire District and Hammond Henry Hospital and to direct staff to finalize a development agreement with Mel Foster/Maple Leaf Farm LLC.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes 8 Simosky, Robinson, Garlick, Wachtel, Rothschild, Anderson, Johnson, Roodhouse**

**Nays 0**

**Absent 0**

**Motion Carried**

**Discussion on sidewalk snow clearing ordinance**

Administrator Kotter reported that there are some communal sidewalks that need to either be included in the enforcement of the ordinance on clearing of snow or the City needs to have them included in the ordinance as exceptions and the City will clear them. They are State Street to Becks and Stewart Street to Main Street. Our current ordinance says that all abutting sidewalks will be cleared by the property owner with no exception to Ag Zoned properties. We need to clarify this in the ordinance so that clear direction is given to staff on enforcement.

**Motion by Rothschild, second by Johnson to recommend to City Council to direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance that will clarify the areas that are exceptions to the requirement by abutting property owners to clear those sidewalks.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes 8 Simosky,Robinson,Garlick,Wachtel,Rothschild,Anderson,Johnson,Roodhouse**

**Nays 0**

**Absent 0**

**Motion Carried**

**Discussion on HSA advancement of funds for employees, Resolution R-16-180**

Administrator Kotter reported that in the past 11 employees have taken advantage of this offer and all have been paid back except for the last 2 pay periods of the year which aren't here yet. A single can ask for \$2,600 and a single plus one, single plus children or family can get \$5,200.

No Discussion

**Motion by Johnson, second by Wachtel to recommend to Council adoption of Resolution R-16-180 which provides for employees to receive an advancement of HSA deductible funds up to \$2,600 for single plan employees and up to \$5,200 for single plus one, single plus children and family plan members.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes 8 Simosky,Robinson,Garlick,Wachtel,Rothschild,Anderson,Johnson,Roodhouse**

**Nays 0**

**Absent 0**

**Motion Carried**

**Discussion on construction bids for stoneview estates detention pond.**

Administrator Kotter reported that there were 6 bids and VO Excavating had the lowest bid of \$66,889. \$40,000 was originally budgeted, so the remainder of \$26,889 will come from funds originally budgeted from the 2016 Street Overlay Project that were not spent. When the City sold this property they retained 1 acre for the detention pond. Drainage in this area flows through the park from the south and then will drain into the detention pond. Greg Ryckaert from Missman stated that it will be 3' in depth and will drain in about 4 hours, additional burming will keep the water from flowing all over the surrounding property. VO Excavating will be changing topples of the earth to accomplish the drainage.

**Motion by Wachtel, second by Anderson to recommend to Council the approval of a contract for the construction of a detention pond in Stoneview Estates with V.O. Excavating in the amount of \$66,889 with the funding coming from the Capital Fund, \$40,000 was budgeted for this project and the remaining \$26,889 will come from funds originally budgeted for the 2016 street overlay project that were not spent.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes 8 Simosky,Robinson,Garlick,Wachtel,Rothschild,Anderson,Johnson,Roodhouse**

**Nays 0**

**Absent 0**

**Motion Carried**

**Discussion on Yard Waste Requirements Ordinance.**

Administrator Kotter reported that our ordinance and contract for waste pick up are not consistent. We need to have minimal detail so that it can apply to which ever company that we may utilize in the future.

No Discussion

**Motion by Johnson, second by Rothschild to recommend to Council to direct the City Attorney to prepare a yard waste ordinance that coincides with the current hauling contract and only has the amount of detail necessary for enforcement of the ordinance for consideration at the December Council meeting.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes 8 Simosky,Garlick,Robinson,Wachtel,Rothschild,Anderson,Johnson,Roodhouse**

**Nays 0**

**Absent 0**

**Motion Carried**

**Discussion on estimated tax levy for the truth in taxation public hearing notice.**

Administrator Kotter reported that due to funding being needed for IMRF, Social Security, and Police Pension we will need to look at a levy increase over 4.99%. If the levy is over 4.99% then we will have to hold a truth in taxation hearing, which will need to be in the paper December 2 for a December 13 hearing date. Once the notice is published a levy can be approved at or

below that amount. If you would decide to go higher later then it would have to be republished and this has to be approved by the last Tuesday in December. The Finance Director handed out a spreadsheet showing an example of what taxes would go up based on property value. The City tax portion of the entire bill is 7.3%, so whatever amount is decided upon that would be that percentage of 7.3%. An example is if the full funding amount is chosen it would be 24.03% of 7.3% of the tax bill. On a \$150,000 house at an increase of 24.03% of 7.3% of the tax bill it would be a \$63.79 a year increase. The City has been short on funding due to prior years only committing to the minimum payment to the Police Pension fund. This is now being considered debt if you are underfunding your retirement obligations when it comes to financial ratings for the City. There is also a possibility that there could be a levy freeze enacted by the State and if we don't have our levy increased then we as a City will have no choice but to cut other projects. Administrator Kotter asked Attorney Price if the Township District levies less this year does that mean that we get less money in City coffers. He will report back on December 13.

**Motion by Wachtel, second by Garlick to recommend to City Council to publish a truth in taxation hearing notice in the Geneseo Republic on December 2, 2016 with a proposed 2016 levy amount of \$1,057,242 and a 24.03% increase with a hearing to be held on December 13, 2016 at 5:45pm.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes 8 Garlick,Robinson,Wachtel,Rothschild,Anderson,Johnson,Simosky,Roodhouse**

**Nays 0**

**Absent 0**

**Motion Carried**

**Discussion on special liquor serving hours for New Year's Day, Resolution R-16-181.**

Administrator Kotter reported that the Moose requested a 10:00am start time for serving on Sunday, January 1, 2017. Our current ordinance allows a start time of Noon. We need something more permanent in the future to address these kinds of requests. A suggested process is; request in writing, the Liquor Commissioner response in writing on the decision and the Police Department will be notified.

**Motion by Johnson, second by Roodhouse to recommend to the City Council adoption of Resolution R-16-181 which would grant the Liquor Commissioner permission to change the liquor serving start time on January 1, 2017 to 10:00am to those license holders that make such a request in writing. All requesting license holders will be given written approval and the Police Department will be made aware of all approvals.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes 8 Garlick,Robinson,Wachtel,Rothschild,Anderson,Johnson,Simosky,Roodhouse**

**Nays 0**

**Absent 0**

**Motion Carried**

**Discussion on hiring Tallgrass Restoration for Prairie View Subdivision burning.**

Administrator Kotter reported that on November 3<sup>rd</sup> the City met with Tallgrass Restoration and received recommendations on the care of the grass in Prairie View. The recommendation was that the grass be burned off every 3 years. An estimate was given to the City for one complete burn in 2017 it would cost \$5,005. This would take the liability off of the City and off of employees that don't have the required training to perform such burns. All this property has been dedicated to the City with a couple areas having verbiage that sections of houses are responsible for some maintenance. By approving this we can get on their spring schedule for work.

**Motion by Rothschild, second by Johnson to recommend to City Council the allocation of \$5,005 from the Public Works Operating Budget from Fiscal Year 2017 to hire Tallgrass Restoration to conduct a prairie grass burn in the Prairie View subdivision in spring 2017.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes 8 Garlick,Robinson,Wachtel,Rothschild,Anderson,Johnson,Simosky,Roodhouse**

**Nays 0**

**Absent 0**

**Motion Carried**

**Initiate text amendment Chapter 13 Zoning Code**

Administrator Kotter reported chapter 13 references the Community Development Board which is the previous board that took care of items that the Plan Commission handles. There is a stipulation that the City Council and the Community Development Board cannot take action in the same week. The recommended request would be to eliminate that restriction and allow action in the same week if necessary. It happens only a few times a year where they are meeting in the same week.

**Motion by Wachtel, second by Anderson to recommend to City Council that the Plan Commission be directed to hold a public hearing to consider a recommendation to the City Council to change the references in Chapter 13, the Zoning**

Code, from the Community Development Board to the Plan Commission and to consider eliminating the restriction that the board cannot act in the same week as the City Council.

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes 8 Garlick,Robinson,Wachtel,Rothschild,Anderson,Johnson,Simosky,Roodhouse

Nays 0

Absent 0

**Motion Carried**

**December 2016 Committee of the Whole and January City Council meeting dates.**

Administrator Kotter reported that the Committee of the Whole in December is scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> and due to Christmas falling on the weekend we are closed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup>. We would like to move the Committee of the Whole to January 3<sup>rd</sup> and then the regularly scheduled City Council meeting would be on the 10<sup>th</sup> as scheduled.

No Discussion

**Motion by Robinson, second by Wachtel to recommend to City Council to direct the City Clerk to post the December Committee of the Whole Meeting for January 3<sup>rd</sup> instead of December 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes 8 Garlick,Robinson,Wachtel,Rothschild,Anderson,Johnson,Simosky,Roodhouse

Nays 0

Absent 0

**Motion Carried**

**Payment of City and Utility Bills**

One additional bill was handed out.

**Motion by Robinson, second by Rothschild to approve City and Utility bills as presented.**

**ROLL CALL**

Ayes 8 Garlick,Robinson,Wachtel,Rothschild,Anderson,Johnson,Simosky,Roodhouse

Nays 0

Absent 0

**Motion Carried**

**Public Comment**

None

**Motion by Wachtel, second by Rothschild to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

---

Loree K. Phlypo  
City Clerk