

**City of Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois**  
**Committee of the Whole Meeting**  
**March 26, 2019**

The City Council of the City of Geneseo met Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at the Council Chambers, 115 South Oakwood Avenue. Mayor Kathy Carroll-Duda called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Alderman Jason Robinson, Craig Arnold, Bob Wachtel and, Martin Rothschild answered roll call. Aldermen Brett Barnhart arrived at 6:15 pm. Aldermen James Roodhouse, Sean Johnson and Paula Simosky were absent. Others in attendance included City Administrator Lisa Kotter, City Attorney Derke Price, City Clerk Loree K Phlypo, Public Works Director Chad VanDeWoestyne, Electrical Operations Director Lewis Opsal, Inspector Rick Mills, Finance Director Jamie Matthews, IT Director Garrett Griswold, Deputy Chief Gene Karzin, Paul M Baele from IMEG, Gary & Jull Joyner, Dave & Kathy Allen, Sara McKenna and Matt Schueler from Wipfli, Rev. Dr. Chris Ritter, Chris Leamen, Kendra, Mark D. Hunt, Paul Kane, Hope and Chloe Bos.

A Quorum was present.

**Proclamation – Junior Achievement**

Mayor Carroll-Duda read the proclamation and proclaimed April 4, 2019 Jr. Achievement Day.

Alderman Brett Barnhart joined the meeting at 6:15 PM.

**Presentation – Augustana College Presentation on Stormwater Utility**

Augustana Professor Dr. Reisner and 3 of his students presented the study that they conducted on Stormwater Utility with a Power Point Presentation. Mayor Carroll-Duda commended the students on their work.

**Wipfli Auditing Services**

Administrator Kotter reported that the City received responses from 6 firms and selected 4 to interview. The current firm did not submit a proposal. Wipfli is the recommended firm to hire by the Committee. Partner Matthew Schueler and Senior Manager Sarah McKenna from Wipfli made the presentation.

**Public Comment**

Pastor Chris Ritter gave City Council a letter with signatures from the members of the Ministerial Association against video gaming. Video gaming is bad for the community, will degrade the atmosphere in Geneseo, targeted population include vets and single mothers and he asked that the City maintain the ban on video gaming.

Jim Mason read a letter against video gaming and that it cheapens the community, high social cost and the City only receives 5% of the proceeds from it.

Kathy Allen handed out a handout outlining all the problems that result from allowing video gaming. She stated that she doesn't want to live in a City with gambling, great town to raise a family in.

Gary Joyner reported that gambling is a cancer and doesn't produce anything good.

John Zahm reported that it makes the space in the City ugly and when the question was on the referendum the wording was confusing, using the word gaming instead of gambling confuses residents.

Pastor Dave Murphy understands that this is to offset infrastructure costs, but the long-term repercussions are greater.

Chris Leamen stated that if people are going to gamble, they are going to do it whether or not we have it, they can go out on Wolf Road and then the money is not being spent in the City and benefiting us.

Jeff Keg is opposed to the video gaming.

Nadine Palmgren asked that businesses that open up another location within the City limits not have to pay another deposit on the second location. Crow Ford purchased the old Maple Leaf property and were charged a \$500 deposit with little activity on the property then when they put in an oil change tire service and their usage increased, they received an additional \$800 deposit bill. Currently the policy requires 2 months upfront deposit. Businesses feel like they are being driven out of Geneseo due to fees and deposits. Palmgren feels like there should be a flat rate on the deposits or deposit based on the owner's payment history and not the service usage.

Director of Electrical Operations reported that the City pays for installation of transformers and service materials without any shared cost with the business, this is one way that the City helps businesses in Geneseo.

Mayor Carroll-Duda asked that the Discussion on Video Gaming be moved up on the agenda. All Council members were in agreement to move it up on the agenda.

#### **Discussion on Video Gaming**

Alderman Rothschild reported that he has been receiving calls from residents asking that video gaming be re-discussed. The new truck stop in Atkinson is going to pull business from Geneseo and the businesses are trying to stay competitive. Businesses feel like they are losing revenue to places that have gaming and then businesses leave town because of lack of business. Administrator Kotter stated that if there is enough interest by the Council, we can discuss it or we can take no action.

**No Action**

#### **Discussion on Audit Committee Recommendation**

Administrator Kotter reported that the Audit Committee chose to recommend Wipfli to be the City's Audit firm.

**Motion by Barnhart, second by Arnold to recommend to City Council the appointment of Wipfli as the City audit firm for a minimum of three years for the Fiscal years 2019, 2020 and 2021 in the amount up to \$39,000 per year and if approved by a future Council for an additional two years the price will be \$35,250 in 2022 and \$35,500 in 2023 and place it on the Consent Agenda.**

#### **ROLL CALL**

Ayes 5 Rothschild,Arnold,Robinson,Wachtel,Barnhart

Nays 0

Absent 3 Roodhouse,Simosky,Johnson

**Motion Carried**

#### **Discussion on Richmond Hill Park Ad-hoc Committee update**

Administrator Kotter reported that she spoke to John Debois at Central Bank and the Geneseo Foundation has approved the City for up to \$200,000 in matching funds for Richmond Hill Park project. Their philosophy is funds are distributed based on 1/3 from the Community, 1/3 from the City and 1/3 from the Foundation. We are still waiting to hear on the \$25,000 from the State and there are other local funds such as the Community Fund, Keppy Fund and the Abilities Plus Endowment. Hitchcock is securing pricing on the 4 items discussed at the Ad-hoc Committee meeting, parking on Sportsview Drive, retaining the eastern most three tennis courts for possible use for tennis, pickleball or basketball, new bathrooms and a second full size basketball court. Kotter reported that some options to acquire funding from include the Capitol Fund Balance which has \$900,000, Room tax which must be used for tourism \$50,000 can be used out of there, and the electric fund has \$12,000 in it for shelter lighting that can be used. Aldermen expressed a concern over spending money that could be used for other infrastructure items. Kotter reported that there can be a special City Council meeting held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to approve the decided project.

**No Action**

Wachtel left meeting at 7:54 pm.

#### **Discussion on Ordinance O-17-12 An Ordinance Creating Chapter 120 of the City Code of Ordinances Concerning Annual Business Registration and amending it to coincide with Annual Liquor License renewal date of May 1.**

Administrator Kotter reported that the current ordinance for Business Registration has a deadline of July 1, to simplify deadlines we would like to have it changed to correspond with the liquor license renewals which have a deadline of May 1 annually. Everything else in the ordinance would stay the same.

**Motion by Rothschild, second by Barnhart to recommend to the City Council to amend the business registration ordinance deadline date from July 1 to May 1 and place it on the Consent Agenda.**

#### **ROLL CALL**

Ayes 5 Rothschild,Arnold,Robinson,Barnhart,Carroll-Duda

Nays 0

Absent 4 Roodhouse,Johnson,Simosky,Wachtel

**Motion Carried**

Wachtel returned to meeting at 7:57 pm.

#### **Discussion on Commercial Deposit**

The current ordinance regarding commercial deposits has been in effect since 2017. One sixth requirement has been in effect since 2013, the new part that was added in 2017 was to be able to have a 12-month review. Using the past history could be

advantageous or detrimental so the City added the “ability to review on a 12-month basis”, this was not meant to be penalizing or discouraging. The deposit is not based on you as a payor but is an amount that in the event the business went out of business the City would at least have a way to recoup hopefully the entire last bill. City Attorney Price reported that as a Municipal Utility if we write off debt then we have to by law adjust our rates to recoup the write off so then the consumers pay a higher rate on their utility bill. Alderman Barnhart reported that he feels that we have good intentions but would like to see the deposit at a set amount and not the ability to go up and down.

Consensus to bring this back to the April Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

**No Action**

#### **Discussion on 2020 Budget Approval Process**

A list of Budget Discussion Dates was handed out, this is the schedule that we normally follow, with a couple extra dates to meet if needed and adoption on June 11.

**No Action**

#### **Payment of City and Utility Bills**

Additional Bills handed out.

**Motion by Wachtel, second by Arnold to approve City and Utility bills as presented.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes 5 Rothschild,Robinson,Arnold,Barnhart,Wachtel**

**Nays 0**

**Absent 3 Roodhouse,Simosky,Johnson**

**Motion Carried**

#### **Public Comment**

None

**Motion by Rothschild, second by Robinson to enter into Executive Session at 8:40 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.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes 5 Rothschild,Robinson,Arnold,Barnhart,Wachtel**

**Nays 0**

**Absent 3 Roodhouse,Simosky,Johnson**

**Motion Carried**

**Motion by Robinson, second by Arnold to return to open meeting at 9:00 PM.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes 5 Rothschild,Robinson,Arnold,Barnhart,Wachtel**

**Nays 0**

**Absent 3 Simosky,Johnson,Roodhouse**

**Motion Carried**

#### **Adjournment**

**Motion by Arnold second by Robinson to adjourn at 9:02 PM.**

**Voice Vote. All Ayes.**

**Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Loree K. Phlypo  
City Clerk