

**City of Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois**  
**Committee of the Whole**  
**December 13, 2011**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

The Committee of the Whole of the City of Geneseo met Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Council Chambers, 115 South Oakwood Avenue. Mayor Linda Van Der Leest called the meeting to order at 6:57PM. Aldermen Bob Wachtel, Lowell Ewert, Jeanne Hartsock, Keith Kennett, Howard Beck, Derek Betcher, Doug Crow and Justin Snodgrass answered roll call. Also in attendance were City Attorney Virgil Thurman, City Clerk Loree K. Phlypo, City Administrator Jim Hughes and the press. City Attorney Kyle Eickman, Superintendents Opsal, Rice, Chief Piotrowski and Building Inspector Rick Mills were present. Various Audience members including retired employees and residents.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

Agenda Item 1

Richmond Hill Amphitheatre

The discussion was led by Superintendent Rice who introduced Ron Hartman. Ron Hartman presented the Amphitheatre idea in an area of Richmond Hill that is in the floodplain and the area would be perfect, it would partner with the Barn Theatre. The funding would be generated by fundraising and donations by the community. Mr. Hartman is looking for general interest by the City. He doesn't want to invest a lot of time in this idea if the City doesn't think that it is a good addition to the City. Alderman Beck asked about a parking issue and Mr. Hartman said there probably wouldn't be any more parking issue then there is with Fireworks at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This type of facility is unique to the area. This would seat 1500 to 2500 guests.

Motion to bring to Council progress of inquiry by Snodgrass with a second by Kennett.

Voice Vote, All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Agenda Item 2

Well #25 Wiring

Superintendent Rice explained the the wiring from Well # 25 is from 1966 has been repaired many times and the main disconnect no longer works. He would like to solicit quotes from electrical suppliers and have our electrical department do the repairs. This will cost somewhere between \$7500-\$9500.

Motion to bring to Council solicited quotes for supplies and have the city electric department do the repairs by Wachtel with a second by Hartsock.

Voice Vote, All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Agenda Item 3

S. State Street Construction

Engineering for the S. State project is almost complete. Superintendent Rice and Greg Ryckaert are putting together the proper documents to get the project recognized by the State of Illinois as a future project, it will then be up to the State to find funding that we have coming due to the City of Geneseo as S. Statet qualifies as an FAU Route. In mid January there will be a neighborhood meeting to inform the residents and get their input. We are looking to bid the entire project to start in the spring of 2013 and be finished by late fall. The complete project will

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cost \$2.8 million.

Motion to bring a resolution with numbers to Council later on by Betcher with a second by Kennett.

Voice Vote, All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**Agenda Item 4**

**Street Name Signs / Phase 3**

Superintendent Rice explained that the City has to meet retro reflectivity standards by replace all signs to meet the new standard. Phase 1 was done in February of 2010 and Phase 2 was completed on February 2011. We need to order phase 3 signs from the same company to ensure consistency and quality. Total cost for phase 3 is \$1,697.92 plus freight.

No Discussion

Motion to bring to Council consideration to purchase phase 3 signs in the amount of \$1,697.92 plus freight by Wachtel with a second by Crow.

Voice Vote, All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**Electric**

No items

**Public Safety**

**Agenda Item 5**

**Henry County Humane Society Letter**

Chief Piotrowski led discussion on the letter to be sent to the Henry County Humane Society addressing the current status on the agreement between the City of Geneseo and Henry County Humane Society. Mrs. Russell was present and stated that the City needed to develop the agreement. City Attorney Thurman stated that there are Zoning variance and setback issues in regards to having kennels. Mayor Van Der Leest asked that Mrs. Russell submit the request to be added to the Zoning Board meeting on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

Motion to send the letter composed to the Henry County Humane Society by Betcher with a second by Beck.

Voice Vote, All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**General Municipality**

**Agenda Item 6**

**New Sign Ordinance**

Building Inspector Rick Mills asked that the Council members review the attached Sign Ordinance and make any suggestions for improvements. The new ordinance would grandfather in the current signs until replacement is needed and then they would fall under the new Ordinance section 9.89. Email Rick with any suggestions or comments.

Motion to review Sign Ordinance and bring back to a future Committee of the Whole meeting by Kennett with a second by Betcher.

Voice Vote, All Ayes, Motion Carried

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Agenda Item 7

Advisors for Farmers Mutual Electric Coop Acquisition

Administrator Hughes led the discussion on the opportunity that the City of Geneseo has been granted to prepare a formal bid for the assets of Farmer's Mutual Electric Coop. At this time we need to assemble a team of advisors to develop a proposal for the possible acquisition of the assets. Below are the recommended advisors and the estimated fee:

Legal-Gary Smith-Lowenstein, Hagen & Smith P.C.	\$25,000.
CPA Firm-Carpentier, Mitchell & Goddard, LLC	\$15,000.
Bond Council Paul Marengo-Shiff & Hardin, LLP	\$20,000.
Bond Advisor-Speer Financial	\$10,000.
Engineering-BHMG Engineering	\$40,000.

Motion to recommend a formal committee be formed to explore the acquisition of Farmers Mutual by Beck with a second by Wachtel.

Voice Vote, All Ayes, Motion Carried

Motion to move to City Council to approve the above advisors for preparation of a proposal to purchase the assets of Farmer's Mutual Electrical Coop by Betcher with a second by Wachtel.

Voice Vote, All Ayes, Motion Carried

Alderman Ewert stated that Tom Zwica from Farmer's Mutual had called him and said the Farmer's is not for sale and he said that he would appreciate a call from the City to set up a meeting to discuss the option. Mayor Van Der Leest stated that a meeting place is being sought for such a meeting.

Agenda Item 8

Retain Auditor for One Year

Jim Hughes stated that it is his recommendation to retain a new auditor for one year. There will be a discussion concerning an Audit Committee in January.

Motion to move to City Council to retain Carpentier, Mitchell & Goddard to complete the City's audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 for a fee of \$30,000.00 for the audit and additional fee of \$3,500.00 by Wachtel with a second by Ewert.

Voice Vote, All Ayes, Motion Carried

Motion to adjourn by Kennett with a second by Wachtel.

Adjournment at 8:28 PM

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
LINDA VAN DER LEEST  
MAYOR FOR THE CITY OF GENESEO

STATE OF ILLINOIS                    )  
COUNTY OF HENRY                 ) SS  
CITY OF GENESEO                    )

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I, Loree Phlypo, City Clerk of Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing are the original minutes of the Committee of the Whole on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 of the City Council and that said minutes consisting of three pages were approved at the legally convened City Council Meeting of the City of Geneseo on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature and the seal of the City this \_\_\_ day of January, 2012.

*(Seal)*

By: \_\_\_\_\_