

CITY OF GENOA
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2008

Mayor Walker called the regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call taken. Aldermen Wesner, Carroll, Curley, Sheahan, Pizano, Watson and Hansen were present. Alderman Jursich was absent.

Amendments to the agenda—Mayor Walker stated that item C, Discuss penalty and fine proposed changes, will be held until the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Before New Business is discussed, Danielle Stensrud and Genoa Main Street would like to make presentations to the Council.

Motion made by Alderman Watson to accept the minutes of the previous Committee of the Whole meeting of November 26, 2007, seconded by Alderman Curley. Voice vote taken. All voted yes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS—none

NEW BUSINESS

Danielle Stensrud, a Genoa Middle School student, introduced an ambassador program in which she has the opportunity to visit Ireland, England, Wales and Belgium. She will be representing the United States in this program started by President Eisenhower in 1956 to intermix cultures. Her cost is \$6,000, which she has to raise through the local businesses and groups. Upon her return, she will present her trip experiences. Mayor Walker stated the City of Genoa was not able to donate money to this project; however, the Council members could help spread the word on her cause to assist her in raising the money for her trip which will be in June.

Mim Evans, representing Genoa Main Street, was in attendance to give a status on some of their proposed projects. Currently, several businesses have left the downtown area. She and David Glaum spent the day visiting other Main Street communities, Marengo, Harvard and Woodstock, to see what works in those areas and to monitor their successful businesses. As compared to other communities, she is proud of how Genoa is presented. Last week, they hosted a Springfield architect who met with 4 different building owners and the Design Committee. She is encouraged by several of our current businesses who have ideas they presented at their monthly merchants meeting. In addition, they have started some “Roundtable discussions.” They are introducing a new event, a “Beach Party.” She distributed information on their 2008 Action Plan, Calendar of Events and proposed banner designs. They did receive \$1,500 in a donation of matching funds towards the banners. They are attempting to get as much advertising as possible on the banners. They want to inter-mix these banners with one of the older designs when displayed. One fundraiser idea is to have local businesses, groups or families sponsor the banners. Mayor Walker suggested adding information on banners at the intersection of Routes 23 and 72 to advertise the location of the downtown area.

Discuss Citizens Park Pavilion—Director Gentile distributed information regarding the style and location of the proposed park pavilion. He plans to have the engineers draw a set of plans to distribute to local contractors for construction proposals. The structure will have an asphalt shingle roof, a wood frame and a concrete slab. It will have to be elevated to avoid being flooded. He expects to have it built in May. There were no objections to moving forward with this project.

Discuss pedestrian pathway lighting—Director Gentile stated that at this time, this project would not be cost effective relative to the utilization by the public. The installation costs are \$63,000.00 and the annual lighting costs would start from \$9,000.00 to \$18,000.00 a year. Lighting the pathway and bridge may imply other services such as snow plowing of the pathways. Alderman Sheahan suggested possible solar lighting. He also supports lighting the areas for safety reasons. There are concerns the use of the areas after dusk if lit and the impact of lighting at night on wildlife. These areas are to be closed at dusk and lighting them may encourage use when they are not to be used. The intended use for the bridge was for recreation, not necessarily a pathway to the schools. Solar lighting could be investigated and possibly the costs could be borne by the Park District. Also, availability of funds may come through the development of the area through the program proposed by Peggy Doty. Mayor Walker suggested that Director Gentile check into the possibility of this project being undertaken by the Park District.

Discuss Alderman salary provisions—Mayor Walker stated this matter was brought up at a previous Committee of the Whole meeting to review the current and potential structure for payment of salary to the aldermen. Currently, it is paid per meeting attended. He has several options to offer. First is to maintain the structure as it is. Second, is to pay the salary whether meetings are attended or not. Third is to continue with the structure in place and pay per meeting attended with the ability for the Mayor to allow absences for illnesses, family emergencies, etc. and an offer to extend a number of meetings to be missed with no explanation for the absence. He has concerns about option two as history has demonstrated. He is in favor of option three with up to 6 absences with no explanation. Alderman Wesner suggested that if you miss more than two meetings in a row, then you should not be paid for them. The reasoning behind the change is that Aldermen do other work in their positions besides attend the meetings. Also, it was suggested that if a meeting is canceled, they should receive their pay. After further discussion, the general consensus was to have option three with 4 unexcused absences and include meetings that have been canceled as acceptable absences.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administrator's Report—Administrator Misurelli reports that the DCEDC has selected a new director, Mr. Paul Borek. He has a background in municipal planning and economic development. He has worked for various communities and seems like a nice individual. Regarding the Kingston sewer issue, he said that they would share some information and he has received it. Upon evaluation, it showed 12 days in July and 12 days in September. There was a reference in the engineering letter that there was flow data for August, but we did not receive it. We sent a letter to Kingston asking for the missing data and have not yet received a response.

Finally, Kingston did reference some sewer expansion considerations and he requested their plans. He hopes to get additional information and he will update the Council accordingly. Mayor Walker voiced his disappointment in the communication attempts with this community. Regarding the DCEDC, with the selection of a new director, Mayor Walker has reservations about the continued financial support of this organization at this time. He has confidence in the staff and said it may not be beneficial this year to make this contribution without some validation of the organization's continued success.

Public Works—Director Gentile reports that Commonwealth Edison will be replacing a faulty electrical line to the Public Works facility.

Police Department—Chief Solar was pleased to report there have not been any injury accidents and very few property damage accidents with the recent storm weather.

Mayor's Report—He commented that like many communities, road salt is beginning to come at a premium. The Public Works Department continues to monitor hazardous conditions. Director Gentile asked that any problem areas be reported to their office so they can address them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Walker reminded everyone about the Expo this Saturday at the High School. He thanked everyone who contacted the organizations to promote the Expo. He asked the Council if they knew anyone who was "famous" who would be available to use as a draw to the Expo, and if so, please contact himself or Administrator Misurelli.

Motion to adjourn the meeting of the Committee of the Whole meeting made by Alderman Wesner, seconded by Alderman Curley. Voice vote taken. All voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.