

CITY OF GENOA
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
June 23, 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 and Hansen present. Aldermen Watson and Jursich were absent.

Amendments to the agenda—Mayor Walker added a discussion on the current burn ban as a result of an e-mail he received. Also for New Business, he will have Dave Glaum speak on behalf of Genoa Main Street.

Motion made by Alderman Curley to accept the minutes of the previous Committee of the Whole meeting of April 28, 2008, seconded by Alderman Carroll. Voice vote taken. All voted yes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS—none

NEW BUSINESS

Genoa Main Street—Dave Glaum reported that the volunteers completed the Wet Paint project downtown. He is pleased with the refreshed look of the newly painted buildings and hopes other merchants will follow suit.

Burn ban—Mayor Walker received an e-mail from a resident complaining about having to smell burning leaves and wood all the time. Currently, the City bans burning in the fall from October 1st to December 31st. Recreational fires are not prohibited. Burning of garbage and construction material is always prohibited. There are persons burning grass clippings which smolder and smoke. The Council discussed how in general people are inconsiderate to each other as neighbors when burning. There are many safety concerns. Several Aldermen did not want to ban recreational fires. This matter will be discussed further at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Discuss Citizen's Park pavilion rental policy—Director Gentile was absent. Staff has done some research and presented some draft rules, regulations and rental concepts. A charge is incurred only if it is being reserved and the proposed charge for the entire day is \$50.00. The pavilion is open to the public generally. The Park District charges \$25.00, including a \$10.00 deposit which is returned if the pavilion is in proper order. Alderman Hansen is in favor of a deposit. The condition of the pavilion would need to be verified and this could probably be accommodated by the officer on duty. Mayor Walker commented on the amount of a deposit to recoup any cleaning costs. Also, he highlighted the requirement for insurance coverage. This is an option the City could exercise depending on who is renting it. Mayor Walker would like to have this requirement for every rental. They also discussed the advance reservation time frame. To begin, it should be no more than about a year in advance, but we could monitor this option.

Discuss vehicle impoundment cost recovery proposal—Chief Solar summarized this process. This would serve as a further deterrent to those who should not be driving such as those who already have a DUI, a suspended or revoked license and/or no license at all. Currently, when a vehicle is towed the individual can reclaim that vehicle by paying the tow bill. The police department cannot monitor the rightful owner of the vehicle or verify insurance. When they arrest someone who has lost their license, they must perform due diligence in the care of the impounded vehicle. Under the current process, the storage fees exceed the price brought by the vehicle when sold at auction. He is proposing an ordinance that incurs an administrative fee to help recover some of these costs. This would include creating an impound lot. Chief Solar does not intend for this to be a junk car lot. Junk cars can be turned around in about 30 days. If the number of stored cars exceeds the capacity of the lot, they can be moved to the Public Works compound. The next step would be to adopt an ordinance. The question is what to charge as an administrative fee. We would want to recapture the cost of building the impound lot. The proposed review process would be first by the Chief, then by the City Administrator. The Council discussed various scenarios and the possibility of payment plans. The general consensus of the Council would be to begin with a charge of \$300. They discussed options for the impound lot and fencing.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administrator's report—none

Public Works—Director Gentile was absent. There was no report.

Police Department—Chief Solar said the department is catching up on some training. The Chief serves as the chairman of the Northern Illinois Training and Advisory Board. They are concentrating on gang activity and he is working on Child Safety Seat education for our department. He is encouraging the officers to put no more than 30 to 40 miles on the squads a shift to help reduce costs. He plans to introduce an alternative patrol strategy next month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS—none

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