

CITY OF GENOA  
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes  
July 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, Curley, Sheahan, Pizano, Watson and Hansen were present. Aldermen Carroll and Jursich were absent.

Amendments to the agenda—none

Motion made by Alderman Curley to accept the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of June 23, 2008, seconded by Alderman Sheahan. Voice vote taken. All voted yes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS—none

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss proposed changes to burn ban ordinance—Mayor Walker has talked to the Fire Chief and currently the County allows open burning; however, he would like to see that minimized if possible. This matter would affect areas within the City limits. Administrator Misurelli reviewed the proposed ordinance. To date, we only prohibit the burning of leaves and garden waste from October 1 to January 1. We would need to remove the date limitations and extend the ban time to cover the entire year. There is a provision that allows recreational fires with properly dried firewood. This proposed ordinance also prohibits fires on City property such as ditch lines or parkways, etc. Alderman Curley asked to have grass clippings added to the list of prohibited burn material. Mayor Walker suggested making this effective October 1<sup>st</sup> because this is our usual beginning ban date, and then have it continue from that point on. The Council discussed the disposal of certain items, and creating a number of exceptions increases the difficulty to enforce the rules. Administrator Misurelli will move forward on this matter.

Discuss recommended Weed Abatement Program—Administrator Misurelli has drafted a proposed ordinance for consideration. The Aldermen were pleased with the proposal and this will be before them for approval at a future Council meeting.

2008 Sidewalk Repair Program—Alderman Curley questioned the repairs at 104 W. Main Street. The nature of the business causes driving on the sidewalks. Director Gentile can approach the business in possibly sharing the cost; however, this area has a lot of pedestrian traffic as it is a school crossing. With the money budgeted, Director Gentile is confident we can accommodate the work listed. The proposed process to reduce trip hazards is also very cost effective as opposed to replacing these sidewalks. He will continue to move forward on this matter.

Update on Pearson Drive and Route 23 intersection—Mayor Walker informed the Council that they have met with IDOT and the City of Genoa will no longer be granted extensions on

completing the improvements at this intersection. We are going out for bid and will be doing this project this fall. IDOT has indicated that they will do the final surfacing and striping which will help reduce costs. If we wait until spring, we would be subject to sanctions and would lose the final surfacing incentive. He and staff are working on some creative funding. This project ties into the opening of S. Hadsall Street to accommodate additional access during construction. The developer will be completing the opening of this road. Mayor Walker will have the residents and business owners notified and invite them to a meeting to voice their concerns about the road being open permanently. There were no objections to this process.

Request for economic consideration—Several months ago, the Council was approached by a group of developers for consideration in waiving Special Service Area charges to help them sell their homes. The Council held firm and did not waive these charges. Recently, Mayor Walker was confronted about removing impact fees to help the builders. These were instituted to cover the impact to the community and he does not support waiving these fees. The consensus of the Council was not to further discuss creating incentives to builders or waive impact fees. They do not want to sacrifice the City as a whole for a certain few. The City has not created the problems, it's the market. The Council has worked through the years to improve annexation agreements, etc. and they will not move backwards. All of this was developed to protect the City. Dropping these costs does not guarantee this savings will be passed on to a buyer. The Council will not move further on this matter.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor's report—At a previous meeting there was a concern about foundations in a development and that has been addressed. As it relates to the complaint about a pool, it was a non-issue. The pool was covered properly. He commented on the regretful death of a school board member. The wake was last Saturday and the community will surely mourn the loss of this member. If anyone knows of someone to serve on the board, they should contact Dr. Wakeley directly. Alderman Hansen commented that the funeral service for the Mayor of DeKalb is next Monday.

Administrator's report—Administrator Misurelli reports that the Special Census did prove to be profitable for the City. We gained 1,205 people. This will increase the state shared income to about \$142.00 per capita. We will receive this additional revenue for about the next 37 months which will be about \$647,000. Subtracting the cost of the census and the costs of the Police Pension, we expect revenue over expenses of over \$300,000. This has proven to be a worthwhile project. The intangible cost savings is the drop in our IMRF expenses. The Plan Commission will be reviewing a request for an outdoor seating area which will require a Special Use and this will come before Council. Along with this, they will be asking for the ability to serve liquor in this area. There will be a request presented to the Council to create a liquor license to allow outdoor serving on a permanent basis. He has drafted language that he distributed. This matter will come before the Council at a future Council meeting. Any questions or objections should be directed to Administrator Misurelli. The Council has the right to limit the number of these liquor licenses and to review any additional Special Use applications for outdoor seating. There were no objections by the Council to consider this concept.

Public Works—Director Gentile stated the pavilion is being used by the public. Custom Aluminum has been gracious in providing a sign for the Municipal Center to replace the directional signage on a barricade. Recently, Public Works, in the spirit of cost effective measures, scrapped out some metal and received over \$3,000.

Police Department—Sergeant Lynch was in attendance for Chief Solar. There was no report.

Alderman Wesner said she has received a complaint about tall weeds between the storage place and the Bardoner place. Staff can pursue this matter and notify the owner to rectify this matter.

Mayor Walker announced that he intends to provide satisfactory customer service to the public and encouraged the Aldermen to refer the residents to the appropriate departments for service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS—none

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