

CITY OF GENOA
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2010

Mayor Walker called the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll call taken. Aldermen Curley, Sheahan, Watson, Hansen and Vicary were present. Aldermen Wesner, Carroll and Pizano were absent.

Amendments to the agenda—none

Motion made by Alderman Curley to accept the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of November 23, 2009, seconded by Alderman Sheahan. Voice vote taken. All voted yes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS—none

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss GTE Corporation agreement, groundwater protection ordinance and memorandum of understanding with the IEPA—Administrator Misurelli began the discussion. This issue stems from many years ago and is similar to the AG matter that was considered in the past. A memorandum of understanding with the IEPA, a groundwater protection amendment to the ordinance and also an agreement that covered some issues on the responsibility or liability for groundwater remediation was developed. The City was contacted by GTE and they have been monitoring this matter and doing some test wells. The results are that they are eligible to apply for a “no further remediation” letter from the IEPA. In order to do this, they are requesting the City to adopt the amendment to the groundwater protection ordinance. In the process of this negotiation, the City is asking for the donation of the trailer and the property to the City. The City is holding steadfast to the indemnification of the City for any further remediation of this property. He introduced Pam Cox, Project Manager for GTE along with Carol Schul and David Reiser, legal counsel. Mayor Walker raised the objection regarding the indemnification for the City in the agreement. Mr. Reiser stated that the company is willing to take responsibility for their part in this matter, but their position is that the groundwater protection ordinance amendment will protect the City. Mayor Walker has concerns that even though the City may be victorious in any future legal situations, there still remains the matter of costs incurred to defend these cases. There may be alternatives to an indemnification, which are being discussed by the attorneys. Staff will investigate the options that may be offered by the Municipal League in a case like this. The exposure in this matter is litigation, not remediation. This agreement will cover the designated area as determined by the test results revealing the plume. GTE has provided City water connections to residents who were in this area; therefore, there are no private wells being used for potable use. Several Council members agreed that this matter was at a point to move forward. Some questions were raised. Will this site ever return to its natural state? Will insurance be provided to the people in this area to cover any adverse medical conditions? These types of policies are personal injury claims. There will not be any future need to dig a well in this area. This matter will be on the next City Council meeting.

Discuss solicitation regulations—Chief Solar stated that currently, solicitors are required to have a full and complete background check. This is done by fingerprinting the applicant and submitting them to the State. This is a lengthy process which takes 6 to 8 weeks. This process does not cover local solicitation sales such as school project fundraisers. He is proposing a process to streamline the process. Solicitors would register with the Police Department for a fee of \$3 and he would run a local records check. He would issue a tag to be displayed by them and it could be revoked if necessary. School and service club fundraisers would be registered by a letter from the group naming a contact. He would maintain a list of solicitors. Residents could display signs stating “no soliciting” if they do not want to be approached. He submitted his proposal to the Council and is discussing it with the City Attorney. Alderman Sheahan suggested that the ID card display the timeframe in which it is valid. Information regarding solicitors could be put in the newsletter and sent to key groups to educate the public. This matter will be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administrator’s report—Administrator Misurelli and Director Gentile attended an open house held by IDOT and they are moving forward with the Main Street project. The contract has been let to Peter Baker. Notification is being made to avoid interference with the Genoa Days Celebration.

Public Works—Director Gentile is working on a float for the Genoa Days Parade to include the Council in the 175th Anniversary Celebration. Mayor Walker stated the importance of the Council participation. Director Gentile is working with a committee on the design of the float. Its basic form is in the shape of a cake. After the parade, his intent is to park the float at the “Y” to continue our Anniversary celebration. In conjunction with the celebration, we plan to display a banner announcing the anniversary which will be sponsored by donations and advertisement opportunities. Information regarding the interceptor project and road closings and detour signs will be posted at the site and on the website. This information is also being sent to local entities and emergency agencies.

Information was distributed regarding the 175th Anniversary Celebration and Mayor Walker stated there is some controversy on whether the settlement was in 1835 or 1836. The celebration will be a variety of events to cover a fiscal year time period from 2010 to 2011.

Police Department—The Police Department will be hosting a fishing derby in the spring for the public.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alderman Watson announced that Genoa Main Street has done a wonderful job with the Quilt Walk and it was a great event. She has received many compliments regarding it.

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