

CITY OF GENOA
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2010

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

Amendments to the agenda—none

Mayor Walker confirmed that there would be a Special City Council meeting held after the Committee of the Whole meeting, as published.

Motion made by Alderman Watson to accept the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 22, 2010, seconded by Alderman Hansen. Voice vote taken. All voted yes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS—none

NEW BUSINESS

Genoa Main Street Presentation—Michael Haines spoke on behalf of the Genoa Main Street Organization and their request to continue receiving a contribution from the City for the upcoming fiscal year. He is proud to be a part of Genoa Main Street and Genoa has made great strides in the past several years and he attributes a part of that to the efforts of Genoa Main Street. They are responsible for conducting community activities and bringing businesses to the City on a very limited budget. Considering the current economy, they are asking for a reduced contribution of \$5,500 from the City which is 20% of their budget; this is 1/10 of one percent of the City budget. Losing this funding would greatly cripple the Genoa Main Street Organization. They provide a lot of public relations information for the community along with all of their other activities. Mr. Haines said that about 30% of their budget goes to salaries. Mayor Walker said that he recently attended a Genoa Main Street Meeting to forewarn them of the upcoming City budget cuts. The City Council is still in the process of reviewing the budget and will be finalizing that in April.

Discuss water and sewer rate increases—Director Gentile submitted information regarding the current rates and a survey of comparables with other communities. The proposed increase would raise an average bill of \$43.26 per month by \$0.87. There were no objections by the Council to move forward on this matter.

Discuss IDOT/Route 72 Road Improvements—IDOT has agreed to resurface a portion of Route 72 through our community and fund this project. Originally, they proposed to work on this at night because of traffic issues. However, after review of the project, Director Gentile has determined that the work should be done during daytime hours and this would be less disruptive

to the community. There were no objections from the City Council to conduct the work during daytime hours; typically from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. In addition to doing the resurfacing, they will be doing some curb work.

Discuss Clarke Environmental Mosquito Services—Director Gentile stated that with budget concerns, this service will be listed in the budget, but will be used “as needed.” The use of this service is subject to weather conditions and any public health matters. Director Gentile has also submitted information to the Council on the CCR report and the emerald ask borer in their packets.

Preliminary Budget presentation—Finance Director Jepson stated that the schedule for the budget process is as follows-He expects the budget to be completed this week and present it by the next City Council meeting. The public hearing and ordinance to adopt the budget is slated for April 20th. At the last Committee of the Whole meeting, we discussed at length the decreases in revenues and expenditures. After 9 months experience, we were expecting that expenditures would exceed revenues by approximately \$110,000. Now after 10 months experience, we expect that figure to be \$115,000. This year there has been close to a 20% reduction in state shared revenues. He is being conservative in projecting anticipated revenues for the upcoming years and realistic in anticipated expenditures. Insurance premium increases are a concern along with street lighting expenses. His information reflects the reductions in personnel. He mentioned there is the possibility of some increase in sales tax. Several factors affecting our state shared revenues also depend on decisions made by the State. Based upon our building activity, we anticipate up to 9 permits being issued. Overall in the General Fund, we estimate the revenues for this year to be \$2,060,000 and next year to be \$2,083,000. We have also encountered a loss in Use Tax. The expenditures are down by \$314,000 less than they were two years ago with all of the concessions the City has made. This is how the City can present a balanced budget. Mayor Walker commended the staff for their efforts and noted that our expenses have dropped by 13%. He said that some items listed in the budget are there if they are needed, not necessarily automatically paid. Certain factors such as personnel issues or the process of union negotiations could change some line items. Through this upcoming year, this budget will be monitored closely. It has not been the practice of the City to have a line item for contingencies; however, this is something that could be included. The Council talked about situations that may allow certain expenditures if the sales tax revenues show an increase over what is anticipated in the upcoming months. Mayor Walker and the general consensus of the Council was that there should be a contingency entered into the budget. Finance Director Jepson also noted that the proposed budget includes the possibility of a bond sale of \$800,000 for street repairs. Mayor Walker encouraged everyone to contact Finance Director Jepson or Administrator Misurelli with questions or comments.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works—Director Gentile said that the East Interceptor Project is moving forward and the dewatering process is going down. Tomorrow, N. Washington Street will be closed for about 3 days. He is pleased to report his office has not received any complaints. The CCR report will be going out with the newsletter to the residents.

Police Department—In the absence of the Chief, there was no report.

Administrator's report—none

ANNOUNCEMENTS—none

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