

CITY OF GENOA
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
June 28, 2010

Mayor Walker called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order after the closed session of the Special City Council meeting.

Roll call taken. Aldermen Carroll, Curley, Sheahan, Seisser, Watson, Hansen and Vicary were present. Alderman Wesner was absent.

Amendments to the agenda—Mayor Walker will have information during his report regarding the rain Genoa experienced this weekend.

Motion made by Alderman Watson to accept the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 26, 2010, seconded by Alderman Sheahan. Voice vote taken. All voted yes except Alderman Hansen who abstained. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS—none

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss 15 minute parking located in downtown areas—Previously, Mayor Walker brought forward requests made by downtown merchants regarding the 15 minute parking areas in various downtown locations. This matter was set aside for further investigation by the Council. The Council again reviewed the situations warranting the 15 minute parking. There are mixed requests from the area merchants. After careful consideration, the Council decided to eliminate all 15 minute parking. This ordinance amendment will be on the next City Council meeting agenda for finalization.

Discuss Police Department accreditation options—There are two accreditation options in which the Police Department may participate, CALEA or ILEAP. After a thorough review, Acting Chief Lynch stated that remaining with CALEA is his recommendation. This is the organization the Police Department is currently associated with and costs between the two are practically the same. Both have stringent standards. Everything pertaining to this process is in readiness to continue with CALEA; therefore, it would require less preparation. ILEAP is a state based organization. CALEA would continue to provide national recognition. There were no further comments from the Council at this time.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor's report—Mayor Walker gave the Council members an update. Over the weekend, the City of Genoa received a significant amount of rainfall. Very damaging flooding occurred in private residences on S. Hadsall Street abutting the School District property. He contacted the

School Board President and expressed the anger of the residents and the concern that this was brought up in the past. He contacted our City Engineer and had an on-site inspection. He contacted the School Superintendent and requested a private meeting with the affected residents and the City. He distributed information as provided by our City Engineer and his recommendations, police reports and pictures taken the day of the rainfall. In the recommendation, it was proposed to add retention items and a swale. What had been done was soil was added creating a berm between the school and resident properties. Mayor Walker has not been in contact with the School District yet due to their transition. One resident reported prior to the installation of the berm, he did not get water in his house. The School District is not under the jurisdiction of the City regarding engineering issues; therefore, we cannot enforce any design demands. Mayor Walker opened the floor to the public. A resident for 36 years of S. Hadsall Street, Don Perry said this problem has been there since he moved in. Mr. Perry is a former Alderman of the City of Genoa and he feels that some decisions made by the City Council in years past have created some animosity on the part of a school district employee. In Mr. Perry's opinion, he has experienced retaliation from this person numerous times. In addition to him, the neighbor has replaced drywall at least 6 times. He claims the continuous building, parking lot addition and grading of land have added to the flooding problems. He took videos of the flooding water during the event. Through the course of events of the last several years, soil was added by the School District and the berm was created. During this last rain event, he had water up to his foundation. He was very distraught by these events that had occurred over the last 36 years and made several emotional comments. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their interest in this matter. In 2007, the City Engineer made some recommendations and to date, the school said they made some changes, but did not use the City Engineer suggestions. Mr. Perry has had communication with the School District; but to no avail has any resolution to the problem been made. There was also a matter of weed killer sprayed 2 feet into the resident's yards. Mayor Walker indicated that the School District is open to having a meeting. The City Engineer will also be a part of this meeting. Ms. Danielle Olita of S. Hadsall Street said this is the third time in the 5 years that they have lived there, their basement and garage flood to the point of having to remodel. This is financially breaking them. Her backyard is filled with limestone and wood chips that have washed down from the school property. Mayor Walker stressed the importance of the attendance of the residents at the meeting. At a minimum, 5 homes were flooded. The driveways were covered with mud and gravel. Mayor Walker commented that he is optimistic that the School District would want to solve this problem. The City and School Board have had a good relationship. Mayor Walker is awaiting a call from the School District and will move forward scheduling a meeting involving all parties.

Public Works—none, Director Gentile was absent.

Police Department—Acting Chief Lynch stated that Genoa Days was quiet and he recently updated the website. We will post notices on our message sign and websites reminding everyone that fireworks are illegal in Genoa. Everyone commented on the commendable job of the Police and Fire Department during Genoa Days. Mayor Walker suggested that official resolutions be issued to the Fire Department, Brett's Run Organization and Roger Watson for his efforts in making the "cake" for the parade. Alderman Hansen commended IDOT for their completion of Route 72.

At this time, the Council ended the Committee of the Whole meeting and continued the Special City Council meeting.

After the completion of the Special City Council meeting, the meetings were adjourned.

Motion made by Alderman Carroll to adjourn the meeting of the City Council, seconded by Alderman Curley. Voice vote taken. All voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned