

CITY OF GENOA
City Hall
Emergency Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2020
8:00 P.M.

Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson called the Emergency meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. Roll call was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Carroll, Di Guido, Winter, Cravatta, Lang and Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson were present. Motion made by Alderman Wesner to allow Alderman Brust to attend the meeting remotely, due to a work related absence, seconded by Alderman Lang. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Carroll, Di Guido, Winter, Cravatta, Brust, Lang and Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson voted yes. Motion carried.

BONAFIDE EMERGENCY FINDING: Motion made by Alderman Wesner to find that there is a bonafide emergency, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, 5 LCS 120/2.02(a), warranting this special meeting of the City Council based on the following finding of fact:

- Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a potentially severe acute respiratory infection caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The virus first identified as the cause of an outbreak of pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhon City, Hubei Province, China, in December 2019; and
- On March 9, 2020, Governor J.B. Pritzker declared all counties in the State of Illinois as a disaster area; and
- On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic; and
- Governor Pritzker issued Executive Order 2020-04 (COVID-19 Executive Order No. 2), cancelling all public and private gatherings in the State of Illinois of 1,000 people or more to implement social distancing; Governor Pritzker issued Executive Orders 2020-05 and 2020-06 (COVID-19 Executive Order Nos. 3 and 4), closing all public and private schools through March 30, 2020; and Governor Pritzker issued Executive Order 2020-07 (COVID-19 Executive Order No. 5) suspending service at bars and restaurants in the State of Illinois to the public through March 30, 2020 and limiting all public and private gatherings in the state of Illinois of 50 people or more to implement social distancing

Motion seconded by Alderman Cravatta. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Carroll, Di Guido, Winter, Cravatta, Brust, Lang and Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson voted yes. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19):

- Motion made by Alderman Winter to approve an Ordinance amending Title 1, Administration, Chapter 5, Mayor, of the City of Genoa Municipal Code to add a provision for a Local Disaster Declaration and establish the power and authority of the Mayor during a Local State of Emergency, providing for the exercise of extraordinary powers by Executive Order of the Mayor during a State of Emergency within the City, seconded by Alderman Cravatta. Administrative Director, Alyssa Seguss began by stating that the purpose of the Emergency meeting was to discuss precautionary steps that may need to be taken due to the coronavirus or any other type of emergency. An Ordinance has been proposed to allow the Mayor to declare a Local State of Emergency which would allow

him to approve the payment of bills and possibly the budget. After a lengthy discussion, consensus amongst most of the Council was that they were not comfortable with Section 2; Item *D* regarding additional powers and authorities of the Mayor during a Local State of Emergency where the authorization and approval of Council would be relinquished to the Mayor. They felt that all power should not be given to one person. Ron Sheahan asked if he could address Council; permission was granted. Ron stated that with modern technology, it would not be difficult to establish a quorum and agreed that power should not be given to one person. Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson stated that Attorney Jack Slingerland advised him to inform Council that during a Local State of Emergency, a Special meeting can be called with a 2-day notice and a quorum of 5 could vote to cancel the State of Emergency. There was also some discussion regarding Section 2, Item *C* with regard to curfew. After further discussion, Alderman Winter motioned to amend her original motion and strike items *C* and *D* in Section 2 of the Ordinance, seconded by Alderman Lang. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Winter, Cravatta, Brust, Lang, Wesner, Carroll and Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson voted yes. Alderman Di Guido abstained. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Lang to approve the above Ordinance with the amendment of removing items *C* and *D* in Section 2, seconded by Alderman Cravatta. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Lang, Wesner, Carroll, Winter, Cravatta, Brust and Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson voted yes. Alderman Di Guido abstained. Motion carried.

- Motion made by Alderman Lang to approve an Ordinance waiving remote attendance rules for the duration of a Local State of Emergency Declaration, seconded by Alderman Wesner. Administrative Director, Alyssa Seguss informed Council that if passed, this Ordinance would only be in effect in the case of a Local State of Emergency Declaration for up to 30 days; unless extended. Once the emergency declaration is removed, the Ordinance would no longer be in effect. Alderman Di Guido clarified that currently, there must be a physical quorum present in order to allow remote attendance, but if this Ordinance passes, then in a Local State of Emergency declared by the Mayor, it would allow remote attendance without a physical quorum. Administrative Director, Alyssa Seguss was asked about public attendance. She responded that the public would have access to remote meetings, via Google Hangouts or a number provided to join a conference call. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Lang, Wesner, Carroll, Di Guido, Winter, Cravatta, Brust and Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson announced that the Committee of the Whole meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 30, 2020 for the Budget presentation.

Motion made by Alderman Wesner to adjourn the meeting at 8:48, seconded by Alderman Lang. Voice vote was taken. All voted yes.