

CITY OF GENOA  
City Hall  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2020  
7:00 P.M.

In Mayor Vicary's absence, Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson called the regular meeting of the City Council to order at 7:10 p.m. Roll call was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Carroll, Di Guido, Winter, Lang and Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson were present. Alderman Cravatta was absent. Motion made by Alderman Di Guido 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 Di Guido, Winter, Brust, Lang, Wesner, Carroll and Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson voted yes. Quorum present.

Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Guest Speaker** – Corey Brackmann of Brackmann Construction addressed Council with a presentation of a business that is interested in renting the second of the 3 units of the commercial building he is constructing at 705 East Main Street. The business that is interested in the second unit is a wine and chocolate bar concept. The business would be requesting a full liquor license, not just wine. They would apply for a gaming license as well. Although Council has been hesitant to allow additional gaming businesses in town, they expressed that this seems to be a unique business with chocolate being paired with wine, as well as packaging the chocolate for purchase. This business would also assist with getting Dunkin Donuts underway, as the bank is requiring Mr. Brackmann to secure 2 tenants before approving his loan to build. Mr. Brackmann indicated that the approximate timeline for starting to build would be in February or March of 2021.

Motion made by Alderman Lang to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2020 Special City Council meeting and the November 2, 2020 Special Committee of the Whole meeting, seconded by Alderman Di Guido. Voice vote was taken. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Wesner to approve payment of the accounts payables for the first half of November 2020 in the amount of \$264,389.49, seconded by Alderman Winter. Chief Smith was asked what fund the canine expenses come out of. He responded that the training for the canine came out of his canine training budget, as well as the surplus of funds due to Officer Gates resigning. Alderman Carroll questioned the charges for engineering services. It was determined that the charges were due to wrapping up various IEPA projects, in addition to new street projects being started. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Carroll, Di Guido, Winter, Brust, Lang and Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson voted yes. Motion carried.

**ITEMS FROM INDIVIDUALS IN ATTENDANCE** – Gordon Jones addressed Council. He stated that the golf cart and UTV project to expand the sidewalk to allow golf carts and UTV's on sidewalks is not a reasonable expense. The project is estimated at \$13,000 and there have only been approximately 13 permits issued for golf carts and UTV's. Mr. Jones also indicated that putting slats in the fence around the property at Duval Street is not a necessary expense either, as he believes it would make it look like more of a junkyard.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDER THE 2021 CITY HALL CLOSINGS AND MEETINGS:** Motion made by Alderman Lang to approve the list of 2021 City of Genoa Council, Boards and Commissions meetings, seconded by Alderman Winter. There was no discussion. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Lang, Wesner, Carroll, Di Guido, Winter, Brust and Mayor Pro Tem voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Wesner to approve the list of 2021 office closings, seconded by Alderman Lang. There was no discussion. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Carroll, Di Guido, Winter, Brust, Lang and Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson voted yes. Motion carried.

**CONSIDER GOLF CART REGULATIONS AND PATHS:** Public Works Director, Rich Gentile began the discussion by stating that the issue at hand is whether or not to continue restricting golf carts and UTV's from using the sidewalks. He indicated that the golf carts and UTV's are street ready and powerful, which he believes could be dangerous to pedestrians. Director Gentile also stated that there is an alternate route for the golf carts and UTV's, which is from Forest View Drive to South Washington Street and takes approximately 3 minutes and it is less than one mile. There was discussion amongst Council and consensus amongst most of Council was to leave the Ordinance as is, where the golf carts and UTV's are still restricted from sidewalk use.

Motion made by Alderman Di Guido to not amend the Municipal Code, seconded by Alderman Lang. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Di Guido, Winter, Brust, Lang, Carroll and Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson voted yes. Alderman Wesner voted no. Motion carried.

**CONSIDER A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR A PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE:** Motion made by Alderman Lang to approve a Resolution of the City of Genoa, Illinois, regarding support of the City of Genoa ITEP grant application for the Riverfront Trail and Bridge Enhancement Project, seconded by Alderman Di Guido. Public Works Director, Rich Gentile explained that this is a great project that would enhance the community and would connect the Oak Creek subdivision with the Riverbend subdivision. Director Gentile indicated that if the City of Genoa receives this grant, 80% of the project would be paid by Federal funds. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Lang, Wesner, Carroll, Di Guido, Winter, Brust and Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson voted yes. Motion carried.

**CONSIDER AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING BUILDING INSPECTOR AUTHORITY:** Motion made by Alderman Winter to approve an Ordinance creating Title 1, Chapter 10, Building Inspector, of the Municipal Code of the City of Genoa, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson. Administrative Director, Alyssa Seguss briefly explained that with recently hiring our Building Inspector, he does not have authority in the City of Genoa's Municipal Code. Approving this Ordinance would give the Building Inspector authority to deem a property inhabitable, which would begin the abatement process. He would also have authority to issue code violations which would ultimately wind up going to administrative adjudication. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Winter, Brust, Lang, Wesner, Carroll, Di Guido and Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson voted yes. Motion carried.

**CONSIDER THE CREATION OF A NEW OUTDOOR WEATHERIZATION GRANT:** Motion made by Alderman Winter to approve the creation of a New Outdoor Weatherization Grant, seconded by Alderman Wesner. This grant was created to assist businesses interested in weatherizing outdoor seating. The proposed grant would reimburse up to \$10,000 to cover

eligible expenses that comply with building and fire safety codes, as well as the State of Illinois COVID guidelines. Administrative Director, Alyssa Seguss explained that the Health Department has not approved Rivers' Mexican Cantina and Grill's plans for the outdoor seating, as they would need to have 2 sides of the outdoor seating area open, which would not be feasible in severely cold weather. Rivers' Mexican Cantina and Grill is currently in contact with the Health Department to try to amend their plans to meet the outdoor seating guidelines. Director Seguss indicated that if the plans are not approved by the Health Department, the grant money would just remain in the CDAP fund. Director Seguss stated that Rivers' does not qualify for a façade grant, as they are not on a public street and not located in the downtown district. Rivers' Mexican Cantina and Grill asked about taking out additional funds on their CDAP loan, but they have not paid back 50% of the loan yet, so they don't qualify. There was concern by Council regarding the amount of the grant and the business not having to pay for part of the renovations themselves. Director Seguss stated that this grant is being proposed due to businesses struggling to stay open. The Façade Grant program was created when the economy was different and it was for beautification, not necessity. After additional discussion regarding the amount of the grant, consensus was to move forward with the proposed \$10,000. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Winter, Brust, Lang, Wesner, Carroll, Di Guido and Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson voted yes. Motion carried.

**CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF A N.O.W. GRANT FOR RIVERS' MEXICAN CANTINA AND GRILL:** Motion made by Alderman Wesner to approve a N.O.W. Grant application for Rivers' Mexican Cantina and Grill, not to exceed \$10,000, pending Health Department approval certifying that the plans comply with the State's Restore Illinois guidelines, seconded by Alderman Di Guido. Administrative Director, Alyssa Seguss reiterated that Rivers' Mexican Cantina and Grill did submit plans to the Health Department, but the plans were not approved due to not meeting required guidelines. Director Seguss stated that if guidelines remain where 2 sides of the outdoor area have to remain open, this grant will most likely not move forward. After additional discussion, Council felt comfortable approving the grant, as it would need to meet the State's guidelines and have approval from the Health Department in order to proceed. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Carroll, Di Guido, Winter, Brust, Lang and Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson voted yes. Motion carried.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

***Administrative Report*** – Administrative Director, Alyssa Seguss reported that as of Friday, November 20, 2020, Illinois is moving into Tier 3 resurgence mitigations. The City purchased 3 electrostatic sprayers for City Hall, Public Works and the Police Department for sanitizing. It was approximately \$2,400 for all of them.

***Finance Report*** – Finance Office Manager & Treasurer, Jan Tures reported that the October Budget & Treasurer's reports are in the packets. She indicated that the City hasn't incurred any substantial losses as of yet. Treasurer Tures stated that the tax levy notices for the Oak Creek and Riverbend subdivisions will be in the paper this week, for the Public Hearings at the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Lastly, the City submitted revisions to DCEO for the Cures Act and CARES Act for 214k in grant money that the City will be receiving if approved.

***Public Works*** – Director Gentile reported that the fence slats on Duval Street would assist with masking the concrete blocks and vehicles stored on the property. He indicated that most of the items stored there belong to the Fire Department and perhaps they should contribute to the cost of the slats. Alderman Wesner stated that she has spoken with a few of the neighbors, who

indicated that they don't feel the slats are necessary. They feel that just keeping the area cleaned up would be sufficient. Alderman Lang suggested possibly planting some shrubs might be an alternate option.

***Police Department*** – Chief Smith reported that Election night was quiet; there was a domestic call regarding a custody battle in the Riverbend subdivision, where one of the parents was holding the infant so tight, that the child began turning purple; there was a heroin fatality on Prairie Street and lastly, a vehicle drove into the Derby Estates pond.

***Mayor's Report*** – None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson stated that with State's COVID restrictions, future meeting may need to go back to part of the Council attending via Zoom. Staff will keep Council apprised.

Motion to adjourn the special meeting of the City Council was made by Alderman Wesner, seconded by Alderman Winter. Voice vote was taken. All voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.