

CITY OF GENOA
City Hall
City Council Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2021
7:00 P.M.

Mayor Brust called the meeting of the City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Pulley, Freund, Stevenson, Winter, Cravatta, Holcomb and Lang were present. Quorum present.

Mayor Brust led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guest Speakers – None

Motion made by Alderman Stevenson to accept the minutes of the June 2, 2021 City Council meeting seconded by Alderman Lang. Voice vote was taken. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Wesner to approve payment of the amended account's payables for June 15, 2021, in the amount of \$133,414.13, seconded by Alderman Lang. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Pulley, Freund, Stevenson, Winter, Holcomb, Cravatta and Lang voted yes. Motion carried.

ITEMS FROM INDIVIDUALS IN ATTENDANCE – Lynn Romke spoke to the City Council in regards to something that she read about our American Flag having fringe around the edge which stated “The altering of the American flag, by adding the fringe, mutilates the flag and is against the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The Gold Fringe Flag Stands for no Nation and no Constitution. It stands for Admiralty Law! Not Constitutional law, not Common Law, but the law that has taken over our nation and court system! It represents Martial Law!” When asked Ms. Romke was not able to produce a source of this quote. City Administrator Seguss informed Ms. Romke that the staff will look into this and change the flag if needed. Dennis Di Guido spoke to the City Council with some concerns he asked that trees in Willow Glen Subdivision be trimmed as they are covering some sidewalks, he wanted to know if the City Council Packet could be available online so that residents are able to look and participate in concerns they may have. He has noticed with the warmer weather that there are more UTV's out that are not following the guidelines of the City Ordinance. He also addressed the Alderman's information on the City's webpage needs to be updated with the correct information and on Mayor Brust's page that is on the city website stating that there are many grammar mistakes on the mayor's portfolio and that his portfolio is basically just his campaign statements.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSS REDUCING THE GENOA TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT FITNESS CENTER'S RENT:

Motion made by Alderman Winter to discuss reducing the Genoa Township Park District Fitness Center's rent by 50% for the remainder of 2021 and 25% in 2022, seconded by Alderman Stevenson. There was quite a bit of discussion from the City Council about this reduction. Public Works Director Melton stated that the city has had complaints from the Park District with it being too hot; after further investigation they found that the ceiling tiles in one of the rooms had been removed. The Park District was asked to put them back as it was causing the cooling system to not function correctly, this was completed on 5/27/21. The city is paying approximately \$4500 for a new cooling conditioner and it costs approximately \$35000.00 for maintenance for

the entire building per year. Alderman Winter asked what the balance is on the rent forbearance that the Park District participated in with the city, Finance Director Tures stated it was \$9,552. There was discussion from the Council about possibly lowering the rent 25% but locking in another 5-year contract. This was tabled for further discussion.

CONSIDER AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT:

Motion made by Alderman Stevenson to approve an agreement with Jock Sommese to work as an Economic Development Consultant for the City of Genoa, seconded by Alderman Holcomb. Jock Sommese was present and explained how he can help the city bring new business into the community but also help with the existing businesses grow and expand. There was some discussion about how to pay for these services, Mr. Sommese stated that there will be some items that will be paid by the State and other items through the city. City Administrator Seguss stated that the City funding will come out of the CDAP Fund for now. This is a 6-month contract and at the end of the 6 months it should give a clear picture if the City should continue the contract or cancel it. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Pulley, Freund, Stevenson, Winter, Cravatta, Holcomb and Lang voted yes. Motion carried.

Consider an Agreement with Metronet for Phone, Internet, and Cable Services for Municipal

Buildings: Motion made by Alderman Cravatta for the agreement with Metronet for the City of Genoa to receive phone, internet, and cable services for municipal facilities. There was no further discussion, seconded by Alderman Lang. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Pulley, Freund, Stevenson, Winter, Cravatta, Holcomb and Lang voted yes. Motion carried.

Consider the Purchase of a Downtown Clock from Chompko L.A., Not to Exceed \$12,715: Motion made by Alderman Wesner for the purchase of a downtown clock from Chompko L.A., not exceed \$12, 715, seconded by Alderman Pulley. The council stated that it was a great looking clock, Alderman Cravatta asked if this was being paid for by a grant; City Administrator Seguss stated that this will be paid for by the CDAP Fund; the amount that is being approved does not include what the electrician will charge if one is needed. There was discussion about the lighting and the council agreed that if we can choose what lighting will light up the clock soft lighting is preferred. There is a 3-year warranty on the clock as well. Roll call was taken Aldermen Wesner, Pulley, Freund, Stevenson, Winter, Cravatta, Holcomb and Lang voted yes. Motion carried.

Discuss the Draft Kingston Sewer Agreement: Motion made by Alderman Wesner to discuss the draft of the Kingston Sewer Agreement seconded by Alderman Pulley. Genoa and Kingston signed a 40-year Sewer Treatment Agreement in 1978. This Agreement was extended an additional 3 years and expired earlier this month. One concern from the 1978 agreement that needed to be addressed with this new agreement is Kingston's usage. They are allotted 1,000 population equivalents (P.E.'s) per day, which is sometimes exceeded month to month. Genoa has asked Kingston to install an electronic meter so that Genoa can read the flow daily instead of on a month-to-month basis, which they have agreed to. A 10% penalty will be charged on days the flow exceeds 1,000 P.E.'s. During negotiations, the City has also discussed with Kingston rates and fees that the Village pays. Under the 1978 agreement, Kingston pays 76% of the rate because they maintain their own collection system and Genoa only provides treatment. Currently, Kingston pays 76% of the

in-city limits rate. Kingston also pays one single \$5 capital fee and one single user charge for the entire Village because they only have one meter read by Genoa. For 2020, Kingston was billed a total of \$80,603. In the draft agreements, Genoa has asked Kingston to pay 76% of the out of city limits rate (1.5 x the in-city limits rate) and a capital fee and user fee per unit, rather than per meter, which they have not agreed to. There was quite a bit of discussion from the city council; they are concerned that the Village is paying less than Ellwood Greens who pays Genoa's out of town rates. There was discussion that the Village needs to get their own treatment plant and if that took place that would free up approximately 10% of Genoa's waste treatment. City Administrator Seguss and Mayor Brust are going to negotiate further with the Village to come to an agreeable contract on both sides and will report back to the council.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administrative Report – City Administrator, Alyssa Seguss reported that the Hill Street improvement will begin on 6/17/21 and she has a time line that she will hand out to all the city council members. There will be a more detailed reports on Facebook as the projects move forward for the residents to see.

Finance Report – Treasurer & Finance Director, Jan Tures stated that they are continuing to work on the audit and that the auditors will be at City Hall for a full week in July.

Public Works – Public Works Director, Janice Melton stated that she met with the concrete contractor in regards to the Hill Street improvement; they will be starting on the South side of the street then move to the North side so that residents have a place to park while the curbs are being completed, this will take approximately 14 days. Golf cart signs have been ordered. She would also like to have the residents be aware of the current drought situation and move to have watering done on even and odd days. At this time our well is about 3' lower than what it was in December. There is no issue with running out of water at this time but she would like to be cautious until we get some rain. There will be a posting on Facebook, City Website and back of the water bill about watering on even and odd days to inform residents.

Police Department – Chief Smith reported that they have completed a 20-day report for Madison Street; there are 35,780 vehicles using this street in that time. From 12:00pm-8:00pm is when the majority of the violations have occurred; the department will conduct another report at a later time. He thanked Public Works for setting out barricades for the events that took place over last weekend for the car show, Open Door Coffee's event and the Winery had an event going on as well. Was great seeing everyone out and enjoying the city again.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Brust stated that Administrative Director Seguss and himself attended a logistics conference in DeKalb, they are getting a lot certified that the rail road is interested in and continuing to look to see what economic developments we can get to come into the city.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Mayor Brust announced the passing of City Employee Matt Dyson, he was a great guy and will be missed greatly by the city. A moment of silence in memory of Matt was observed.

Motion to adjourn the 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 8:30 p.m.