

CITY OF GENOA
City Hall
City Council Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2022
7:00 P.M.

Mayor Brust called the meeting of the City Council to order at 7:02 p.m. Roll call was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Pulley, Freund, Stage, Winter, Cravatta, Holcomb and Hughes were present. Quorum present.

Mayor Brust asked for a motion to have Alderman Cravatta call into meeting as he had a work conflict, motion made by Alderman Wesner, seconded by Alderman Pulley. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Pulley, Freund, Stage, Winter, Hughes and Holcomb voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Brust led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guest Speakers – Jim Mancini of the Society of St. Vincent DePaul spoke to council about the history of the Society of St. Vincent DePaul and how this organization helps people in our communities of Genoa, Kingston and the surrounding areas with those that are on the edge of poverty, financial ruin, maintain self-sufficiency and how they help those find stability. This is a volunteer organization within the Rockford Diocese providing personal, discreet assistance with providing emergency financial assistance, food, clothing, medicine, career support or life skis training.

Motion made by Alderman Wesner to accept the minutes from the April 20, 2022 Special Committee of the Whole and the May 4, 2022 City Council meeting, seconded by Alderman Holcomb. Voice vote was taken. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Pulley to approve revised version of payment of the account's payables for May 15, 2022, seconded by Alderman Winter. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Pulley, Freund, Stage, Winter, Cravatta, Hughes and Holcomb voted yes. Motion carried.

ITEMS FROM INDIVIDUALS IN ATTENDANCE – None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

AUTHORIZE THE CLOSURE AND USE OF SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET BY OPENDOOR COFFEE FROM MAIN STREET TO THE ALLEY ON SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET ON JUNE 18TH FROM 7:00 AM TO 5:00 P.M.: Motion made by Alderman Freund to authorize the closure and use of South Washington Street by Open Door Coffee from Main Street to the Alley on South Washington Street on June 18th from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, seconded by Alderman Wesner. Open Door Coffee will be hosting their Grand Opening on June 18th and would like to close the neighboring street down in order to provide more space for the event. Open Door Coffee will be responsible for setting up and taking down barricades for the event. Open Door Coffee will be required to submit a Certificate of Insurance naming the City of Genoa as an additional insured prior to the event. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Pulley, Freund, Stage, Winter, Cravatta, Hughes and Holcomb voted yes.

APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES FOR SERVICES RELATED TO THE RISE PLANNING GRANT, NOT TO EXCEED \$26,900:

Motion made by Alderman Wesner to approve an agreement with Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies for services related to the Rise Planning Grant not to exceed \$26,900, seconded by Alderman Holcomb. The City of Genoa submitted a Research in Illinois to Spur Economic Recovery Planning Grant through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The plan to be created would address “growth resilience” in Genoa by evaluating infrastructure improvements, future workforce housing, evaluating possible locations for future development, and potential promotions and incentives for developers and new residents. The City of Genoa applied for the grant for approximately \$34,000, which would cover in full not only the work to be done by N.I.U. for creating the plan but also some revenue for staff time and material costs for printing, meeting materials, etc. Within the packet is a scope of work provided by NIU relative to their services. Alderman Cravatta asked if we have already received the grant, City Administrator Seguss stated that we have not yet received the grant, however if we do get the grant, it will cover the whole cost, the city should hopefully hear by July of this year if it was granted to the City of Genoa. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Pulley, Freund, Stage, Winter, Cravatta, Hughes and Holcomb voted yes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Finance Report – Treasurer & Finance Director, Jan Tures stated that they just finished the preliminary audit report, the final report will be due by mid-July. Tomorrow City of Genoa is hosting the IL Municipal Treasure Association meeting with 12 local treasurers from surrounding communities; they meet every 2 months.

Public Works – Public Works Director, Janice Melton stated that the road improvements have started and will hopefully be completed by end of week if weather cooperates. Tree planting has started dirt work, seeding and landscaping. Prairie Street project is coming along and will be finishing soon. Hot patching is being done on various streets that need it. Crack filling is moving slower than anticipated but also should be completed by end of week. Alderman Hughes asked about street lighting in the subdivision going into River Bend are out. City Administrator Seguss stated that ComEd is the one who takes care of those lights and she is happy to go online to ComEd’s website and report it and that if there are other lights out or concerns from residents that they can also go online and fill out the form for ComEd.

Police Department – Chief Smith reported that he will have the night officers look for lights out as well and let him or Alyssa know. May 28th there will be a block party on North Brown Street with a DJ from 4-8 pm with quite time at 10pm the resident has applied for a permit. The city is looking for crossing guards if anyone knows of anyone that is interested. The city now has 32 golf carts registered for the year. Tomorrow there is a safety meeting at the high school with fire, rescue, sheriff and Kingston at 9:30am, High School Graduation is this Saturday May 21st at 5:30pm, 8th grade graduation is on Monday May 23rd at 7pm at the High School and the Memorial Day Parade is on Monday May 30th at 11:30am. Alderman Hughes brought up the concern from some residents about the Y intersection getting backed up in the morning and afternoon with buses trying to turn left. Mayor Brust stated that they are aware of the situation and are going to try and work with the school district to try and come up with a solution for the next school year.

Administrative Report – City Administrator, Alyssa Seguss reported that letters are still needed to go with the grant submission for the walking path that will start at Warehouse on Park and go all the way to Kingston where their sidewalk starts. The path will hopefully go under the railroad bridge or around it somehow. The city currently has about 100 letters and would like for all alderman to submit one by tomorrow to her. Planning Commission meeting is tomorrow night 5/19 at 7pm to consider combining 2 lots in Derby Estates, after planning commission approval the city council will see this in a couple of weeks; the first waste water treatment committee meeting was tonight before the council meeting and went really well. The city recently acquired a property through a donation on Stone Creek Circle a couple of weeks ago. All city officials have received their I Pads and if everyone can return the chrome books by mid-June so that they can be recycled. They have had their 3rd Harvest Fest Meeting and is really coming together it is 9/30 10/1 and potentially 10/2, there is a lot of community involvement. The staff has also been discussing the signage throughout town on how to control the signage so that there is not an abundance of old signs, currently the police and city staff collect old signs. If anyone has any ideas on this please let Alyssa know. Alderman Winter asked about the property on Main Street where the small park is if the city could purchase or acquire that property. Mayor Brust stated he would like to use that property for a Genoa Bazaar which would be small pop up stands that people could rent through the summer months to sell retail items (handmade, pottery, jewelry things like that) that they have reached out to the owner and asked if he would donate it and he has declined that however he said that the city could buy it for \$60,000. Mayor Brust stated that he is interested in the councils view on this and would like to get some feedback at some point.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Brust stated that the waste water committee is off to a good start with Alderman Wesner, Alderman Stage and Nick Braddock. He will be attending a Norther Illinois Mayor Conference about an hour and a half from here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Mayor Brust wanted to congratulate Alderman Freund on her grand opening of Sweet DeLights, it was a great turn out.

Motion to adjourn the meeting of the City Council was made by Alderman Wesner, seconded by Alderman Pulley. Voice vote was taken. All voted yes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.