

CITY OF GENOA
City Hall
City Council Meeting Minutes
November 02, 2022
7:00 P.M.

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

City clerk Braheny asked for a motion to have Alderman Cravatta be mayor pro tem. Motion made by Alderman Wesner, seconded by Alderman Stage. Voice vote was taken. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Cravatta led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guest Speakers – None

Motion made by Alderman Wesner to accept the minutes of the October 19, 2022 City Council meeting, seconded by Alderman Freund. No further discussion. Voice vote was taken. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Alderman Pulley to approve payment of the account's payables for October 31, 2022, seconded by Alderman Holcomb. Alderman Hughes asked about the Menards charge line item 22, Public Works Director Janice Melton stated that this was for the waste water treatment plant for the bar screen, last year there was freezing issues and this is material to enclose the bar screen. Alderman Cravatta asked about line item 37 sidewalk payment #2, is this the last payment? Janice stated that this is the last payment. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Pulley, Freund, Stage, Winter, Hughes and Holcomb voted yes. Motion carried.

ITEMS FROM INDIVIDUALS IN ATTENDANCE – Lynn Romke approached the council and spoke about us as Americans as she feels losing our freedom, she wanted to know when the last time each council member read the Constitution, The Amendments to the Constitution and Declaration of Independence. Mayor Pro Tem Cravatta stated that each council member did take an oath to uphold the Constitution when they were sworn in. City Administrator Seguss stated that she will send an email to all the council members with a copy of the constitution attached to it so that council members can read up on it.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS:

APPROVE THE 2022 TAX LEVY DETERMINATION FOR THE CITY OF GENOA: Motion made by Alderman Stage to approve the 2022 tax levy determination for the City of Genoa, seconded by Alderman Hughes. Staff has prepared the 2022 Tax Levy Determination:

City of Genoa \$875,000

Genoa Riverbend SSA \$ 92,723

Derby Estates SSA \$ 8,525

Genoa Oak Creek Estates

SSA #4 \$ 14,065

The tax levy determination being presented results in a 4.24% reduction in the City of Genoa's tax rate. A detailed presentation will be provided at the City Council meeting. A Public Hearing and final approval will be at the December 7, 2022 meeting. Finance Director Jan Tures had a slide show presentation she showed to the council explaining the tax levy. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Pulley, Freund, Stage, Winter, Hughes and Holcomb voted yes. Motion carried.

APPROVE A CITY OF GENOA "POLICY REGARDING USE OF CITY-ISSUED CREDIT CARDS"

Motion made by Alderman Pulley to approve a City of Genoa "Policy Regarding Use of City Issued Credit Cards", seconded by Alderman Winter. The City's Finance Advisory Committee reviewed the City's credit card policy and recommended changes as outlined in the packet. Highlights of the credit card policy include that purchases must:

- Comply with the City's Purchasing Policy
- Be accompanied by a receipt that is submitted to the Finance Office
- Be for business charge only
- Be repaid personally if charges are for personal use in addition to disciplinary actions and criminal charges

Alderman Winter asked what the limits were on for purchases on the credit cards City Administrator Seguss stated that the city's purchase policy still applies to this. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Pulley, Freund, Stage, Winter, Hughes and Holcomb voted yes. Motion carried.

APPROVE HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2022 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2023:

Motion made by Alderman Wesner to approve health insurance renewal effective December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2023, seconded by Alderman Holcomb. The City has received renewal proposals for the city's Employee Health Insurance Program. The Program includes health, prescription drug, dental, life, and disability insurance for qualified employees. For the 2023 health insurance renewal, which is the most expensive portion of employee's insurance package, the market trend has been an 8-15% increase. Due to demographics and risk factor changes, the city is seeing a decrease of 4.53% in cost, which represents a savings of over \$15,000. There were minimal increases to the disability insurance premium (\$72 annually) and dental premium (\$1,008 annually). While the increases to the City's portion of the insurance premiums are minimal, Staff also requested that a second dental option be included with the proposal. The dental policy offers better coverage, however, if elected, employees will be required to pay 100% of the increased cost of the premium between the basic and the higher coverage plan. Another notable changed is an optional vision policy. Currently, the City offers a discount vision plan through Blue Cross Blue Shield that is included with employee health insurance. The proposed vision insurance, if elected by the employee, offers better coverage, however, each employee would be responsible for 100% of the premium for the vision insurance. No further discussion. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Pulley, Freund, Stage, Winter, Hughes and Holcomb voted yes. Motion carried.

APPROVE THE AMENDED TERMS OF THE DOWNTOWN FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT

PROGRAM: Motion made by Alderman Hughes to approve the amended terms of the downtown façade improvement program, seconded by Alderman Pulley. The draft amendments include:

- A requirement that each building that participates in the program include brick or stone, whether through the improvement or existing brick or stone.
- Reinforcing those improvements made prior to agreement approval are ineligible.
- Stating that should the reimbursement request exceed the amount approved by the City Council, Council consideration is needed for the amount in excess of the original agreement.
- Requiring a clear color rendering that depicts proposed improvements, including materials, colors, landscaping, light fixtures, etc.

Alderman Winter expressed concern in regards to the verbiage of each building includes brick or stone, she is concerned that the amount of the budget will go over if they have to put brick or stone on the building especially if a business has a large area that needs to have this material on it, she is also concerned about there not being any guidelines except it must have some brick or stone and that some business might not apply for the grant due to this. Alderman Pulley asked if the synthetic stone or brick could be used and Alyssa stated that she does not believe that was the intention of this. Alyssa stated that it is easier for the staff to have everything outlined for business when they come in to start the application. There was some further discussion from the council about the brick and stone verbiage. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Pulley, Freund, Stage, Hughes and Holcomb voted yes. Alderman Winter voted no. Motion carried.

AMEND THE CITY OF GENOA'S PERSONNEL POLICY TO ADD JUNETEENTH AS A PAID

HOLIDAY: Motion made by Alderman Winter to amend the City of Genoa's personnel policy to add Juneteenth as a paid holiday, seconded by Alderman Stage. Alderman Wesner stated that she thought we were taking a holiday out and adding this one. Alyssa stated that the staff talked about this and there was a divide about losing one of the other holidays as they all felt that each one is just as important, however there was a concern that the city does not close for either MLK or Juneteenth. Alyssa stated that the staff does have personal days and that if they felt there was a holiday, they should have off they could use a personal day for that, the staff does have a few days during the year that City Hall is closed but they have admin day where they can complete meetings and training without having the public coming in. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Pulley, Freund, Stage, Winter, Hughes and Holcomb voted yes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE 2023 CITY HALL CLOSINGS: Motion made by Alderman Holcomb for the approval of the 2023 City Hall closings, seconded by Alderman Winter. The amended list reflects the addition of Juneteenth as a holiday that City Hall will be closed for. No further discussion. Roll call vote was taken. Aldermen Wesner, Pulley, Freund, Stage, Winter, Hughes and Holcomb voted yes. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Finance Report – Treasurer & Finance Director, Jan Tures stated that she has nothing else to report at this time.

Public Works – Public Works Director, Janice Melton stated that the council has a copy of the notice that will be sent out to residents with lead or galvanized lines that is required by the USEPA since the completion of the inventory of lead line services of homes. In the letter it gives information about lead line services and what you can do to minimize ingestion of lead. Mayor Pro Tem Cravatta stated that he would like to get an approval for residents to get a reimbursement if they get a test and send it to the laboratory. There was discussion among council members, they decided that residents with these lines will get a one time \$25 credit on their water bills once they show proof of getting their water tested. After the inventory there are about 220 homes with these lines. Public Works finished the inventory early as the deadline was April 2024, by completing this early the city is able to submit earlier for grant money to hopefully cover the homeowner's side of replacement. This grant will hopefully be submitted in the next few weeks. In the meantime, residents will receive notices if there is a disruption such as water main breaks. The city will be asking the fire department to use fire hydrants in specific areas where homes were built after 1984 if they are doing training. Sewer digester is being sealed on 11/7/22. IDOT has stated that they will not be replacing IL 72 this year due to trouble with labor shortages. Public Works is continuing to complete patch work before the weather turns bad; sweeping the streets is continuing to be done to help keep drains clear of debris; the city does not due leaf pick up as it is in our contract with Flood Brothers residents need to bag leaves and Flood Brothers will pick up the bags. Alderman Wesner asked if there was a place where residents can take leaves instead of having to bag them. Janice stated that they city does not have a place for leaves that it is best to let Flood Brothers pick them up as they recycle them and use them for compost. Public Works is getting equipment ready for snow removal; River Bend punch list phase 4 has been completed; burial of the concrete should be finished by the end of the week and on Friday afternoon at city hall had a bad gas smell and had to evacuate building Janice called DeKalb Mechanical who had been out the previous week doing repairs to work on blower system fans. They realized that the blower that takes the air out of the building would not turn on. MDK was called and was able to by pass the blower, when all that happed it created a bubble of gas that went through the system on Friday causing the gas smell. DeKalb Mechanical found a couple of dead-end lines that they capped off as a precaution.

Police Department – Chief Smith stated that the police department goes over parts of the constitution yearly such as search and seizure, due process, right to firearms. The department has been very busy the last week and half, on Sunday 10/23 there was a parade for the Broncos who won the championship on 10/22 there were 3 police cars and a few fire trucks. 10/27 participated in Camelot's active shooter drill. Wednesday the police department received all the necessary reports for the fatal accident from the hit and run, the department got an arrest warrant for the driver who was charged with motor vehicle accident involving death-Class 1 felony, failure to stop/give information or render aid-Class A and failure to exercise due care-Class C. She turned herself in the next day and was arrested on a \$50,000 bond, posted \$5,000 and was released, she has a November court date. There was a press release on Face Book if anyone has any questions. On 10/29 high school had their playoff game and won they move on and play in Princeton this Saturday. There was also trunk n treat there was a little over 300 kids who participated. 10/30 we sent 2 auxiliary officers and 1 part time officer to Sycamore to help with their Pumpkin Festival there was also Cruzin car show in town. On 10/31 there was a 17-year-old who was struck on Main and Hadsall Street, the crossing guard was in the road with the sign and a west bound vehicle did not see the crossing guard or the minor, tickets were issued to the driver and the 17-year-old was taken to the hospital and released with only minor injuries. There were no other incidents. GES and KES had their costume parades outside so that parents could come see them, there were no issue with that. The PD and Fire Department assisted with an event at the middle school where students brought in canned goods and then they had an assembly where the PD and Fire Department vs the staff played a basketball game, the staff at the middle school won.

Administrative Report – City Administrator, Alyssa Seguss stated that they are days away to submitting the IEPA low interest loan for the replacement of lead line services in hopes that the city gets quite a bit of money for forgiveness for the replacements and very hopeful that there will be funding for next year to get those lines replaced. The Cruzin car show had quite a few cars which raised concern with other businesses with coordination of being informed that this event was going on and not ample parking for other business. Alyssa is going to be working on getting an email list of the owners of businesses for communication, Janice stated that the chamber might be a good place to start to get that information.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Pro Tem Cravatta stated that he has nothing to report at this time

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

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 8:29 p.m.