

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF 27 FEBRUARY 2012

12C-0058 – CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Terry Renner called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Chambers at 312½ North Main Street on 27 February 2012.

12C-0059 – ROLL CALL

Upon roll call the following members were present: Cording, Fach, Greene, Lincoln, Murphy, Painter and Renner

12C-0060 – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Mayor Terry Renner announced a quorum of Board members present to conduct city business.

12C-0061 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge was recited.

12C-0062 - REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

None.

12C-0063 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

Craig Brown, 757 Dewey Avenue – Brown urged the Council to reopen the Meeker Street pedestrian bridge as soon as possible.

Steve Coates, 304 Elk Street – On behalf of the Historical Society, Coates thanked the Council for their past support with the use of the building and direct financial support. The Historical Society has been working hard toward achieving financial sustainability. The Main Street location has been a success. The museum has had an increase of 17 percent in museum attendance. The museum has received national exposure in the Wall Street Journal and U.S. History magazine on the Grant soldier display.

Amelia Wilson Roth, 20 W. Apache Trail – Amelia Wilson Roth read a prepared statement urging the Council to consider opening discussion on tour licensing to either add an additional license for her business, Amelia's Ghost Tours, or add a specialty license for her tours.

Shannon Strobusch, Best Western Hotel – Strobusch questioned if their request for a liquor license for the hotel could fall under the same license as a Bed and Breakfast. They only intend to provide wine for the suites. She also informed the Council both the Freeport Journal Standard and the Telegraph Herald will be doing feature articles on their new suites.

CONSENT AGENDA CA-4

12C-0064 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 2012 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

12C-0065 – APPROVAL OF THE BED AND BREAKFAST INNKEEPERS OF GALENA 2012 QUILT FEST, AUGUST 9-11, INCLUDING B & B PARLOR TOUR ON AUGUST 11 FROM 5:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

Motion: Greene moved, seconded by Murphy, to approve Consent Agenda CA-4.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Fach, Greene, Lincoln, Murphy, Painter, Cording, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12C-0041 – APPROVAL OF REQUEST BY THE GALENA LIONS CLUB TO CONDUCT “OKTOBERFEST” ON THE EASTSIDE RIVER FRONT (DEPOT PARK) FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 11:00 P.M. ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2012

Motion: Lincoln moved, seconded by Murphy, to approve the request by the Galena Lions Club to conduct “Oktoberfest” on the Eastside River Front (Depot Park) from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on September 22, 2012, item 12C-0041.

Discussion: Liquor sales will stop at 10:00 p.m.

Roll Call: AYES: Greene, Lincoln, Murphy, Painter, Cording, Fach, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

12C-0024 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE INSTALLATION OF WARNING LIGHTS AT US 20 AND NORRIS LANE AND US 20 AND GOLF VIEW DRIVE

Motion: Painter moved, seconded by Lincoln, to approve the installation of warning lights at US 20 and Norris Lane and US 20 and Golf View Drive, item 12C-0024.

Discussion: The proposal is to install one light on each side of Norris Lane and one light in the East Bound lane near Golf View Drive. The hospital has donated two lights and Rawlins Township has agreed to reimburse the city for the third light. The City will purchase two batteries for the lights donated from the hospital.

Roll Call: AYES: Lincoln, Murphy, Painter, Cording, Fach, Greene, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

12C-0043 – FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 111 “ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES” OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ESTABLISH A LICENSE FOR WINE PACKAGES AT HOTELS

Motion: Cording moved, seconded by Lincoln, to approve the First Reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 111, “Alcoholic Beverages” of the Code of Ordinances to establish a license for wine packages at hotels.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Murphy, Painter, Cording, Fach, Greene, Lincoln, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

12C-0046 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MEEKER STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE COMMITTEE REPORT

Motion: Greene moved, seconded by Murphy, to open discussion on the Meeker Street Pedestrian Bridge.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Painter, Cording, Fach, Greene, Lincoln, Murphy, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

Discussion: Greene recommended bringing in the Fire Department and EMT's for discussion on the bridge to find out what they are thinking in terms of a new car/pedestrian bridge. Council discussed the possibility of a car bridge. It was determined after looking at the options it would cheaper to build a walk bridge first and install a car bridge in another location out of the flood plain at a later date.

Some members were concerned the City already has two bridges and without a vehicle bridge a third walking bridge would not be necessary. Members felt building a walk bridge was a waste of money and felt, for the safety of the public, a car bridge is needed.

Painter questioned if the Fire Department currently has a backup plan for the East Side in the event of an emergency. If not, she felt a backup plan should be developed until such time as we can get another car bridge. She voiced concern that if the bridge were to be installed at Meeker Street, both entrances to the bridge would be located in the flood zone. She was also concerned about traffic issues on Park Avenue. She felt the City needs to evaluate the situation and not just determine a new car bridge is the only answer.

Painter pointed out the walk bridge is an important part of our bike trail system. The City has received significant grant money for the trail and is under agreement with the state to maintain all aspects of the trail. Fach concurred with Alderperson Painter.

Renner stated he was in favor of moving ahead with the walk bridge but doesn't want to lose site of the need for a single lane emergency bridge in the future.

Lincoln stated he would like to see some kind of one lane car bridge in the future. He is unsure if Meeker Street is the best place for it. Lincoln was in favor of installing a new walk bridge and recommended developing a backup plan for the emergency response teams.

Motion: Painter moved, seconded by Cording, to close discussion on the Meeker Street Pedestrian Bridge.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Cording, Fach, Greene, Lincoln, Murphy, Painter, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

Motion: Painter moved, seconded by Cording, to approve the purchase of the Meeker Street Pedestrian Bridge using the 8' Gator Bridge as described under Option B on the Replacement Comparison Chart presented by staff at the meeting (see attached).

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Fach, Lincoln, Painter, Cording, Renner
NAYS: Greene, Murphy

The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

12C-0066 – MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (EMC)

Saylor reported things have been quite unbelievable this winter. They had only one water break in December and none in January. This gave them the opportunity to get in and do some sewer maintenance work in January. Cleaning was done in the downtown. They found the typical downtown grease from the streamline of restaurants. They try to clean these lines every couple of years.

Saylor stated he looks forward to the solar project and its completion.

12C-0067 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ZONING CALENDAR NO. 12A-01, A REQUEST BY ROSEAN AND JOHN WILSON TO REZONE 700 SPRING STREET FROM LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL

Motion: Lincoln moved, seconded by Greene, to approve Zoning Calendar No. 12A-01, A request by Rosean and John Wilson to rezone 700 Spring Street from low density residential to neighborhood commercial.

Discussion: Council agreed it was a good fit for the area.

Roll Call: AYES: Lincoln, Murphy, Painter, Cording, Fach, Greene, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

12C-0068 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A REQUEST BY THE GALENA-JO DAVIESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM TO BE CONSIDERED DURING THE UPCOMING BUDGET PROCESS

Motion: Cording moved, seconded by Painter, to approve the request by the Galena-Jo Daviess County Historical Society and Museum to be considered during the upcoming budget process.

Discussion: Council agreed it would be good to hear what their plans include.

Roll Call: AYES: Murphy, Painter, Cording, Fach, Greene, Lincoln, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

12C-0069 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON REQUEST BY SHAW ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. FOR A REFUND OF THEIR LIQUOR LICENSE ANNUAL FEE AND ONE TIME FEE

Council discussed the possibility of refunding the fees. The majority of members felt refunding them at this time would be in violation of the current ordinance. Council directed staff to make the necessary changes to the ordinance and bring it back to Council for approval.

Motion: Fach moved, seconded by Cording, to postpone action on item 12C-0069.

12C-0070 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON REQUEST BY AMELIA ROTH FOR A TOUR SERVICE LICENSE TO OPERATE AMELIA'S GHOST TOURS

Motion: Fach moved, seconded by Murphy, to direct staff to revise Section 114.04 of the Galena Code of Ordinances to add a third Tour Operators License.

Discussion: Council discussed the possibility of adding a third license. Some concern was raised with invading neighborhoods at night and the use of a microphone or speaker system.

Roll Call: AYES: Murphy, Fach, Greene, Lincoln, Renner
NAYS: Painter, Cording

The motion carried.

12C-0071 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SOLAR PROJECT BIDS

Motion: Murphy moved, seconded by Fach, to defer action on the solar project bids to the next meeting.

12C-0072 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ESTABLISHING THE AMOUNT OF THE REFUNDING OF SERIES 2003 BONDS

Motion: Fach moved, seconded by Murphy, to open discussion on establishing the amount of the refunding of the Series 2003 Bonds.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Greene, Lincoln, Murphy, Painter, Cording, Fach, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

Discussion: Moran explained the refinancing of the 2003 bonds and recommended tabling this item until such time as we have actual figures on the solar project.

Motion: Fach moved, seconded by Murphy, to close discussion on establishing the amount of the refunding of the Series 2003 Bonds.

Roll Call: AYES: Lincoln, Murphy, Painter, Cording, Fach, Greene, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

Motion: Murphy moved, seconded by Lincoln, to defer action on item 12C-0072 to the next meeting.

12C-0073 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO UTILITY BILLING COLLECTION POLICIES AND ORDINANCE

Motion: Painter moved, seconded by Lincoln, to approve the proposed changes to the Utility Billing Collection Policies and Ordinance.

Discussion: Painter thanked Deb Price for her work in analyzing some of these problems. With the success seen with delinquent charges on rental properties, Painter feels these seem to be appropriate changes to support all people with water and maximizes our return. The changes should save the city money in postage as well as other things.

Roll Call: AYES: Painter, Cording, Fach, Greene, Lincoln, Murphy, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

12C-00074 – WARRANTS

Motion: Murphy moved, seconded by Lincoln, to approve the Warrants as presented.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Cording, Fach, Greene, Lincoln, Murphy, Painter, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

12C-0075 – ALDERPERSONS’ COMMENTS

Amendments – Lincoln stated he feels amendments to motions are getting out of hand. He stated if someone wants to make a motion they should speak up and do so.

Warning Lights – Cording stated she was happy to have the warning lights for Highway 20 approved. She thanked Rawlins Township for offering to fund one light and Midwest Medical Center for the donation of two lights. Fach concurred.

12C-0075 – CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Budget – Moran advised he hopes to have the first draft of the budget to present at the March 12, 2012 meeting. The first work session will be held on March 19th.

12C-0076 – MAYOR’S REPORT

No report.

11C-0056 – MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Murphy moved, seconded by Painter, to recess to Executive Session to discuss the following:

- Employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline and performance, 2 (c) (1)
- Review of Executive Session Minutes, Section 2 (c) (21)

Roll Call: AYES: Fach, Greene, Lincoln, Murphy, Painter, Cording, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 7:52 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:01 p.m.

12C-0057 - ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Murphy moved, seconded by Lincoln, to adjourn.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Murphy, Painter, Cording, Fach, Greene, Lincoln, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Beth Hyde". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mary Beth Hyde, CMC
City Clerk

