

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF 22 JULY 2013

13C-0285 – 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 22 July 2013.

13C-0286 – ROLL CALL

Upon roll call the following members were present: Bernstein, Fach, Greene, Kieffer, Lincoln, Painter, Renner

13C-0287 – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

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

13C-0288 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge was recited.

13C-0289 - REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Turner Hall Committee - Fach reported the Turner Hall Committee met on July 11th. The committee discussed the exterior masonry, lighting, fire escapes and downspouts. They would like to investigate installing ceiling fans in the hall. The committee discussed the possibility of creating a “grade sheet” for people who rent the hall. The renter would be asked to fill it out and include any comments they might have with regard to the hall.

13C-0290 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC HEARING

Motion: Greene moved, seconded by Painter, to open the Public Hearing on the proposed canoe and kayak park on the west side of the Galena River and immediately south of the US Highway 20 Bridge.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Fach, Greene, Kieffer, Lincoln, Painter, Bernstein, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

13C-0291 – PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED CANOE AND KAYAK PARK ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE GALENA RIVER AND IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF THE US HIGHWAY 20 BRIDGE

Testimony: Larry Wiedenheft, 9316 Saturn Lane – Wiedenheft advised he was a member of the Community Development Fund of Galena (CDFG). He advised the seed for this park came from a CDFG meeting. The CDFG has put a lot of money towards various projects in Galena such as the Pathway on the Levy and Muchow Park. They also participate by donating money to various other entities in Galena. The group would like to create a “bricks and mortar” project. The CDFG would like to work with the City in evolving the parks. The City would apply for a grant through the Boat Area Access Development Program (BAAD). The grant would fund 90 percent of the project cost. The CDFG would contribute the rest. The CDFG feels this is a public parking

area which is underutilized. The CDFG sees this as a chance to improve a recreational facility. They have been working with Mark Moran and Matt Oldenburg. The CDFG feels staff has come up with a very good plan. There will be no cost to the taxpayer.

Tom Bruschi, 411 S. Prospect Street – Bruschi stated he thinks the pocket park is an excellent idea. It will be good for the locals as well as for tourism. Bruschi feels it is a win, win situation and urged the council to support it. He stated traffic can be controlled in a way that it shouldn't be a problem.

John Schuh, 300 Gear Street – Schuh stated he recently moved to Galena. He will certainly be impacted by what happens down there. He advised he has looked at some of the adjustments made to the plan and it looks fairly good. He is concerned with the use of a porta-potty down there as they are ugly and not good for tourism. He noted the first speaker didn't once mention the locals and how they might be impacted. Schuh felt the changes were good. He likes the adjustments made to the ramp and the fact that the ramp will be kept in the same location. He liked the restriction of no motorized boats. Schuh stated his main concern is that the overwhelming drive behind this is commercial and they haven't considered the locals down there. He has a concern about all of the people coming down there. He noted we have a dock on the other side of the river available to everyone. Schuh stated he was originally against the park; however, he would be open to keeping it as is and trying not to impact the area too much with a lot of commercial traffic down there. He was in favor of keeping the trees and stated he was not interested in a big park down there.

Justice Kelly, 501 Harrison Street – Kelly stated he would be opposed to another park. He recommended looking at the possibility of leasing the area. While he understands there would be a grant and the CDFG would fund the rest, there would still be maintenance costs. He feels leasing the riverfront would be a better option. Whoever leases it would be required to take care of any upgrades to the facilities and maintain them.

Lorelle Kelly Buttler, 501 Harrison Street – Buttler stated she understands 90 percent of this would be paid for by grants. She noted there would still be maintenance costs seasonally which the City will have to pay for. Buttler advised in July of this year she took a canoe trip on the Galena River. What they used that day, which already exists, was fine for the canoes and kayaks. She questions the need to upgrade when the dock is right across the river and is not used that often. She prefers to see what is natural to stay natural in Galena.

Tina Triana, 2 Gear Street – Triana stated it is her understanding that the porta-potty and the cutting of the trees has been removed from the plan. She advised the trees act as a natural barrier when the river floods. Triana stated the issue is the fact that this property is being used primarily for a commercial business. They take over the entire spot with scooter lessons, trucks, kayaks and canoes. If this goes forward, she feels there should be something very strong in place that states this is a public park and the city is not fixing it up for the benefit of a business. Currently the business takes up so much of the space there is no room for the public to go. Triana stated if a business wants a river front business they should go buy river front property. She feels leasing would not change that. She has seen people coming in with kayaks on their car that have been told to go across the river to the other side. On the 4th of July, kayaks and canoes were lined up so no one could park over there. Triana was fine with going ahead with the park but feels this commercial use has to stop.

Joan Wallace, 703 S. Bench Street – Wallace stated she thinks the park is a fine idea. Her concern is with the kayaks and canoes with the marquee type sign advertising the business which sits in the Gazette lot. She would rather not see that allowed.

Kim Sinagra, 1 Gear Street – Sinagra advised she lives as close as anyone can get to the river front park. She has no issues with the actual park. She feels it would be an improvement. She definitely does not want to see a porta-potty. Sinagra stated her big issue is the scooters. She advised she has seen numerous people fall. She questioned what liability the city has if someone were to get seriously injured during this scooter training. She feels the people will sue the city.

Sinagra stated she feels the scooters have to go as they are dangerous. She feels someone will get hurt on city property and we are going to pay the price.

David Adams, 5877 S. River Road, Hanover – Adams advised he is an avid kayak and paddle boarder. Most of the time he enters on the motorboat side of the river. He has used the kayak path a few times. The existing ramp is kind of dangerous. While he doesn't care much about the park he would be in favor of a better ramp at not such a steep angle.

Dale Gereau, 705 S. Bench Street - Gereau stated he would be in favor of cleaning up the area back there. The way it currently sits is a liability for the City. The asphalt is deteriorated. Fixing it would give additional tourist parking which is always needed. Gereau stated he likes the idea of leaving the ramp in the same location. He uses the ramp a quite a bit. He advised the existing concrete wasn't poured correctly. It doesn't work well. He feels improving the ramp facility would be a great benefit which would include a small picnic area. As for maintenance, the City currently maintains the property. He questioned if it were cleaned up if the City would consider dumping snow somewhere else. He preferred not to see a porta-potty. Gereau noted a lot of businesses use common river fronts usually owned by the city. He advised insurance could be purchased to alleviate the city's liability. Gereau feels the business that has attracted this type of visitor to Galena has enhanced the tourism industry.

Deb Malone, Fever River Outfitters, 525 S. Main Street – Malone stated as always with change there is the element of fear on how it will impact us. Separate from that is how it will impact the greater of everybody. She feels we want to show the best of what we have to the people who are coming here and we want to present them with a nice safe environment. The existing ramp was put there by the City and is concrete. Over the years with all of the mud it has gotten very difficult for anyone to use it. With the City of Galena being the second largest tourist city in Illinois Malone stated she feels this would be a great service to everyone and she would be in favor for that reason.

Bonnie Hausman, 229 S. Main Street – Hausman advised back in the day she had looked at leasing property near the railroad (Depot Park). They wanted to put in a small wedding chapel. The City then decided they wanted the property for a parking lot. She recommended leasing the land. She advised she has paid rents here for 30 years and no one has ever given her anything. She doesn't feel it is right that a private business profits from a city area. She recommended coming up with a lease, renting the property and requiring that they maintain it themselves since it's their business.

Motion: Lincoln moved, seconded by Kieffer, to close the Public Hearing on the proposed canoe and kayak park on the west side of the Galena River and immediately south of the US Highway 20 Bridge.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Greene, Kieffer, Lincoln, Painter, Bernstein, Fach, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

LIQUOR COMMISSION

Motion: Lincoln moved, seconded by Greene, to adjourn as the City Council and reconvene as the Liquor Commission.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Kieffer, Lincoln, Painter, Bernstein, Fach, Greene, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

13C-0292 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON AN APPLICATION FOR A CLASS O CRAFT DISTILLER LIQUOR LICENSE BY MATT BLAUM AND MIKE BLAUM, BLAUM BROTHERS DISTILLING COMPANY, 9380 HIGHWAY 20 WEST, GALENA

Motion: Painter moved, seconded by Kieffer, to approve the application for a Class O Craft Distiller Liquor License by Matt Blaum and Mike Blaum, Blaum Brothers Distilling Company, 9380 Highway 20 West, Galena, item 13C-0292.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Lincoln, Painter, Bernstein, Fach, Greene, Kieffer, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

Motion: Painter moved, seconded by Kieffer, to adjourn as the Liquor Commission and reconvene as the City Council.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Lincoln, Painter, Bernstein, Fach, Greene, Kieffer, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA CA13-14

13C-0293 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 8, 2013

13C-0294 – APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION FOR MAINTENANCE OF STREETS AND HIGHWAYS BY THE CITY OF GALENA UNDER THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY CODE (MFT RESOLUTION)

13C-0295 – APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION ON THE REVIEW AND POSSIBLE RELEASE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Motion: Kieffer moved, seconded by Bernstein, to approve Consent Agenda 13C-14.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Painter, Bernstein, Fach, Greene, Kieffer, Lincoln, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

13C-0296 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A RESOLUTION FOR ZONING CALENDAR NO. 13A-02, A REQUEST BY DANIEL BALOCCA, 125 S. PROSPECT, FOR A TEXT AMENDMENT TO PERMIT SMALL INNS IN THE LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT BY SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Motion: Painter moved, seconded by Kieffer, to return Zoning Calendar No. 13A-02, a request by Daniel Balocca, 125 S. Prospect, for a text amendment to permit small inns in the Low Density Residential District by special use permit, to the Zoning Board for reconsideration of the denial.

Discussion: Painter advised he is only asking for one unit. She feels it is a wonderful structure that is badly deteriorating. The restoration would benefit Galena. The text amendment would simply allow for a special use request. The Zoning Board would then make a decision on the request. Painter stated she feels this would be a positive thing for our community and a positive thing for this building.

Renner noted you can put a lot of conditions on a special use. He would provide off street parking. A stipulation could be that he not be allowed a Class P liquor license. Renner agrees there needs to be more dialogue on this. He feels when an ordinance is changed we need to think about what we have in town.

Lincoln agreed with sending it back to the Zoning Board. He noted every description of Galena is quaint and unique. He feels this is a perfect example of that description. It is a unique property with the possibility adding another room above the carriage house. It is a perfect example of a property that could fit the description of a small inn.

Greene felt the building should be repaired prior to applying for a special use.

Fach questioned what the argument could be in order to refuse the Class P liquor license. Renner advised the Class P license is for conventions and/or weddings. He would not have any additional parking.

Acting City Attorney Tom Nack explained the only action before the Council tonight is for the text amendment and not the special use.

Fach voiced approving this would enable Bed and Breakfasts to become Small Inns and apply for a liquor license.

Roll Call: AYES: Bernstein, Kieffer, Painter, Renner
NAYS: Fach, Greene

The motion carried.

13C-0297 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON REQUEST BY BONNIE HAUSMAN FOR A FLEA MARKET PERMIT FOR SEPTEMBER 21 AND 22, 2013 IN DEPOT PARK

Motion: Painter moved, seconded by Kieffer, to approve the request by Bonnie Hausman for a flea market permit for September 21 and 22, 2013 in Depot Park, item 13C-0297.

Discussion: The dealers will come from the surrounding area. Brochures and cards from the shops will be displayed. They would prefer to keep the people downtown vs. going up on the hill. They are waiting for an estimate on the insurance. The vendors can have either an outside space or space inside the tent. They will have space for 29 vendors inside the tent. Parking is there and will not be an issue. In order to keep costs down for the vendors, they chose to set up on Saturday morning.

Roll Call: AYES: Fach, Greene, Kieffer, Lincoln, Painter, Bernstein, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

13C-0298 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CONTRACT WITH IIW ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS FOR PHASE 3 BIKE TRAIL DESIGN ENGINEERING

Motion: Fach moved, seconded by Painter, to approve the payment of \$5,000 to IIW Engineers and Surveyors for Phase 3 Bike Trail Design Engineering.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Greene, Kieffer, Lincoln, Painter, Bernstein, Fach, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

13C-0299 – WARRANTS

Motion: Bernstein moved, seconded by Kieffer, to approve the Warrants as presented.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Kieffer, Lincoln, Painter, Bernstein, Fach, Greene, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

13C-0300 – ALDERPERSONS’ COMMENTS

Trees – Lincoln advised he has a list of five or six areas where trees need to be trimmed. He will bring in the list.

Thank you – Lincoln thanked Mark and staff for the good job they do. He advised the situation in Detroit is very sad and could happen to a small town as well.

Town Rods – Painter thanked the Town Rods for a great show this weekend. They had nice weather and a good crowd.

Thank you – Painter thanked the Turner Hall Committee and the CDFG. She appreciates the willingness of the CDFG to step up and help with the grant match.

Thank you – Painter thanked those who showed up to give their opinions on things. It indicates we have a viable community.

Deer Population – Kieffer advised there would be a deer committee report presented at the next meeting.

13C-0301 – CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Deer Committee – Meeting scheduled for Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.

Senator Brady – Moran advised Mayor Dittmar of Elizabeth has invited all to a meet and greet with Senator Bill Brady to be held at the Welcome Inn this Wednesday at 3:30.

Magazine Street Project – Moran reported the project is coming along quite well. Staff is getting estimates on repairs to the fence. The project should wrap up in the next two weeks.

Pump Station – Work began this week on the downtown pump station. This will help protect the downtown from flooding.

New City Hall – The project is under way. Moran advised the change order will be presented at the next meeting. The change order is primarily for the north wall as we were not able to obtain an easement. The wall will be repaired rather than rebuilt.

Audit – The Audit is almost complete and should be back soon.

Shadow Bluff – Moran advised he received an e-mail from a resident in Shadow Bluff who is concerned about the condition of the street. Shadow Bluff is not in the five year plan. Staff will take a look at it.

13C-0302 – MAYOR’S REPORT

Midwest Medical Center – Mayor Renner advised Midwest Medical Center is going to get involved with a contract with the Department of Health and Human Services. They are required to have a contract with the state or local government to provide this so there may be some paperwork to sign.

Next Meeting – Mayor Renner advised he will be absent from the August 12, 2013 meeting. Alderperson Greene will sit in a Mayor Pro-tem.

13C-02303 - ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Greene moved, seconded by Kieffer, to adjourn.

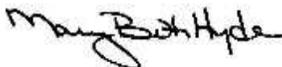
Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Lincoln, Painter, Bernstein, Fach, Kieffer, Greene, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Beth Hyde
City Clerk