

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF 27 JANUARY 2014

14C-0024 – 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 January 2014.

14C-0025 – ROLL CALL

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

14C-0026 – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

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

14C-0027 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge was recited.

14C-0028 - REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Turner Hall Committee – Fach reported the Turner Hall Committee met on January 9th. The Galena Gazette did a wonderful job of reviewing what happened at the meeting. He noted it is days like today where all taxpayers are losing their shirt at Turner Hall with all of the heat being sucked up in the fly space and dispersed in the below zero weather. The committee has discussed taking the fly loft out and extending the roof back like it was originally.

14C-0029 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Wirth – 121 S. High Street – Wirth spoke regarding item 14C-0033, a request by Tristate Historical Presentations for city funding to support the design and construction of the “Grant’s Triumphant Return to Galena” project. Wirth feels the applicant has put the “cart ahead of the horse” so to speak. He feels the appropriate way would have been for the applicant to have made a proposal to the city and the city could have appointed an impartial citizenry to see what might be worthwhile and feasible. He recommended council go back to the beginning and look at a committee or have staff look into this before making a full scale expenditure.

Rick Pariser, 113 S. High Street – Pariser commented regarding public action taken at the last meeting. He can’t remember one other instance where a city council member recused themselves from deliberating and voting on a matter. He appreciates that if there is in fact a conflict. He questioned how this is applied to the council. Is this something someone elects to do or is one directed to recuse themselves? He would welcome the council to discuss this.

CONSENT AGENDA CA14-02

14C-0030 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 13, 2014

14C-0031 – ACCEPTANCE OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2013 FINANCIAL REPORT

14C-0032 – APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE RELEASE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Motion: Greene moved, seconded by Kieffer, to approve Consent Agenda 14CA-02.

Discussion: Fach questioned why Executive Session minutes are never opened for public examination. He feels there should be some rule of thumb for how long we can continue to keep

them closed. He feels after a year or two the minutes should be allowed to be opened to the public.

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

The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

14C-0033 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON REQUEST BY TRISTATE HISTORICAL PRESENTATIONS FOR CITY FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE “GRANT’S TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO GALENA” PROJECT

Motion: Fach moved, seconded by Kieffer, to deny the request by Tristate Historical Presentations for city funding to support the design and construction of the “Grant’s Triumphant Return to Galena” project, item 14C-0033.

Discussion: Fach felt the obvious source for this type of project would be VisitGalena and not the City Council.

Painter felt this might be something to look at again but right now the information is incomplete.

Renner agreed advising he wasn’t sure what type of liability we would be dealing with.

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

The motion carried.

14C-0034 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON REPORT FROM THE DEER POPULATION CONTROL COMMITTEE

Motion: Kieffer moved, seconded by Greene, to take positive action on the report from the Deer Population Control Committee.

Discussion: Renner advised the report is asking Council to make an application to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for a deer population control permit.

Bernstein stated the committee did a fine job in researching the problem and presenting the information. She is concerned with the fact that we only received 92 surveys back which is a very small percentage of the community. She would like to set this aside for a year and take a look at redoing the survey to see if we can get more input from the public. She prefers to see people use other measures to take care of these “critters”.

Kieffer felt the sharp shooters sounds like the best option at this time. Green agreed. He felt the city could apply for the permit and eliminate 25 in 2015 and could look into putting the survey out again.

Lincoln questioned if any reports have surfaced from surrounding communities that may be having the same problem. Moran advised the committee did receive reports and power points from Moline. He was not sure what the conclusion was in Moline.

Fach doesn’t think the survey was properly featured in the Galena Gazette. A lot of people didn’t see it. He feels it didn’t get the right exposure to the community.

Painter felt there was a lot of work put into this and it is fairly clear where the problems exist. She felt it would be appropriate to extend the survey.

Painter questioned if we may be going through a cycle where the population may decrease because of the disease process.

Bernstein stated she would be hesitant to vote on this process until she sees what is recommended by the Department of Natural Resources. She would like to know where they would be doing this and what the rationale would be before voting on it

Moran advised the city could move forward with the application. We could bring it back before the council for formal action on whether or not to move ahead with it.

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

The motion carried.

14C-0035 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON 2014 SUSTAINABILITY WORK PLAN

Motion: Bernstein moved, seconded by Painter, to approve the 2014 Sustainability Work Plan as proposed, item 14C-0035.

Discussion: Bernstein felt it was a really sensible list of projects. It shows what we would like to do. It is nice to say what we have planned.

Painter stated she appreciates the work but wants to make everyone aware of the workload we are putting on city staff. She recommended prioritizing some of the projects in terms of impact. She questioned if we could look into mandatory recycling. She noted there is an informal information green team already. She recommended formalizing that a little bit so when it comes to researching what other communities are doing it could be given to the committee rather than city staff. She feels green pledges are areas that could be researched by citizens and not city staff.

Renner felt it was worth the undertaking for 2014 with the help of outside people.

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

The motion carried.

14C-0036 – WARRANTS

Motion: Fach moved, seconded by Painter, to approve the Warrants as presented.

Discussion: None.

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

The motion carried.

14C-0037 – ALDERPERSONS' COMMENTS

Sustainability – Fach feels one of the major things the city is doing is burning fuel which is throwing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. He feels the city should be looking into LED street lights.

Thank you – Alderman Kieffer thanked the Deer Committee for their hard work adding they did a great job.

Thank you – Alderman Lincoln thanked Mark Moran for promptly getting the hole fixed on Prospect Street.

Thank you – Alderwoman Painter thanked Alderman Fach for his work on the Turner Hall Committee. His comments with regard to the energy flying out are important to consider as we go into budgeting. She agreed energy costs are an area where we need to be sustainable.

Alternate Parking – Painter advised she has had residents ask about alternate parking for snow removal. As an emergency kind of thing she recommended looking at that.

Winter – Painter noted all are doing an excellent job with the tough winter. Bernstein agreed stating our city crews are doing a great job as well as the EMT people.

14C-0038 – CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Meeting – Moran advised there will probably be at least one more meeting at the old city hall and maybe more. He is not able to pinpoint the actual move date yet.

Lights – Moran advised the lights came in after a long wait and approximately 2/3 of them were the wrong lights. The lights in the main chamber area are correct. The others are backordered.

LED Lighting – Moran advised the council may wish to send a message to Jo Carroll about the LED street lighting.

14C-0039 – MAYOR’S REPORT

Thank you – Mayor Renner thanked the Deer Committee.

Thank you – Mayor Renner thanked the Public Works Department, Police, ambulance and all snow plow drivers for doing a good job keeping things open as best they can.

14C-0040 - ADJOURNMENT

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

Discussion: None.

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

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Beth Hyde
City Clerk