

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF 08 DECEMBER 2014

14C-0485 – CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Renner called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Chambers at 101 Green Street on 08 December 2014.

14C-0486 – ROLL CALL

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

14C-0487 – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

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

14C-0488 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge was recited.

14C-0489 - REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Fach reported on the December 4th Turner Hall Committee meeting. Work is progressing on the millwork – doors, windows, storms. The front of Turner Hall has been decorated with greens and ribbons and new informational display cases have been installed. The attic has been emptied of costumes and props through dispersal to the community. Rentals for the year are \$2,000 ahead of this time last year.

Lincoln asked Fach about the 2x4's and plastic at the back of the building.

Fach said the trench area is still open, but is covered by plastic. There has been a large amount of fill removed even uncovering a doorway. In the spring they will install drain tile, aggregate and breaker to complete the work.

14C-0490 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CONSENT AGENDA CA14-23

14C-0491 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 24, 2014

14C-0492 – ACCEPTANCE OF SEPTEMBER 2014 FINANCIAL REPORTS

14C-0493 – APPROVAL OF LIFT STATION PUMP REPAIR AT THE HOSPITAL LIFT STATION

Motion: Lincoln moved, seconded by Kieffer, to approve Consent Agenda CA14-23.

Discussion: Fach asked if there were two motors at the lift station. Could Andy Lewis address this?

Lewis said there are two units. Each unit is a motor and submersible pump. One unit was repaired earlier this year. The cable damage could have occurred earlier and with use and time has allowed water to seep into the pump.

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

The motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14C-0478 – SECOND READING AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 51 OF THE GALENA CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO CONNECTIONS TO THE CITY WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS

Motion: Greene moved, seconded by Painter to approve action on an ordinance amending Chapter 51 of the Galena Code of Ordinances pertaining to connections to the City water and sewer systems.

Discussion: None

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

The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

14C-0494 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON 2015 URBAN DEER CULLING AS AUTHORIZED BY THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DEER POPULATION CONTROL PERMIT

Motion: Bernstein moved, seconded by Painter to deny action on 2015 urban deer culling as authorized by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources deer population control permit.

Discussion: Bernstein said the cost for this program has increased from \$3,400 to almost \$10,000. According to the DNR this will be an ongoing long term project, possibly ten years, costing tax payers \$100,000.

Painter said she understands the deer are a nuisance, but this money could be better used. We should listen to the 200 plus people who signed a petition against culling. The City needs to give serious thought to this and look at other options. We need to crack down on those feeding the deer and educate people on avoiding deer/auto accidents. Is this worth \$10,000? The grant application has to be prepared each year which requires staff time. Most accidents are on Highway 20 so it doesn't seem to be a significant safety issue. Maybe the speed limit should be adjusted to help alleviate this. There is no money budgeted for this - if we go forward what are we giving up. Maybe we should wait to see how last winter's harsh conditions effected the population.

Greene said for quite a while he always had five deer in his yard. After giving birth there are now thirteen and another neighbor has nineteen. We have to manage the herd. More and more deer lead to disease and inbreeding.

Kieffer agreed. He has seven in his yard; there are just too many deer.

Fach said initially he was for the deer cull. After the petition was submitted he changed his mind. No petition has been turned in supporting the cull. Feeding the deer is a problem and the public needs to be aware of the law and fine for violation.

Greene said 60% of the deer culled at the Galena Territory are shot at bird feeders. He used to feed the birds, but can't anymore because of the deer.

Painter said Galena's east side doesn't seem to have a deer problem. Why is that? The designated cull areas mean sharpshooters may not impact the deer in Greene's neighborhood.

Greene said the meat will be donated to the food pantry so some of the money spent is for a worthy cause.

Lincoln agreed with what everyone has said. He has deer in his yard every day which wasn't a problem until they started coming up onto his front porch. The designated culling areas will not help the entire city. He sympathizes with those who signed the petition but there are many people who want the deer herd thinned. It is an expense but something needs to be done.

Renner agreed that feeding the deer needs to stop. This would also help keep the coyotes out of Galena. Let's see what happens this year after culling twenty five deer.

Fach asked how the number was arrived at.

Moran said the deer committee determined the number.

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

The motion failed.

Motion: Greene moved, seconded by Kieffer to approve action on 2015 urban deer culling as authorized by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources deer population control permit.

Discussion: Fach said this averages about \$400.00 per deer.

Bernstein reiterated that this is not going to be a one-time proposition.

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

The motion carried.

14C-0495 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON AN APPLICATION BY BRILL'S TROLLEY TOURS FOR A TOUR OPERATORS LICENSE

Motion: Kieffer moved, seconded by Painter to approve action on an application by Brill's Trolley Tours for a tour operator's license.

Discussion: Bernstein asked if Brill had submitted all the required paper work and city application.

Moran said they did submit all the required applications and paperwork. All paperwork except the City application was included in the packet.

Painter asked when the license would go into effect.

Moran said the permit would be effective immediately and run through April 30, 2015 at which time it could be renewed.

Lincoln asked if the City was prepared to enforce violations.

Renner said the ordinance states the police department will check plates and inspection numbers. The State may also conduct routine inspections.

Nack said the Department of Transportation will periodically check for violations. If any deficiencies are found the business would be notified and given time to correct the violations. If they do not comply they could be fined or shut down. The police department will monitor Brill's trolleys for traffic violations just as they do all other Galena trolleys.

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

The motion carried.

14C-0496 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DOWNTOWN FLOWER BASKET PROGRAM FOR 2015

Motion: Painter moved, seconded by Greene to approve action on downtown flower basket program for 2015 that would have alternating flags and flower baskets.

Discussion: Painter said she understands the cost of the flowers but if we do this we need to do it right. Having fewer flower baskets, which we take care of and water twice daily, and flags on alternate light poles will provide a nice mix.

Renner said the flags will be nice for the 150th celebration of Grant's birthday next year.

Lincoln asked what the \$50.00 per basket covered.

Moran said it pays for everything except the basket itself.

Lincoln said we don't ever hear complaints about the \$2,800 we pay Valley Perennials for the Christmas decorations. It's a great addition to downtown and we should have a nice display. It would be nice to have a basket on every pole, but alternating flags and baskets will look nice.

Bernstein asked about watering in the evening.

Painter said research from another community showed the key was to water them twice in the am otherwise a shell or crust forms preventing absorption.

Fach said he thought maybe the City should look at doing something different – you see flower baskets everywhere.

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

The motion carried.

14C-0497 – WARRANTS

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

Discussion: None

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

The motion carried.

14C-0498 – ALDERPERSONS' COMMENTS

Greene said the flower baskets and flags will look good downtown.

Lincoln said he had seen that a community near the quad cities was beginning a deer cull program. It's not just Galena that is dealing with this issue.

Bernstein said she took the EPA webinar on green infrastructure as a means of flood management. One of the ideas presented was the use of permeable pavement. She would like to see the City consider using permeable pavement as an alternative to concrete in flood prone areas for special projects.

14C-0499 – CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Moran said MSA would have the downtown sidewalk inventory complete in about two weeks and ready to present in January. The audit is finished and O'Connor Brooks will present this in January. Work on the Capital Improvement Plan has begun and a draft should be available for the January 12 meeting.

Painter asked for an update on the police department renovation.

Moran said framing, electrical, IT and CAD work had been completed. The lights, which were not expected until January, have been delivered. Dry walling will start this week and completion date is still scheduled for March. Initially there were no changes planned for the bathrooms, but there may be some future discussion with the Council about making them fully handicapped accessible.

Bernstein asked about the State delaying the Gear Street/Highway 20 project another year.

Moran said this had not been confirmed but it feels as though it is headed that way.

14C-0500 – MAYOR'S REPORT

None

14C-0501 - ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Kieffer moved, seconded by Fach to adjourn.

Discussion: None.

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

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Price
Deputy City Clerk