

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF 14 DECEMBER 2015

15C-0459 – 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 14 December 2015.

15C-0460– ROLL CALL

Upon roll call the following members were present: Bernstein, Fach, Kieffer, Lincoln, Westemeier and Renner

Absent: Hahn

15C-0461– ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

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

15C-04462– PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge was recited.

15C-0463 - REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Turner Hall Committee – The Committee met on December 3rd. A copy of the minutes was presented to the Council. Fach reported bookings are up and things are looking good. They are working on getting social networking up and running which should help with sales and marketing what we have to offer. A check in the amount of \$34,368 was received from the Joe Miller Trust Fund. Of that amount \$29,257 was for sponsorship of the window and fire escape projects. The remaining \$5,111 is a first installment on the 4-5 year payback program for the \$180,000 of work as defined in the memo of understanding. Those projects are well underway.

15C-0464 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave Jansen, 118 Countryview Court – Jensen was present on behalf of the Cobblestone Crossing Homeowners Association. It is the recommendation of the association for council to accept the infrastructure. They have been struggling for close to 10 years thru bankruptcy and foreclosures. The owners have made financial contributions for finishing of the streets, lights and sidewalks. Jansen urged the council to vote yes and thanked staff for their help.

Don Gereau, 219 S. Highway – Gereau urged the Council to embrace the intent of the street performers ordinance and encourage the tarot ladies to continue to provide entertainment consistent with the overall public interest and not support changes that are harmful to long term street performers like the two tarot ladies.

Wendy Bade, Galena Area Chamber of Commerce – Bade urged the Council to support the Chamber's request to hold the Halloween Parade on October 29, 2016

CONSENT AGENDA CA15-22

15C-0465 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 23, 2015

15C-0466 – APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACT WITH LOUIE'S TRENCHING SERVICE

Roll Call: AYES: Fach, Kieffer, Lincoln, Westemeier, Bernstein, Renner
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Hahn

The motion carried.

15C-0467 – APPROVAL OF A REQUEST BY THE GALENA LION’S CLUB TO CONDUCT OKTOBERFEST IN DEPOT PARK ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2016

15C-0468 – APPROVAL OF REQUEST BY THE GALENA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO CONDUCT THE HALLOWEEN PARADE IN DOWNTOWN GALENA ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2016

15C-0469 – ACCEPTNCE OF OCTOBER 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

15C-0470 – APPROVAL OF DONATION FROM TOP NOTCH PLUMBING, HEATING AND ELECTRICAL OF A HEATING SYSTEM FOR THE FIRE TRAINING STORAGE BUILDING

15C-0471 – APPROVAL OF BRIDGE INSPECTION CONTRACT WITH IIW ENGINEERS AND SURVEYEORS

15C-0472 – APPROVAL OF CONTROLLED BURN AT GATEWAY PARK FOR FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT

Motion: Fach moved, seconded by Lincoln, to approve Consent Agenda CA15-22 as presented.

Discussion: Andy Lewis, City Engineer, advised the majority of the cost of the bridge inspection was for the pier and the abutments. We will look at options whether to replace with reinforced concrete or to consider metal section.

Roll Call: AYES: Fach, Kieffer, Lincoln, Westemeier, Bernstein, Renner
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Hahn

The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

15C-0449 – SECOND READING AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 110.39 “STREET PERFORMERS” OF THE GALENA CODE OF ORDINANCES

A motion to approve was made and later rescinded.

Discussion: Council discussed signage, tables, distance between performers, the four hour time limit and donations. They were in agreement that size regulations should be included for signage and the size of tables. Some council members were in favor of removing the four hour time limit and reducing the distance between performers. Council also stated performances can be done for donations only. Performers cannot have set fees. Council agreed to table this item to the next meeting to allow further review.

Motion: Westemeier moved, seconded by Kieffer to table item 15C-0449 to the January 11, 2016 meeting.

Roll Call: AYES: Kieffer, Lincoln, Westemeier, Bernstein, Fach, Renner
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Hahn

The motion carried.

15C-0450 – SECOND READING AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE AMOUNT OF PROPERTY TAXES TO BE LEVIED IN 2015 AND COLLECTED IN 2016

Motion: Kieffer moved, seconded by Bernstein, to approve the second reading of an ordinance establishing the amount of property taxes to be levied in 2015 and collected in 2016 in the amount of \$1,357,868.

Discussion: Fach noted nationwide there is 7.5 percent less income for the average wage earner in America last year and zero increase on Social Security. We are also looking at a school tax increase. He advised he would vote no.

Kieffer felt just increasing it the minimum, which amounts to \$16,000, could help fix a street.

Bernstein stated she doesn't like to see taxes raised either; however, this is such a small amount. She voiced concern with the state not willing to help us out. She advised she would support the small increase that will help us to continue to provide service.

Westemeier was opposed to messing with the taxes this year.

Bernstein reminded council we wouldn't only be losing it this year but in the future as well. If we don't take it we lose it forever. She reminded Council Ptell was voted in by the residents many years ago.

Moran advised the increase would be less than \$8.00 per \$100,000 of assessed value. A \$100,000 home would increase by \$8.00. He also reminded the Council of the compounding effects of not approving the increase.

Moran recommended reducing the Police Protection line down by \$16,000 if the increase is not approved.

Roll Call:
AYES: Bernstein, Kieffer
NAYS: Lincoln, Westemeier, Fach
ABSENT: Hahn

The motion was denied.

Motion: Lincoln moved, seconded by Fach, to approve the second reading of an ordinance establishing the amount of property taxes to be levied in 2015 and collected in 2016 in the amount of \$1,341,412, the same as last year.

Discussion: Lincoln stated he understands the needs and the facts and figures. He is concerned for the ones that can't come up with the extra money. While it may seem like a few dollars to some it is a lot more to other people. Lincoln was in favor of holding the line and showing good faith that we are thinking about the residents.

Roll Call:
AYES: Westemeier, Fach, Lincoln
NAYS: Bernstein, Kieffer
ABSENT: Hahn

The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

15C-473 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE VOTERS OF THE CITY OF GALENA AN ADVISORY QUESTION REGARDING DEER POPULATION MANAGEMENT IN THE CITY OF GALENA

Motion: Bernstein moved, seconded by Fach, approve a resolution providing for the submission to the voters of the City of Galena an advisory question regarding Deer Population Management in the City of Galena using the words provided by City Staff.

Discussion: Kieffer stated he was in favor of using the original question presented by the Deer Committee.

Bernstein feels the wording by city staff covers the two most important points. It states we are paying for this with public money and if we move forward with it it will be done by lethal methods. At this point we have no way of indicating what the cost will be. Fach agreed with Bernstein. He feels it is good that the voters know the intent.

Westemeier doesn't want to scare the public by saying it is going to cost \$15,000-\$20,000. We aren't talking about killing 100 deer. He feels the Committee needs to come up with other ways to do it that might not cost the city anything. Bernstein noted the referendum does not give any dollar amounts.

Bernstein feels the referendum needs to be done in March before the committee completes their work.

Roll Call: AYES: Bernstein, Fach, Kieffer, Lincoln, Westemeier,
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Hahn

The motion carried.

15C-0474 – FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT OWNERSHIP BY DEDICATION OF THE PUBLIC STREETS, SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM, WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, AND STORM WATER SYSTEM IN THE COBBLESTONE CROSSING SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF GALENA

Motion: Lincoln moved, seconded by Kieffer, to approve the first reading and waive the second reading of an ordinance to accept the ownership by dedication of the public streets, sanitary sewer system, water distribution system and storm water system in the Cobblestone Crossing Subdivision in the City of Galena.

Discussion: Lincoln stated this has been a long time in coming. The improvements are looking good and he is happy with the outcome.

Roll Call: AYES: Fach, Kieffer, Lincoln, Westemeier, Bernstein, Renner
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Hahn

The motion carried.

15C-0475 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON REVISIONS TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

Motion: Fach moved, seconded by Kieffer to postpone item 15C-0475 to the meeting of January 25, 2016.

15C-0476 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DONOR FUNDED PARK IDENTIFICATION SIGN IN CEMETARY PARK

Motion: Kieffer moved, seconded by Westemeier, to approve the donor funded park identification sign in Cemetery Park.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Kieffer, Lincoln, Westemeier, Bernstein, Fach, Renner
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Hahn

The motion carried.

15C-0477 – WARRANTS

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

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Lincoln, Westemeier, Bernstein, Fach, Renner
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Kieffer
ABSENT: Hahn

The motion carried.

15C-0478 – ALDERPERSONS' COMMENTS

Speeding on Gear Street – Bernstein advised a resident on Gear Street is concerned with speeding. It is especially bad in the mornings when the kids are out waiting for the bus. She feels there needs to be some enforcement of the speed in the mornings and early evenings when people are coming home from work.

Thank you – Bernstein thanked Janelle Keeffer for her help with information on the burning of the brush piles. She immediately responded and got in touch with the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation, asked questions and provided the information. Bernstein appreciates that kind of response on the part of staff.

Unified Destination Marketing Committee – Bernstein feels the singular voice committee is doing a good job and are moving forward.

Luminaria Weekend – Westemeier commended Chris Hamilton and staff for a very nice weekend. The luminaria and the wedding in the window were a very good promotional thing for the town. Lincoln agreed stating it was a great night to be downtown. Kieffer and Fach agreed.

Exercise Equipment – Fach questioned if the exercise equipment has been installed yet. He was advised one piece was done and the other two were installed today.

Main Street Lighting – Lincoln advised he has had people questioning the lighting downtown. It isn't as bright. He questioned if there was any way to make them a little brighter.

15C-0479 – CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Main Street Lighting – Moran advised they have done tests. The lights are actually brighter now. He will look into it and will report at a later date.

State Funds – Moran advised the Governor and Legislature have come to a little bit of an agreement with releasing MFT and Video Gaming monies. A check was released for today for the last 3 months of Video Gaming revenues.

Loan Payments – Moran advised we made final payments the Winery Lot loan and the Phase 7 loans. Those loans were \$670,000 principal and \$56,000 of interest each year.

Capital Improvement Plan – Staff has begun working on the Capital Improvement Plan for next year as well as the next four years.

Casey's – Moran advised the Casey's annexation, rezoning and liquor license will be on the next agenda.

15C-0480 – MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Renner thanked the Downtown Business Association and all who helped with the Luminaria and wished all a Merry Christmas.

15C-0481– MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Lincoln moved, seconded by Westemeier, to recess to Executive Session to discuss the following:

- Sale or lease of public property, Section 2 (c) (6)
- Pending, probable or imminent litigation, Section 2 (c) (11)
- Review of Executive Session Minutes, Section 2 (c) (21)

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Westemeier, Bernstein, Fach, Kieffer, Lincoln, Renner
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Hahn

The motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:42 p.m.

15C-0482 - ADJOURNMENT

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

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Kieffer Lincoln, Westemeier, Bernstein, Fach, Renner
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Hahn

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Beth Hyde
City Clerk