

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF 26 MAY 2020

20C-0197 – 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 26 May 2020.

20C-0198 – ROLL CALL

Upon roll call, the following members were present via Zoom teleconference: Allendorf, Bernstein, Hahn, Kieffer, McCoy, Westemeier, Renner

20C-0199 – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

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

20C-0200 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge was recited.

20C-0201 - REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

No reports.

20C-0202 – CITIZENS COMMENTS

Hendrica Regez, 11703 W. Red Gates Road - City Clerk, Mary Beth Hyde, read a public comment received by email. Regez wrote in support of the proposed outdoor dining initiative, item #20C-0212. She recommended the following amendments:

1. Extend the closure of Main Street to the intersection with Water Street.
2. Strike number 14 of the proposal: "No pets in the eating and drinking areas." We claim to be pet-friendly, so this decision should be left up to the business owners.

Regez encouraged the council to close all of Main Street to automobile traffic, other than emergency vehicles and transportation vehicles like taxis, trolleys and buses. She urged the City to determine a "safe downtown carrying capacity" and enforce it when necessary.

Adam Johnson, 211 Fourth Street – Johnson spoke in opposition to the closing of Main Street. He feels it is too early to consider this. He voiced concern with not knowing who we will hurt and who we will help with this. He is concerned this could do more harm than good. He recommended surveying everyone to see who is going to use it. He urged the City to take the time to come up with an application, come up with criteria and come up with a way to evaluate it in 30 days. He also voiced concern with giving up the parking as parking is at a shortage.

Catherine Kouzmanoff, 219 S. Prospect – Kouzmanoff urged the council to allow for open alcohol in the downtown. Kouzmanoff feels allowing alcohol throughout the downtown vs. just in people's patios would benefit the retail shops as well. She appreciates the flexibility, within COVID guidelines, given to businesses.

Bryan Taylor, Galena River Wine & Cheese – Taylor spoke in support of closing Main Street for the use of outdoor dining for restaurants. Taylor noted a key component of Galena businesses is tourism. He felt the idea of a parking issue right now was ludicrous. He feels there is ample parking downtown because there are no people. We need to get people back to town to support our businesses. He appreciates anything we can do to help everyone out. He is concerned if we wait another month, some of these businesses might not be here. He urged the council to execute this as quickly as possible.

Nanette Glasgow, Victory Café – Glasgow urged the council to support closing off Main Street for restaurants and bars. Businesses are struggling and waiting two months is too long for some. Closing the streets and opening it up for outdoor dining will get people walking around. Glasgow stated she owns two full businesses downtown. No one wants to book a Bed and Breakfast because there isn't anything to do. This will help get some businesses opened up.

Joe Dillon, 304 N. Division Street – Dillon stated he considers tonight's meeting to be flawed and should not go forth. He advised he received a letter that the agenda would be posted on May 21st. The agenda was not posted on May 21st. The agenda wasn't posted until May 22nd. He felt no action should be taken.

Dillon further advised he received a letter with regard to the Jim and Linda Sowle estate. He is unsure what they are trying to accomplish with this. He doesn't know how it will affect the street line. Without adequate discussion, he can't oppose or support this until he understands what the trust is trying to accomplish.

PUBLIC HEARING

20C-0203 – PUBLIC HEARING ON AN APPLICATION BY THE JAMES AND LINDA SOWLE ESTATE TO VACATE 0.11 ACRES OF THE BRIDGE STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY ADJACENT TO 708 BOSTWICK STREET

Motion: Hahn moved, seconded by Allendorf, to open the public hearing on an application by the James and Linda Sowle Estate to vacate 0.11 acres of the Bridge Street right-of-way adjacent to 708 Bostwick Street.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Bernstein, Hahn, Kieffer, McCoy, Westemeier, Allendorf, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

City Attorney Nack swore in anyone wishing to testify.

Testimony: Joe Dillon – 304 N. Division Street – Dillon stated he received a letter discussing the proposed action for the Jim and Linda Sowle Estate. He can't say either yay or neigh until such time as having discussed the legal ramifications or what the consequences would be. They haven't discussed the survey and memo. He feels this topic needs further discussion before any vote is taken on it.

Nack advised it would appear Dillon is speaking against the item. He advised this is a straightforward street vacation and has been done as the city normally does. The agenda was posted on Friday with the meeting held on Tuesday. The agenda was posted in ample time prior to the meeting. Surrounding property owners received proper notification.

Motion: Allendorf moved, seconded by Westemeier, to close the public hearing on an application by the James and Linda Sowle Estate to vacate 0.11 acres of the Bridge Street right-of-way adjacent to 708 Bostwick Street.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Hahn, Kieffer, McCoy, Westemeier, Allendorf, Bernstein, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

LIQUOR COMMISSION

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

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Kieffer, McCoy, Westemeier, Allendorf, Bernstein, Hahn, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

20C-0204 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON AN APPLICATION FOR A CLASS A CORPORATION LIQUOR LICENSE BY GALENA CELLARS INC., DBA GALENA CELLARS VINEYARD AND WINERY, 111 NORTH MAIN STREET

Motion: McCoy moved, seconded by Allendorf, to approve the application for a Class A Corporation Liquor License by Galena Cellars, Inc., DBA Galena Cellars Vineyard and Winery, 111 North Main Street, 20C-0204.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: McCoy, Westemeier, Allendorf, Bernstein, Hahn, Kieffer, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

20C-0205 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON AN APPLICATION FOR A CORPORATION MANAGER LIQUOR LICENSE BY GALENA CELLARS INC., DBA GALENA CELLARS VINEYARD AND WINERY, 111 NORTH MAIN STREET FOR ANGELA A. BRUUN

Motion: McCoy moved, seconded by Westemeier, to approve the application for a Corporation Manager Liquor License by Galena Cellars Inc., DBA Galena Cellars Vineyard and Winery, 111 North Main Street, for Angela A. Bruun.

Discussion: Bernstein questioned why a scaled drawing wasn't provided. City Clerk, Mary Beth Hyde, advised she would require receipt of a scaled drawing prior to issuing the license.

Roll Call: AYES: Westemeier, Allendorf, Bernstein, Hahn, Kieffer, McCoy, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

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

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Allendorf, Bernstein, Hahn, Kieffer, McCoy, Westemeier, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA CA20-10

20C-0206 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 11, 2020

20C-0207 – APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH GARAGE FORCE FOR FLOOR COATING AT PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING

20C-0208 – APPROVAL OF APPLICATION TO LANDMARKS ILLINOIS FOR A DRIEHAUS AWARD FOR THE RESTORATION OF GRANT PARK

20C-0209 – APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH STRAND ASSOCIATES TO PREPARE A PHOSPHORUS OPTIMIZATION PLAN AND FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

20C-0210 – ACCEPTANCE OF APRIL 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

Motion: Hahn moved, seconded by McCoy, to approve Consent Agenda, CA20-10.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Bernstein, Hahn, Kieffer, McCoy, Westemeier, Allendorf, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

20C-0188 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RECONSIDERATION OF AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT WITH KAREN WHITE FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Motion: Westemeier moved, seconded by Kieffer, to approve reconsideration of an independent contractor agreement with Karen White for janitorial services at the Police Department.

Discussion: Westemeier advised he looked at the contract based on other contracts. The additional \$100 would put the contract in line with the contract for City Hall. He pointed out Karen's mother has been cleaning for the past 30 years and Karen has been helping out with it. She is trustworthy and there haven't been any complaints about her job in the past. Westemeier feels it is well worth the extra \$100.

Renner recommended cutting the number of hours per month and keeping it at \$550 in order to save money as a cost cutting measure.

Bernstein questioned if she had accepted the original offer. Moran initially she had. After closer review of the amount, she advised she wouldn't accept the amount.

Westemeier advised the City would still be saving \$300 per month. He feels the extra \$100 is well worth it for the trust factor at the Police Department. He was opposed to setting a time limit when we don't do it to anyone else. Kieffer agreed stating adding a time frame might rush them and thus they might not do as good of a job. Hahn agreed.

Roll Call: AYES: Hahn, McCoy, Westemeier, Allendorf, Bernstein, Renner
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Kieffer (temporarily lost connection)

The motion carried.

Motion: Westemeier moved, seconded by Hahn, to approve increasing the amount of the independent contractor agreement with Karen White to \$650.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Kieffer, McCoy Westemeier, Allendorf, Bernstein, Hahn, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

20C-0211 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON AN APPLICATION BY THE JAMES AND LINDA SOWLE ESTATE TO VACATE 0.11 ACRES OF THE BRIDGE STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY ADJACENT TO 708 BOSTWICK STREET

Motion: McCoy moved, seconded by Westemeier to approve the application by the James and Linda Sowle Estate to vacate 0.11 acres of the Bridge Street right-of-way adjacent to 708 Bostwick Street at a cost of \$5,270.

Discussion: Hahn noted it doesn't infringe on any street or utilities.

Roll Call: AYES: McCoy Westemeier, Allendorf, Bernstein, Hahn, Kieffer
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

20C-0212 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DOWNTOWN GALENA OPEN SPACES PROPOSAL FOR OUTDOOR EATING AND DRINKING AT BARS AND RESTAURANTS

Motion: Allendorf moved, seconded by Bernstein, to approve the proposal for downtown Galena open spaces for outdoor eating and drinking at bars and restaurants, 20C-0212.

Discussion: Allendorf stated he has heard from numerous businesses on how bad things are downtown. He feels if this is reviewed on a constant basis, there shouldn't be many problems. Parking won't be a problem for some time. Allendorf was in favor of waiving the parking fees for the time being so the city lots are accessible. Mark and staff did a good job putting the proposals forward without a ton of effort or work to allow businesses to have a little more traffic.

Kieffer agreed adding the businesses really need the city's help. He feels alcohol should be consumed on the premises where it was purchased and not be allowed to be carried along Main Street. Hahn agreed.

McCoy likes the idea of the proposal worked out with the Chamber and Galena Downtown Business Association. They all worked together and came up with an agreement.

Renner feels the City is thinking on the same page as the Governor with regard to restaurants and bars. He supports them going out in front of their businesses for outdoor dining. Staff has done an excellent job and will continue to work on this.

Allendorf felt there was a discrepancy on the hours. Moran advised he would double check them.

Council agreed to allow them to operate according to the liquor ordinance and be allowed to begin serving at 6 a.m.

Roll Call: AYES: Westemeier, Allendorf, Bernstein, Hahn, Kieffer, McCoy, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

20C-0213 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A PROPOSAL BY CATHERINE KOUZMANOFF TO ALLOW OPEN CONTAINER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN DOWNTOWN GALENA

Motion: Westemeier moved, seconded by Kieffer, to deny the request by Catherine Kouzmanoff to allow open container alcoholic beverages in downtown Galena, 20C-0213.

Discussion: Westemeier is hopeful with bars and restaurants able to start opening up, the Governor will move to open everything up at 50 percent in 14 days. Westemeier feels closing Main Street and allowing outdoor dining is a good option at this point.

Allendorf disagreed. He feels more consideration should be given to bars. They might do outdoor seating areas, but it will be only a fraction of what they could do under the current guidelines. Bars are an important part of the local economy as well. Allendorf feels with the shutting down of Main Street, he doesn't see any safety concerns that would be created beyond what would occur on normal weekends or weeknights.

Roll Call: AYES: Bernstein, Hahn, Kieffer, McCoy, Westemeier, Renner
NAYS: Allendorf

The motion carried.

20C-0214 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A REQUEST FROM THE GALENA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO ENDORSE A LETTER TO GOVERNOR JB PRITZKER REGARDING POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS TO THE RESTORE ILLINOIS PLAN

Motion: Westemeier moved, seconded by Hahn, to approve the request by the Galena Area Chamber of Commerce to endorse a letter to Governor J. B. Pritzker regarding possible modifications to the Restore Illinois Plan.

Discussion: Westemeier feels the Governor needs to wake up. We are behind the eight ball with Iowa and Wisconsin opening up. They need to do something to get us out of the Rockford region.

Roll Call: AYES: Bernstein, Hahn, Kieffer, McCoy, Westemeier, Allendorf, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

20C-0215 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE EAST SIDE UTILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Motion: McCoy moved, seconded by Allendorf, to approve the Notice of Award to Louie's Trenching Service in the bid amount of \$1,384,717 for the East Side Utility System Improvements with an expected project start date in late July.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Kieffer, McCoy, Westemeier, Allendorf, Bernstein, Renner
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Hahn

The motion carried.

20C-0216 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ZONING CAL. NO. 20A-02, A REQUEST FOR A ZONING MAP AMENDMENT TO REZONE 1249 NORTH FRANKLIN STREET FROM LIMITED AGRICULTURE TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO ALLOW INDOOR COMMERCIAL ENTERTAINMENT (RESTAURANT) AND IN-VEHICLE SALES & SERVICE LAND USES

Motion: Allendorf moved, seconded by Westemeier, to approve Zoning Cal. No. 20A-02, a request for a Zoning Map amendment to rezone 1249 North Franklin Street from limited agriculture to general commercial district to allow indoor commercial entertainment (restaurant) and in-vehicle sales & service land uses.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Kieffer, Westemeier, Allendorf, Bernstein, Hahn, Renner
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: McCoy

The motion carried.

20C-0217 – WARRANTS

Motion: Bernstein moved, seconded by Allendorf, to approve the Warrants as presented, 20C-0217.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: McCoy, Westemeier, Allendorf, Bernstein, Kieffer, Renner
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Hahn

The motion carried.

20C-0218 – ALDERPERSONS' COMMENTS

Best of Luck – Hahn wished everyone downtown with the best of luck. He hopes we can all get through this. The city will do the best we can to help out. Westemeier agreed stating it is time to get towns back up and running.

Gear Street – McCoy thanked the residents of Gear Street for the great display of flags for Memorial Day.

Open Container – Allendorf recommend revisiting the open container item in a few weeks. It would help the restaurants as well. Downtown is a walking destination and will be reality for the next few months. He sees no way we will move to Phase 5 before the end of the year. We have a chance to make things unique for the next few months. He urged everyone to look for other ways to do that.

Downtown Opening – Bernstein noted there are still health risks. We will need to monitor things as we go along. She wished everyone luck and hopes all will work out.

Good Luck – Kieffer wished everyone good luck.

20C-0219 – CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Public Restrooms – Public restrooms will open Friday in conjunction with the opening of the downtown retail. Extra precautions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 will be taken.

Outdoor Eating & Drinking – The guidelines and application form for the temporary outdoor seating will be available later tonight on the City's website under Forms and Applications and Business Forms. The forms will also be forwarded to the Chamber and the Galena Downtown Business Association for distribution to their members. Staff will be working closely with the businesses to facilitate the program.

20C-0220 – MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Renner thanked staff for their work on closing Main Street. He encouraged restaurants to move forward with outdoor dining. Hopefully we can pick up the pace as we go along. We will do our best to follow the guidelines as best we can.

20C-0221 – MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Allendorf moved, seconded by Hahn, to recess to Executive Session to discuss the following:

- Employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline and performance, Section 2 (c) (1)
- Collective negotiating matters and deliberations concerning salary schedules, Section 2 (c) (2)
- Review of Executive Session Minutes, Section 2 (c) (21)

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Westemeier, Allendorf, Bernstein, Hahn, Kieffer, McCoy, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 7:41 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:58 p.m.

20C-0222 – ADJOURNMENT

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

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: AYES: Hahn, Kieffer, McCoy, Westemeier, Allendorf, Bernstein, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Beth Hyde
City Clerk