

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF 25 OCTOBER 2021

21C-0417 – 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 25 October 2021.

21C-0418 – ROLL CALL

Upon roll call, the following members were present: Bernstein, Hahn, Kieffer, McCoy, Westemeier, Wiene, Renner

21C-0419 – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

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

21C-0420 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge was recited.

21C-0421 - REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

No reports.

21C-0422 – CITIZENS COMMENTS

Lisa Bastian, 302 S. Main Street – Bastian made the following recommendations for changes to the outdoor dining:

- The season should run from May 27, 2022, to September 8, 2022. Memorial Day to Labor Day.
- The street should remain open from the flood gates to Meeker Street so deliveries and regular traffic can flow.
- Barricades should be used around dining areas similar to the DeSoto Hotel, Embe's, Bread & Vine and Champagne on Main.
- Tables should be used for dining, not just for staging customers, at least 6 to 7 days per week.
- Outdoor dining areas should be swept and sprayed down on a daily basis.
- Parking spaces being utilized should be kept to in front of the restaurant business only unless a neighboring business is in favor of allowing a neighbor to use the parking spaces.
- Permit fees need to be set at \$1,000 per parking place being utilized.
- If a restaurant does not have enough staff to keep the tables utilized, the tables should be removed, and the parking spaces should be forfeited back to the city for parking. All fees that were paid would not be refunded.
- Restaurants should consider purchasing two top table and chair sets similar to what is in front of Kaladi's or the Galena Wine & Cheese store that could be kept outdoors year-round. These tables would not impact parking in any way.

Darlene Trilk, 210 N. Main Street – Trilk agreed with the comments made by Bastian. She feels there needs to be rules and regulations if outdoor dining is to continue. Trilk stated her store is in the heart of it, so she has experienced it all. Dogs fighting, people screaming, people getting sick and an unbelievable trash problem. The streets need to be cleaned daily in order to get the wine, food and beer off of them. Business has improved, but not because of the outdoor dining. Business has improved because people want to get out. Trilk stated she is fine with outdoor dining as long as there are rules and regulations.

Eric Bonnetain, 217 S. Main Street – Bonnetain thanked the city for the ongoing support. Bonnetain advised he has received constant remarks on how Galena has evolved. Outdoor dining has been a key to that, and he feels it must remain. Bonnetain stated people prefer to dine outdoors. Cities have adopted this trend. The benefits of outdoor dining are increased foot traffic and more revenue for the city in the form of taxes. Bonnetain stated over 16,000 people enjoyed their outdoor seating. Outdoor dining means more jobs for servers. Without outdoor dining, Bonnetain stated he would have to lay off 4 employees. Parking problems have always been an issue. They weren't caused by the outdoor dining. Bonnetain urged the council to allow outdoor dining for 2022 with a fee of \$2,000 per parking space. The money could be earmarked to help with parking.

Janelle Crowley – Crowley feels it is very important to look at a data driven decision and look at the revenue that is brought in by the communities. The issues are not with parking, it is about the convenience of parking. Crowley stated it is important to look at the revenue and tax base. The benefits are a healthier community which helps everyone in the community. It is a pet friendly community. Sitting around down on Main Street helps provide for Vitamin D. Crowley urged the council to take a look at 2018 and 2019 and look at what has occurred for this year. It is a proven and data driven decision when you can keep local students who are in college coming back here in the summer to work, it is proven that they are more likely to come back when they are raising their children. From the exposure, what has been done in the community has been a remarkable job. Crowley recommended the city look at the following communities: Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, Bluffton, South Carolina and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. All have done very well in what they have done to support their vendors, residents and businesses in the community.

Laurel Kelly-Buttel, Galena Brewing Company, 227 N. Main Street – Buttel advised the Galena Brewing Company is in favor of supporting outdoor dining. They were able to add 12 tables with outdoor dining and, because of outdoor dining, they have had record sales this summer. Visitors love the space. Before outdoor seating, the sidewalks became badly congested during peak season. Buttel feels outdoor dining provides more revenue for everyone.

Buttel advised they get numerous questions on where the additional parking is located. She recommended getting more information out on parking as well as shuttles.

Alana Turner, 402 S. Main Street, Vice President, Galena Downtown Business Association – Turner advised a survey was sent out to 100 businesses. They received 50 surveys back. Of those 50 surveys, 70 percent of them were in favor of outdoor dining. Almost all of them said with changes. A lot of those changes are exactly what the council has heard tonight. Turner recommended looking through the data and see what could be changed. Outdoor dining provides a huge benefit. Customers loved it. She feels the mechanics of it can be tweaked. Turner commended the city for coming up with outdoor dining in the emergency year. Outdoor dining has become a moving trend in tourism towns. Turner feels stepping away from outdoor dining is like saying we aren't quite ready to be up there with the big dogs. Turner recommended on the end of Main that is completely closed, to find a way to move more of the foot traffic to the sidewalk to help with window shopping.

Brenda Holmes, 516 Dewey Avenue - Holmes stated she looked ahead at the agenda for an update on the Galena parking issues. She only sees discussion for paid parking. Galena is getting great advertising and social media exposure. We are blessed with the obstacle of so many visitors. We are not equipped to handle their volume and we are not seeking a solution. This is an ongoing issue for visitors, residents, shop owners and employees. Holmes urged the council to take a drive up Main Street to Broadway and Dewey Avenue this Saturday and observe firsthand an example of Galena's parking situation. Holmes states she is in favor of a multi-level parking garage. It can be made to look historic. There are locations available, and she feels it has been needed for decades. She urged the council to try to contribute to a solution that would allow people to park.

Nash Anderson, 315 S. Bench Street – Anderson, an employee of Bread and Vine, thanked everyone for the points made. Growing up on Bench Street and running around on Main Street, he loved the downtown. Anderson stated as he got older, he sort of fell out of love with it. After coming back because of COVID, he felt the outdoor dining gave Main Street a breath of fresh air. Seeing people sitting outside enjoying cocktails and food was very special. While things aren't perfect, Anderson feels it is worth trying to figure it out.

Donna Holley, 749 S. Rocky Hill Road – Holley advised she is a new resident who moved here a month ago. One of the reasons she loved to come to Galena was the charm and the fact that most of the shop owners are outgoing and friendly with their customers. Lake Geneva is a lot less charming, and they are definitely all about profit there. Galena has kept the small world charm and seems to understand the lower profit margin. Holley stated she would hate to see tons of expensive parking. That keeps people away. She likes that Galena provides parking without soaking peoples pocketbooks.

Rose Noble, VisitGalena – Noble thanked all who spoke. She advised the VisitGalena board is in favor of outdoor dining. She has received a letter from the Illinois Office of Tourism Director, and they are also in favor of outdoor dining as well. Representatives from the Illinois Office of Tourism were recently here. Noble urged the council to consider tabling any decision until such time as they can check into the insurance and liability issues. She urged them to creatively think about how we can address some of the issues. Outdoor dining is an experience, and she feels there are ways to make this work.

Angela Devere, Galena Chamber of Commerce – DeVere advised the Chamber of Commerce is in favor of outdoor dining. They understand modifications need to be put in place. As a resident, she appreciates the recommendation of pay to play. Devere urged the council to put mitigations in place and find other areas for paid parking.

CONSENT AGENDA CA21-19

21C-0423 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 12, 2021

21C-0424 – APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF A SNOW PUSHER FROM MARTIN EQUIPMENT FOR \$9,750

21C-0425 – ACCEPTANCE OF AUGUST 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

21C-0426 – APPROVAL OF A REQUEST BY THE GALENA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR TWO FOOD VENDORS AT THE BALLOON GLOW ON OCTOBER 29, 2021, AT DEPOT PARK

21C-0427 – APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT BA22-03 FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT AIR CONDITIONING AND TRANSIT SERVICE

21C-0428 – APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE LOAN APPLICATION FORMS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR THE LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT LOAN

Motion: McCoy moved, seconded by Wiene, to approve Consent Agenda, CA21-19.

Discussion: None.

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

The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

21C-0429 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON OUTDOOR SEATING PLAN FOR 2022

Motion: Bernstein moved, seconded by Westemeier, to postpone action on outdoor seating plan for 2022 pending information on liability and legal issues regarding outdoor dining.

21C-0430 – PRESENTATION OF GALENA COUNTRY TOURISM QUARTERLY REPORT

Rose Noble presented the Galena Country Tourism quarterly report.

- 15,819 guides distributed
- 5,467 walk-in visitors
- 365 phone calls
- 1,764 email inquires
- 4 new part-time employees hired

Noble reported 50,000 visitor guides were printed. They are down to just over 1,000 left. Those will run out in the next couple weeks. The new guide will come out in early January.

The Thursday night live that started in May has now ended. There were a lot of great performers. They will be sending out a survey in the next couple weeks. They are hoping to keep the program running next year.

The Illinois Office of Tourism was in town last week on official business. Various businesses will be featured.

Governor Pritzker and his wife were in town during Oktoberfest. He made a stop in the Welcome Center. Noble met up with him on Main Street after he dined at the Log Cabin. He attended Oktoberfest, ate dinner and his wife shopped. It was nice to have him here on a personal trip. He had nothing but nice things to say about Galena.

Sylvia with the Department of Commerce and Economic Operations was here for the Northwest Economic Development Dinner. Noble was able to talk to her about the importance of tourism.

Noble reported they have been working on a tourism master plan. They are now at the stage where they will have special focus group discussions. It is based on the strategy of what we would like the destination to look like and feel like in the next 10 years. Surveys will be sent to all tourism related businesses asking for their input. Following the stakeholder survey, they will reach out for resident input as well. A visioning workshop will be held in January with an active launch in July 2022.

21C-0431 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON GALENA UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT, 1206 FRANKLIN STREET, A PRELIMINARY PLAN APPROVAL AND REZONING FOR A PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT WITH AN UNDERLYING DISTRICT OF LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL

Motion: Hahn moved, seconded by Kieffer, to approve the request by Galena Unit School District, 1206 Franklin Street, for a preliminary plan and rezoning for a Planned Unit Development with an underlying district of Low Density Residential.

Discussion: None.

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

The motion carried.

21C-0432 – FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP FROM LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT WITH AN UNDERLYING DISTRICT OF LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL FOR THE GALENA UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY

Motion: Kieffer moved, seconded by Westemeier, to approve the first reading and waive the second reading of an ordinance amending the zoning map from Low Density Residential to Planned Unit Development with an underlying district of Low Density Residential for the Galena Unit School District property.

Discussion: McCoy congratulated the school district on being in a position to do this.

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

The motion carried.

21C-0433 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR MULTI-METER PARKING STATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT SOLUTIONS

Motion: Hahn moved, seconded by Wiene, to approve allowing the city to go out for a request for proposal for multi-meter parking stations and enforcement solutions, 21C-0433.

Discussion: Hahn stated we are still looking for options for more reasonable ways to control parking on Main Street. Hahn feels the only way to stop owners and workers from parking on Main Street is to go this route.

The RFP will be done at no cost to the city. The city will then revisit it and decide what to do. If we enforce parking it would be helpful. Bernstein feels the city could issue permits for residents and not have to go through this huge undertaking.

McCoy stated he would hate to see this get pushed down the road. He was very much in favor of it. He agrees the city has to be careful to come up with some free or inexpensive parking for merchants.

Westemeier feels the city has two options. One being pay and display machines and other going back to the old ways of marking tires and going down and issuing tickets consistently. He agrees the majority of people who park on Main Street are the owners. Westemeier was in favor of looking into pay and display machines. He added if we want employees to park on Water Street, we have to look at better lighting.

Kieffer agreed with going back to the old way with the use of a computer.

Renner questioned what the city is looking for. Is it to get the cars to move or are we in it for the money?

Bernstein questions if we would actually make money with the system as it is very expensive and would require two additional people.

Moran advised the city is asking for the RFP. Companies will put together detailed proposals and send them back with technical specs and pricing. There will be no charge to have them do that.

Wiene was in favor of the RFP as it will cost no money and will give good dollar figures to go on.

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

The motion carried.

21C-0434 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A CONTRACT WITH ORIGIN DESIGN FOR DESIGN ENGINEERING, BIDDING, AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION AND OBSERVATION FOR THE 2022 LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Motion: Hahn moved, seconded by McCoy, to approve a contract with Origin Design for design engineering, bidding and construction administration for the 2022 Lead Service Line Replacement Program with observation being done by the city.

Discussion: None.

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

The motion carried.

21C-0435 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE SPRING STREET PROJECT, INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF PROJECT FUNDS AND A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROJECT PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Motion: Hahn moved, seconded by Kieffer, to approve an agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation for the Spring Street Project including resolutions for the appropriation of project funds and a resolution approving the project plans and specifications, 21C-0435.

Discussion: The estimated project cost is \$23.4 million. The city will be responsible for \$10,294 and will assume new maintenance responsibilities.

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

The motion carried.

21C-0436 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A CONTRACT FOR PAINTING THE SKATE PARK RAMPS AT RECREATION PARK

The following bid was received:

All-Star Power Wash, Inc. 72 Easy Street, Benton, Wisconsin \$52,555.00

Motion: McCoy moved, seconded by Bernstein, to approve a contract for painting the skate park ramps at Recreation Park with All-Star Power Wash, Inc. in the amount of \$55,555.00.

Discussion: Wiene questioned why staff couldn't paint it. If they are willing to provide the paint, it could be painted in sections. Bernstein noted Public Works is currently down one staff member so it may be difficult for them to complete.

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

The motion carried.

21C-0437 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT PLAN

Motion: Westemeier moved, seconded by Bernstein, to approve the playground maintenance and replacement plan, 21C-0437.

Discussion: Staff has done a great job getting donations.

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

The motion carried.

21C-0438 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ESTABLISHING THE AMOUNT OF THE 2021 TAX LEVY FOR TAXES TO BE COLLECTED IN 2022

Motion: Kieffer moved, seconded by Hahn, to approve the amount of property taxes the City of Galena expects to levy in 2021, to be collected in 2022 is \$1,519,019.00.

Discussion: Kieffer noted the tax rate is going down. Wiene stated while she gets that it is only \$34,000 in new tax dollars, she feels people are still recovering from COVID and the new school expansion. She preferred to keep the levy the same.

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

The motion carried.

21C-0439 – WARRANTS

Motion: Bernstein moved, seconded by Wiene, to approve the Warrants as presented, 21C-0439.

Discussion: None.

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

The motion carried.

21C-0440 – ALDERPERSONS' COMMENTS

Thank you – Westemeier thanked everyone for coming. He agrees we do have to make some adjustments if we are going to continue with the outdoor dining. Hopefully we can do something to make it work.

Thank you – McCoy thanked community members for committing time and money to the park improvements. Hahn agreed.

Kayak Trailers – Hahn questioned why the Kayak trailers are allowed to park in the depot parking lot 24/7. They have been parked there for weeks. They should be required to be removed at night.

Thank you – Kieffer thanked everyone for their input.

21C-0441 – CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Wastewater Treatment Plan/Repairs – Moran advised council there is an issue at the treatment plant. The front-end equipment has been down since July. The manufacturer came out to assess the necessary repairs to get it back in service. A quote was received from LAI, Ltd. to make the rebuilding along with replacement of wear and tear parts while they have it dismantled. The quote is \$40,000. Moran recommended going forward with the repair. An item will be added to the next agenda for approval.

21C-0442 – MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Renner thanked everyone for coming and sharing information and thanked staff for the work they do.

21C-0443 – ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Kieffer moved, seconded by Hahn to adjourn.

Discussion: None.

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

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Beth Hyde
City Clerk