

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF 27 FEBRUARY 2017

17C-0063 – 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 27 February 2017.

17C-0064 – ROLL CALL

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

17C-0065 – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

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

17C-0066– PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge was recited.

17C-0067 - REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Destination Marketing Organization – Lincoln reported a new contract is included in the packet. The county has passed it. Things are getting close to happening. The committee met last Thursday. The CEO search has started. Applications will be open from February 24 – March 10. The Committee will review the applicants on March 14. At that time, they will narrow it down to three or four and will go from there. The committee has agreed tentatively to meet the last Thursday of every month at 3 p.m. at City Hall.

17C-0068 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Keith Thraen-Borowski, 514 S. West Street – Thraen-Borowski read a prepared statement with regard to the resolution presented to the Council making Galena a “Welcome City”. The resolution welcomes diversity and believes that all individuals living in or visiting the City of Galena should be treated fairly and with respect and dignity. The resolution further discourages unlawful discrimination and strongly supports the equal treatment of all individuals regardless of national origin.

Gloria Hopewell, 210 S. High Street – Hopewell read a prepared statement in support of the proposed resolution making the City of Galena a “Welcome City”.

Sue Cording, 241 Council Fire Circle, President, Jo Daviess County League of Women Voters – Cording urged the Council to adopt the proposed resolution designating the City of Galena as a “Welcome City”.

CONSENT AGENDA CA17-3

17C-0069 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2017

17C-0070 – APPROVAL OF THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JOHN ROSENTHAL AS THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS FOR A TERM ENDING MAY 1, 2021

17C-0071 – APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR THE GALENA RIVER TRAIL: PHASE 3 PROJECT

Motion: Kieffer moved, seconded by Lincoln, to approve Consent Agenda CA17-3 as presented.

Discussion: Westemeier stated he understands there are change orders, but he hopes we can stay within the grant funding so we do not use any taxpayer money on the bike trail.

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

The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

17C-0072 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DESTINATION MARKETING MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GALENA, JO DAVIESS COUNTY, AND THE GALENA/JO DAVIESS COUNTY OFFICE OF TOURISM

Motion: Bernstein moved, seconded by Westemeier, to reconsider action on the Destination Marketing Agreement between the City of Galena, Jo Daviess County, and the Galena/Jo Daviess County Office of Tourism.

Discussion: None.

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

The motion carried.

Discussion: Lincoln advised the City had originally passed the language of the original DMO agreement. The County had not passed it. During the course of six months, they have come up with language that is ok with the County and the DMO. The City's agreement mirrors that of the County and the DMO.

Motion: Hahn moved, seconded by Kieffer, to approve the new agreement with the Destination Marketing Organization and withdraw the original agreement approved at the meeting of August 8, 2016.

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

The motion carried.

17C-0073– DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPEAL BY JO CARROLL ENERGY OF PENALTIES AND INTEREST FOR MUNICIPAL UTILITY TAXES DUE

Motion: Fach moved, seconded by Kieffer, to accept payment of the unpaid tax of \$5,167.47 deleting the penalties and interest.

Discussion: Moran advised Azavar discovered accounts within the City of Galena that had intermittent tax payments made. Jo Carroll was not able to respond fully by the end of the year. They have since completed an internal audit. Azavar agrees that, of the 262 accounts, there is only one that actually had not paid taxes over the five-year period. Lincoln questioned the difference in figures between Azavar and Jo Carroll. Moran advised Azavar estimated what was due based on the information they had. Jo Carroll did a lot of work on their end to establish the correct amount due.

Staff has agreed to give Jo Carroll legal counsel direct notice at the time of any annexation.

Chris Allendorf, Attorney for Jo Carroll Energy, advised this is not tax money that Jo Carroll owes the City. This is tax money these accounts should have paid and not money Jo Carroll withheld from the City.

Council agreed to remove penalties and interest.

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

The motion carried.

17C-0074– DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM GRANT PARK COMMITTEE

Motion: Hahn moved, seconded by Westemeier, to approve the recommendations from the Grant Park Committee, 17C-0074.

Discussion: Hahn thanked the Galena Foundation for everything they are putting into the park.

Lincoln questioned the removal of the plantings west of the fountain. Moran advised in looking at old photos that was not original. It will help reduce maintenance and they will put more emphasis on the plantings around the fountain and the fountain itself. It has been challenging to get things to grow there because of the shade. The urns on the fountain, which were installed in 2004, will be removed. They propose to take the fountain back to its original, which will open the view as you come into the park.

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

The motion carried.

17C-0075– DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DOWNTOWN SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Motion: Westemeier moved, seconded by Bernstein, to reconsider action on the Downtown Sidewalk Replacement Project.

Discussion: None.

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

The motion carried.

Discussion: Westemeier stated he would be in favor of removing the bricks now in the areas under construction. He feels they are hazardous and cigarette butt collectors. They prohibit full use of the sidewalk. More concrete would make the sidewalks look wider so people use the whole sidewalk. Currently people do not walk on the bricks. While he understands it may be patchy, if we do not start somewhere, it will never be done. Kieffer agreed.

Lincoln feels aesthetically it will not look good with patchy replacement. He questioned if all of the bricks could be replaced later.

Lewis advised it would be possible to come back at a later date and replace the bricks. Rebar would be used to tie it together.

Bernstein feels the 25 percent increase in cost is a lot. She likes the bricks and is opposed to the patchy replacement of them. Westemeier noted waiting a couple years would increase the cost even more.

Fach stated was in favor of removing all of the bricks and replacing with brushed concrete. Kieffer agreed.

Moran advised it has been budgeted in the current year, however, the budget would have to be increased in order to replace the bricks. As he works on next year's budget, the amount will be carried forward. While he has the general fund balanced right now, it would be a challenge to do that without cutting other things. It will be very hard to add money to projects like this and keep the budget balanced.

Motion: Fach moved, seconded by Kieffer, to create a change order, which reads we will remove sections of sidewalks torn up this summer removing the bricks and pouring concrete from storefront to curb.

Discussion: None.

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

17C-0076 – WARRANTS

Motion: Kieffer moved, seconded by Lincoln, to approve the Warrants as presented, 17C-0076.

Discussion: Bernstein questioned why we would purchase a typewriter. She was advised it was for the Police Department, which has several forms that still use a typewriter.

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

The motion carried.

17C-0077 – ALDERPERSONS' COMMENTS

Thank you – Fach thanked the Galena Foundation for the financial support they have been giving the City.

Thank you – Westemeier thanked Todd Lincoln and Joe Nack for the work they have done with the new DMO.

Cigarette Butts – Bernstein advised she has noticed many cigarette butts along the City Hall property. She recommended putting an ashtray out there.

Welcome City Resolution – Bernstein requested that the "Welcome City" resolution be added to the next agenda for consideration.

17C-0078 – CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Well 6 – Moran reported Well 6 on Gear Street is back up and operational. The work was finished a couple weeks ago. The well has been set 80 feet deeper and has passed all tests.

Electric – Moran reported the Police Department electric bill for February was \$537. Looking back at the same period last year it was \$528. Compared to what we paid for City Hall on a cost per square foot, it was found to be almost identical. They have identified some cost saving measures they are going to continue to work on.

Thank you – Moran thanked all for their work on the new DMO. It was a lot of work over a long period of time.

17C-0079 – MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Renner thanked the DMO Committee and the Galena Foundation and congratulated the girl’s basketball team on their super sectional win.

17C-0080 – MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

- 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: Lincoln, Westemeier, Bernstein, Fach, Hahn, Kieffer, Renner
NAYS: None

The motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 7:36 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:03 p.m.

17C-0081 - ADJOURNMENT

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

Discussion: None.

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

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Beth Hyde, MMC
City Clerk