

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF 28 JUNE 2021

21C-0263 – 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 28 June 2021.

21C-0264 – ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Hahn, Wienen

21C-0265 – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

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

21C-0266 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge was recited.

21C-0267 - REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

No reports.

21C-0268 – CITIZENS COMMENTS

Ilisa Farrell-Ericsson, 505 S. Bench Street – Erickson urged the council to place a moratorium on Air B & B permits until such time as the parking situation for Galena residents is remedied long term. Ericsson stated there are 36 homes on Bench Street with no off-street parking that pay real estate taxes. There are 21 apartment buildings, comprised of 144 units, with tenants that pay rent with no off-street parking. Bench Street currently has 139 non-restrictive parking spaces on Bench Street. Ericsson questioned why the city has not considered the needs of Galena residents who pay taxes, rent, or wish to attend church on Bench Street. Ericsson presented the Council with some temporary solutions to deal with parking short-term.

Anna Hem, 226 S. High Street – Hem voiced concern with the downtown parking problem. Hem feels the Council did not look ahead when taking away all of the parking spaces downtown. While restaurants are getting triple the business, retail stores are not getting the foot traffic. Hem urged the council to think about residents as well as tourists and help out the retail stores.

Nick Hyde, 122 ½ N. Main – Hyde stated he lives right between Main and Bench Streets. He is happy to live in a vibrant and active city. While he agrees parking is a problem, the solution is not restricting what can be done with a property. Buildings are being renovated and are turning the town into what we want it to be. COVID caused a lot of things to happen. We have learned how to use technology. We have been able to reinvent tourism. The numbers speak for themselves as more people need parking. He urged everyone to work together to find a solution. Limiting what people can do with commercial properties is not the solution. Hyde urged the council to support businesses and residents and ask how we can make a better Galena for our future.

Brenda Holmes, 516 Dewey Avenue – Holmes thanked the city for the recent additional parking spaces. She questioned why the city has never looked into putting in a parking garage.

CONSENT AGENDA CA21-12

21C-0269 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2021

21C-0270 – ACCEPTANCE OF THE APRIL 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

Motion: Kieffer moved, seconded by Bernstein, to approve Consent Agenda, CA21-12.

Discussion: None.

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

The motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

21C-0253 – SECOND READING AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 151 “HISTORIC PRESERVATION” OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE FREQUENCY OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETINGS FROM TWICE MONTHLY TO ONCE MONTHLY

Motion: Westemeier moved, seconded by McCoy, to approve the second reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 151 “Historic Preservation” of the Code of Ordinances to change the frequency of Historic Preservation Commission meetings from twice monthly to once monthly, 21C-0253.

Discussion: None.

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

The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

21C-0271 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON BENCH STREET PARKING

Motion: McCoy moved, seconded by Westemeier, to postpone item 21C-0271 to the next meeting.

21C-0272 – PRESENTATION OF GALENA COUNTRY TOURISM FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET

Rose Noble gave a presentation on the Galena Country Tourism Fiscal Year 2022 budget and current marketing initiatives.

21C-0273 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE MORATORIUM ON STREET PERFORMER PERMITS

Motion: McCoy moved, seconded by Kieffer, to lift the moratorium on street performer permits, 21C-0273.

Discussion: None.

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

The motion carried.

21C-0274 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE PURCHASE OF A NEW POLICE VEHICLE

Motion: Westemeier moved, seconded by McCoy, to approve the purchase of a new police vehicle, 21C-0274.

Discussion: Westemeier stated it has been 2 years since we purchased a new vehicle. The older vehicles are having issues and it is difficult to get parts.

Renner advised the local dealership has agreed to meet the state pricing for the new 2020 truck.

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

The motion carried.

21C-0275 – WARRANTS

Motion: Bernstein moved, seconded by Westemeier, to approve the Warrants as presented, 21C-0275.

Discussion: None.

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

The motion carried.

21C-0276 – ALDERPERSONS' COMMENTS

Thank you – McCoy thanked the Bench Street residents for coming and advised their voices are being heard.

Outdoor Dining – McCoy requested an item be placed on the July 12th meeting to discuss outdoor dining. He feels there are other entities that are being adversely affected.

Thank you – Westemeier thanked Rose Nobel for her presentation and for doing a good job promoting Galena.

Parking – Westemeier advised the city has added 56 new parking stalls. Galena has always had a parking problem and it is something we need to keep working on. It is hard to get a spot for parking when there are no spots available in Galena. The city will continue looking.

Parking – Bernstein thanked residents for coming as a presence indicates there is concern. She assured the residents the city is aware of the problem and has had numerous discussions on how to solve the problem. The bottom line is trying to accommodate parking for a million visitors per year. It is problematic and is something we will continue to work on.

Farmers Market – Bernstein stated she has received good reports from vendors and people who frequent the market. They like the new venue, and it is working well.

21C-0277 – CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS

Federal Stimulus – Moran advised the city has not received any money from the federal stimulus so far. We should receive two \$390,000 installments. The State of Illinois has not yet requested the federal money. We should have it within the next year.

21C-0278 – MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Renner thanked everyone for coming. He agrees there is a parking problem. In the past, previous councils should have picked up land. The problem was the financial aspect of it. If we borrow, we will have to have a steady revenue to help pay off the debt. The city has been working on the parking problem. 52 stalls were added on Meeker Street and 25 stalls were added at the canoe park. St. Mary’s church has been working with the city allowing the use of the church lot on. Renner stated he is sympathetic to resident’s needs. He feels the city needs to look at reopening Main Street.

Thank you – Mayor Renner thanked Rose Noble for her presentation.

21C-0279 – ADJOURNMENT

Motion: McCoy moved, seconded by Kieffer to adjourn.

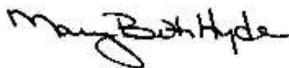
Discussion: None.

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

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Beth Hyde
City Clerk