

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 18, 2022

City Hall Council Chambers
109 James St., Geneva, IL 60134

CALL TO ORDER

The July 18, 2022 meeting of the Geneva City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall by Mayor Kevin Burns.

Elected Officials present:

Alderspersons: Becky Hruby, Gabriel Kaven, Dean Kilburg, Brad Kosirog, Craig Maladra, Richard Marks, Amy Mayer, Robert Swanson.

Mayor Kevin Burns, City Clerk Vicki Kellick.

Elected Officials attending by video or teleconference: None.

Elected Officials absent: Mike Bruno, Tara Burghart

Others Present: City Administrator Stephanie Dawkins, Assistant City Administrator Ben McCready, City Attorney Ron Sandack, Water Division Superintendent Bob Van Gyseghem, Electric Division Superintendant Aaron Holton, Public Works Director Rich Babica, Building Commissioner Eric Nelson, City Planner Chayton True, Geneva Fire Department Fire Chief Michael Antenore.

Others attending by video or teleconference: Facilities Manager Pete Adams' father.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge was led by City Administrator Stephanie Dawkins.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, SPECIAL ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

Check Presentation by Energy Fitness & Well Being to Geneva Mental Health Board.

Mental Health Board Chair Suzy Shogren was joined at the meeting by Board Commissioners Jean Gaines and Susan Fitzen. Chair Shogren spoke of the Board's education and advocacy work in May during Mental Health Month. She noted that while speaking in May with her trainer Kelly Krause of Energy Fitness + Well Being, Ms. Krause noted that she would also like to promote Mental Health Month at her studio. Ms. Krause asked Chair Shogren to share green bows and ribbons which the Board used to promote mental health awareness in Geneva during the month. Ms. Krause then asked clients for a donation so that they could receive the bows and ribbons to raise awareness of mental health in their own communities. Ms. Krause's husband Al told her that his company Clearwater Capital Partners would match whatever donations were received and multiply them by five. Ms. Krause then presented the Mayor and the Mental Health Board with one check from her studio for \$300, and a second check from Clearwater Capital for \$1,500.

Consider Mayor's Appointments of Jennifer Paoello, Michael Ploszek and Kathy Sabaini to the Cultural Arts Commission.

Cultural Arts Commission Chair Tim Vetang stated that because of COVID, there had not been any appointments or interviews for the vacant Cultural Arts Commission positions for a while. He expressed his pleasure at the three appointees whom he stated brought a wealth of talent to the Commission. He then introduced appointee Kathy Sabaini, a retired music teacher. She expressed her gratitude for being chosen for the position.

Moved by Ald. Swanson, Seconded by Ald. Marks.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote 8/0.

Introduce Facilities Manager Pete Adams and Administrative Analyst Melissa Carrano

Mayor Burns introduced Pete Adams who began his work with the City as Facilities Manager on July 5. Mr. Adams is from Batavia and currently lives with his wife and daughters in Montgomery. He originally began his career in construction management. He stated that he is excited to apply his skills in his new role in Geneva. Administrative Analyst Melissa Carrano was not present.

Presentation by Union Pacific Railroad on Third Main Line Project

Lindsay Douglas, Union Pacific Sr. Director of Public Affairs, introduced her Union Pacific colleagues Claire Anderson and Craig Crisp, and Rick Conrath of Benesch. Ms. Douglas presented information on the project and noted that the west line has much overlap between commuter and freight service. The original agreement for this project was developed jointly between Union Pacific and Metra in 2008. This project addresses shared fluidity issues on the west line by reducing gate down time and idling trains, while preserving Metra performance. The number of trains using the line will not necessarily increase but the additional track will allow for increased freight volume. The project will also address safety concerns by adding pedestrian gates at the Western Ave. crossing, directing pedestrian flows behind pedestrian gates at Third St., and alerting commuters when a second train is entering the station.

This western segment is the only one remaining in the project at a cost of \$102,000,000. Work is scheduled to begin mid-August. The original timeframe for the project was estimated at up to two years but supply chain and other issues have moved the estimate up to two and a half years.

Ald. Kosirog noted that Eagle Brook had several trees removed for the train and asked if there were any plans to replace these. Ms. Anderson stated that no additional trees would be removed there. She did note that trees along the railroad infringe upon railroad signals, necessitating the trees' removal. She did state that the UP Foundation provides grants for communities which could possibly be used for new trees.

On a question from Ald. Mayer, Ms. Anderson explained that the pedestrian bridge across the Fox River will not be fully closed during the work period. Route 31, however, will be closed for 16 weeks during this time.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

None.

OMNIBUS AGENDA

All Items listed with an asterisk () are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a council member so requests in which event*

the item will be removed from the Omnibus (Consent) Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda. All items on the Omnibus Agenda require a simple majority vote unless otherwise indicated.

*Approve Special City Council Meeting Minutes from June 27, 2022 and Regular City Council Meeting Minutes from July 5, 2022.

*REPORTS - Tax Revenue Report.

*COUNCIL COMMITTEES.

Moved by Ald. Swanson, Seconded by Ald. Kaven to approve agenda as presented. Roll call:

AYES: 8 (Hruby, Kaven, Kilburg, Kosirog, Maladra, Marks, Mayer, Swanson)

ABSENT: 2 (Bruno, Burghart)

NAYS: 0

MOTION CARRIED

OTHER ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE

None.

MUNICIPAL BILLS FOR PAYMENT:

Total expenditures: \$3,499,239.39

Moved by Ald. Swanson, Seconded by Ald. Kosirog to pay bills as presented.

Roll call:

AYES: 8 (Hruby, Kaven, Kilburg, Kosirog, Maladra, Marks, Mayer, Swanson)

ABSENT: 2 (Bruno, Burghart)

NAYS: 0

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ITEMS OF BUSINESS

No items.

PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, PETITIONS, BIDS

Consider Ordinance No. 2022-32 Granting a Sign Variation to Increase the Maximum Allowable Sign Area Upon the State Street Façade of the Building Located at 302 W. State Street from 40 to 55.23 Square Feet – Even Flow Music & Spirits, LLC.

Moved by Ald. Marks, seconded by Ald. Kosirog.

Per City Code, Even Flow is allowed to have two signs (one each per façade with street frontage) that do not exceed a total of 40 sq.ft. Prior to 2019, Even Flow's signage met that requirement. In 2019, the venue erected a new sign without acquiring a permit and the total signage area is now 55.23 sq.ft., which exceeds the 40 sq.ft. maximum area. Michael Knuth of Even Flow has applied for a sign variation. The Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously recommended denial of the sign variation as the applicant had not followed the City's review process for sign approval. The matter has now come before the City Council for a vote to grant a sign variation.

Neither Mr. Knuth nor another representative of Even Flow was present. On a question from Ald. Kilburg, City Planner Chayton True explained that Even

Flow had been notified via email and were made aware that this was on the agenda.

Ald. Kaven asked why the sign was erected in 2019 but a variance was applied for this June. Admin. Dawkins stated that City was in contact with Even Flow about the matter but had to wait for the venue to apply for a variance. Additionally, during the pandemic, the City worked to ensure that businesses would not be negatively affected during a time when they were experiencing possible revenue losses. On a further question from Ald. Kaven, Planner True noted that the Planning and Zoning Commission likely voted as they did because erecting a sign and then applying for a variance is not the standard process that applicants should go through. On further questioning, Planner True acknowledged that if the sign were removed and the application process done correctly, a variance likely could have been granted.

Ald. Maladra asked if Planner True were aware of any practical issues resulting from the sign. Planner True noted that there are no safety issues of which he is aware. He noted that the process is in place so that procedures are followed.

On a motion to grant the sign variation: Roll call:

AYES: 0

ABSENT: 2 (Bruno, Burghart)

NAYS: 8 (Hruby, Kaven, Kilburg, Kosirog, Maladra, Marks, Mayer, Swanson)

MOTION FAILED

PUBLIC COMMENT/NEW BUSINESS

Geneva resident Kim May spoke. Ms. May is on the board at the Catholic Corner. The store will be having local artists in during the Geneva Arts Fair. They will be showing religious artworks as well as some private collection pieces. An art piece of Mother Theresa which was purchased at the art show 20 years ago has been uncovered and will be on public display. Catholic Corner is a nonprofit that does community service projects. They are excited to show their support of the wide amount of local talent during the Arts Fair.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, moved by Ald. Marks to adjourn the Geneva City Council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote of those present.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Vicki Kellick
Geneva City Clerk