

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES  
AUGUST 30, 2021**

**Elected Officials Present:** Mayor Burns, Alderpersons Bruno, Burghart, Kosirog, Hruby, Kaven, Kilburg, Maladra, Marks, Mayer, Swanson

**Staff Present:** Admin. Dawkins, Asst. Admin. McCready, Dir. Babica, Dir. DeGroot, Chief Antenore, Chief Passarelli, Comm. Frieders, Supt. Landers

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7pm. Mayor Burns held a moment of silence for the passing of retired city employee Dave Morris, as well as the service members killed in Afghanistan on August 26.

**2. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

a. Presentation on City of Geneva Facilities Assessment

Burns then turned the meeting over to Craig Meadows, of Studio GC who presented his preliminary assessments/findings of all city facilities including current conditions and deficiencies. Meadows noted that the committee would receive more details in the coming weeks in a detailed packet prior to the next discussion in October. Meadows described the work that had gone into the assessment, noting many visits to each of the facilities, interviews with staff, and research on the history of the facilities. Meadows firm found that 75% of the buildings' have either reached the end of their useful life or will reach that point in the next five years. He stated that while it was evident that staff has taken exceptional care of the buildings, the time versus the aging facilities and resources to maintain have become a zero sum game.

Meadows then focused on each individual facility and provided examples of deteriorating conditions. An additional concern for upgraded security measures were also heard, as well as ADA compliance deficiencies in some locations. Other concerns have come to light more recently with the Covid-19 pandemic when it came to adequate space and HVAC systems for staff at multiple facilities.

Meadows then took questions and comments from the committee. Ald. Maladra was interested in further discussion on setting funding priorities. On a question from Ald. Mayer, Fire Chief noted the number of female firefighters and the need for more facilities for both male and female staff. Mayer also noted the need for ADA compliance and looking into having one point person for city facility maintenance. Ald. Kosirog looked forward to discussing further and found the presentation somewhat overwhelming as to the physical state of some of the buildings.

Meadows then stated that his firm would be sending a detailed packet to the committee for review prior to the next discussions scheduled in October which would include a cost analysis.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ald. Swanson requested information and a future policy discussion on building in a public right-of-way and when it could and could not be accommodated. He cited recent activity in the city that yielded mixed results. Staff would look into his request and with consensus, the committee agreed to discuss the matter at a future policy discussion.

Ald. Kilburg encouraged the committee if they wished to send former Ald. Ron Singer a 'get well' card or message.

### **4. CLOSED SESSION ON THE PURCHASE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR THE USE OF THE PUBLIC BODY.**

Moved by Ald. Bruno, seconded by Ald. Marks.

Roll Call: AYES: 10      NAYS: 0

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 8:06pm.

Moved by Ald. Marks, seconded by Ald. Swanson, to return to open session at 8:49pm.

Roll Call: AYES: 10      NAYS: 0

### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Ald. Marks, the meeting adjourned at 8:50pm by unanimous voice vote.