

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
JULY 22, 2013**

PRESENT: Mayor Burns, Ald. Cummings, Jr., Flanagan, Kilburg, Maladra, Marks, Simonian, Singer, Vogelsberg

McKittrick, Dawkins, Divita, Untch, Dinges, Buffington

ABSENT: Ald. Brown, Bruno

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by chairman at 7:19pm noting that Ald. Brown and Bruno were absent.

2. Consider Consent Agenda

Moved by Ald. Kilburg, second by Ald. Singer V/V: 8-0 Motion carried.

***3. Approve Committee of the Whole Minutes from July 8, 2013**

Approved on Consent Agenda

4. Items of Business

- a. Recommend Approval of Request by Geneva Lions for Use of Parking Spaces September 9-10, 2013 for Hearing Screen Bus Event.

Moved by Ald. Vogelsberg, second by Ald. Cummings, Jr.

Some of the council members noted the benefits of the screening bus and urged all to visit them.
V/V: 8-0 Motion carried.

- b. Recommend Approval of Request by Knights of Columbus for Use of Right-of-Ways for Donation Solicitation September 20-22, 2013.

Moved by Ald. Flanagan, second by Ald. Simonian V/V: 8-0

- c. Recommend Draft Resolution Authorizing Execution of Illinois Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity Solar Grant in the Amount of \$246,184.00.

Moved by Ald. Maladra, second by Ald. Simonian

Buffington described the unit and how much energy is produced at what cost to the city. The city receives 'green credits' - .2 megawatts – a small amount to sell back but worthwhile to have energy generating during peak times. Ohio, Indiana communities are also using these technologies. Buffington stated that

without the grant, it would not be fiscally feasible to install. McKittrick noted that this project reflects the council's intent via the Strategic Plan for more diverse energy resources and shared costs.

Marks asked how many years it would take to recover our costs and Buffington explained that at 20 years there would be avoidance for pass fees and transmission fees. McKittrick noted the city's portion of the costs would be approximately \$370,000.00.

On a question from Ald. Kilburg, McKittrick stated that this specific use was not included in the Prairie Green referendum question. Dir. Dinges noted that the space would still be 'open space'. The City also has two well sites on Prairie Green but intent is still open space. Dinges stated that the project does not deviate from the referendum and intended use. Buffington also stated that this project would not deter from the city's normal electric infrastructure upkeep and operating budget.

Ald. Maladra was in support of the project in large part due to the possibility of diversifying the city's energy supply.

Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 3 Motion carried.

- d. Recommend Draft Ordinance Amending Nicolaou PUD Postponing Demolition and Reduced Parking Spaces at Me & Dad's Toys – 700 & 720 E. State Street.

Moved by Ald. Maladra, second by Ald. Cummings, Jr.

Planner DeGroot reviewed the original PUD and the reasons to delay the next phase. DeGroot noted that the toy store property demolition is to be postponed for two years and outdoor seating will be installed. Discussion on timing and amount of parking (22 spaces total) when the project was completed was heard.

V/V: 8-0 Motion carried.

- e. Recommend Draft Ordinance Amending Title 12 (Subdivision Ordinance) Related to Application Fees and Deposit Requirements for Plan Commission Reviews.

Moved by Ald. Maladra, second by Ald. Simonian V/V: 8-0 Motion carried.

- f. Recommend Amendment to Liquor Code (Title 4, Chapter 2), Related to Fencing Requirements.

Moved by Ald. Maladra, second by Ald. Kilburg

Ald. Simonian asked about specific fence heights. McKittrick noted 3 feet minimum was required. Ald. Kilburg suggested that the code require 4 feet height requirement.

V/V: 7-1 Motion carried.

g. Operations Update on Prairie State Energy Campus.

Dir. Dinges provided an update on the new coal production facility in downstate Illinois. The plant is in the process of testing the systems and it typically takes in excess of one year. Dinges noted that there have been some unscheduled outages this summer which will result in an approximately 4% increase in power cost adjustments in August utility bills. On average, a bill typically in 1000-kilowatt hours range is roughly \$135 bill, about \$8.00 more than average.

Ald. Maladra stated that while he understood there would be outages during the testing process, he was concerned that the financial implications were not addressed by Prairie State ahead of this part of the process. Ald. Singer asked if there were ways to offset these additional costs. Dinges noted that yes, our own generation facility was making up some of the costs, but the biggest piece of the energy puzzle is Prairie State so there is only so much we can make up for.

5. **New Business**

Ald. Vogelsberg noted the upcoming Paul Ruby Fundraiser at the Arcada in St. Charles August 2nd.

6. **Upcoming Meetings: Committee of the Whole: August 12, 2013**

7. **Adjournment**

On a motion by Ald. Simonian, second by Ald. Cummings, Jr., the meeting was adjourned at 8:26pm.