

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
NOVEMBER 11, 2013

PRESENT: Mayor Burns, Ald. Brown, Bruno, Cummings, Flanagan, Kilburg, Maladra, Marks, Simonian, Singer, Vogelsberg (arrived at 8:51pm)

ABSENT: none

Also Present: McKittrick, Dawkins, Dinges, Buffington, Untch

1. Call to Order

Chairman Kilburg called the meeting to order at 7:02pm noting that Ald. Vogelsberg would be arriving later in the evening. Kilburg recognized the recent commemoration of Veteran's Day, mentioned those in the area that served our country. Kilburg asked Korean War veteran and 4th Ward Alderman Ron Singer to lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Consider Consent Agenda

*3. Approve Special Committee of the Whole Minutes from August 17, 2013 and September 30, 2013; and Regular Committee of the Whole Minutes from October 28, 2013.

Moved by Ald. Marks, second by Ald. Cummings V/V: 9-0 Motion carried.

4. Items of Business

a. Review and Consider Community Solar Opportunity (Convergence Energy, LLC)

Steve Johnson and John Kivlin with Convergence Energy LLC presented information on a solar power opportunity with the City. Johnson provided background on their company, who they service and why they are interested in collaborating with Geneva on the solar project. Johnson stated that the proposal would bear no capital investment to the city and had a private investor on board. Convergence would be able to offer residents investment opportunities as well. Johnson stated they would charge customers 13 cents per kilowatt-hour for the green energy. Johnson also stated that the Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity would provide some assistance with a grant. Residents Carol Cummings and Linda Grobe asked questions on maintenance of the land where the solar panels would be installed, and also expressed the opinion (Grobe) that the amount of energy generated was overly optimistic.

On a motion by Ald. Brown, second by Ald. Cummings, council members asked staff to further investigate the opportunity and bring back more information to the council for consideration at a later date.

Roll Call: Ayes: 9 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

- b. Recommend Draft Ordinance Authorizing Zoning Map Amendments of 102, 120, 132 & 210 S. Bennett St. and 228 Crissey Ave. from R1Low Density Single-Family Residential District (Residential Area No. 1) to R1 Low Density Single-Family Residential District (Residential Area No. 2).

Moved by Ald. Marks, second by Ald. Cummings

Dir. Untch explained the reason why this item was before the council. Residents were concerned that the current setbacks would discourage sales in the area. The new setback requirement would be a minimum of a 25 ft. setback. Residents were accepting of the revised requirements.

Roll Call: Ayes: 9 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

- c. Recommend Draft Ordinance Authorizing Amendments to the Land Use Plan and Illustrative Development Concept for Opportunity Site 6 in Downtown/Station Area Master Plan (part of city's Comprehensive Plan).

Moved by Ald. Marks, second by Ald. Maladra

Dir. Untch stated that after many meetings with the affected residents, it was the city staff and Plan Commission's recommendation to amend the Downtown Master Plan to not include this area in the plans as originally authored and approved by council. The residents felt that they had not been adequately notified of the plans' intent. Ald. Bruno stated that while he understood the concerns of the residents, he would not support the amendment and stated that it was merely a plan for the future. Fifth ward aldermen, Tom Simonian and Craig Maladra, supported the amendment noting that they had met with the residents many times in the last year in an effort to understand their concerns and work with staff to work towards a solution. Residents Brian Dunick, Linda Grobe, John and Christine Kefer, Ken Hartman, and John Stoffa all expressed their concern over the plan's current language and urged the council to amend the plan and keep their properties out of the Opportunity Site 6 section.

Ald. Kilburg, while supporting the amendment, urged the residents to be more involved in knowing what is happening in their community. Kilburg cited a general malaise when it came to voter turnout in local elections, and in long-range planning processes that the city involves residents in.

Mayor Burns expressed his disappointment that the residents did not become involved in the process from the beginning.

Roll Call: Ayes: 8 Nays: 2 (Bruno, Singer) Motion carried.

5. New Business

***6. Upcoming Meetings: Committee of the Whole: November 25, 2013**

7. Adjournment

On a motion by Ald. Marks, second by Ald. Simonian, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 9:30pm.