

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2010

PRESENT: Mayor Burns, Ald. Brown, Dantino, Flanagan, Hill, Maladra, Marks, Pawlak, Piper, Singer, Vogelsberg

ALSO PRESENT: Admin. McKittrick, Asst. Admin. Dawkins, Dir Dinges, Supt. VanGyseghem, Mgr. Wright, Asst. Dir. Broviak

Mayor Burns called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

1. Consider Consent Agenda

Moved by Ald. Flanagan, second by Ald. Singer. VOICE VOTE: 10-0 MOTION CARRIED.

***2. Approve Minutes from January 11, 2010**

(APPROVED ON CONSENT AGENDA)

3. Items of Business

- a. Recognize Geneva High School Varsity Dance Team 2009 Class 2A Lyrical State Champions.

Mayor Burns invited the team members and coaching staff to help unveil the city sign that will be installed in the City to recognize the team's accomplishments.

- b. Consider Draft Resolution Awarding Contract to Bish Excavating in the Amount of \$176,960.71 for the Dunstan Road Storm Sewer Project.

Moved by Ald. Hill, second by Ald. Vogelsberg

Dir. Dinges and City Engineer/Asst. Dir. of Public Works Broviak answered questions on the scope of the project including the additional work to be done and the benefits of the pipe replacement to not only the immediate vicinity but throughout the adjoining subdivisions. On a question from Ald. Marks, Admin. McKittrick also noted that staff felt that funds would be available in next year's budget to accommodate the capital improvements for this project. Project completion is set for the summer.

ROLL CALL: AYES: 10 NAYS: 0 MOTION CARRIED.

- c. Consider Draft Resolution Authorizing Execution of Contract with Hooper Corporation in the Amount of \$214,650.00 for the Western Avenue Substation Expansion Project.

Moved by Ald. Piper, second by Ald. Maladra

Mgr. Wright gave a brief overview of the project noting the reduction in scope since it was first reviewed and stated that the project would commence mid-February with a target completion date of June 1, 2010.

VOICE VOTE: 10-0 MOTION CARRIED.

- d. Consider Draft Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of Quote for Decorative Street Light Bases for Third Street in the Amount of \$8,100.00.

Moved by Ald. Brown, second by Ald. Piper

Mgr. Wright reviewed the need for the purchase of the light bases. On a question from Ald. Brown, Wright stated that replacement was needed because of probable wear and tear. Brown noted other light bases around town that needed attention. Ald. Vogelsberg and Piper recounted how council had approved these specialty fixtures a few years ago. Piper asked staff if they could review current state statutes to see if purchases under \$10,000 could be dealt with at the staff level and not need to be approved by council. Admin. McKittrick would investigate and would report back to council on Feb. 8, 2010.

VOICE VOTE: 10-0 MOTION CARRIED.

- e. Consider Approval Granting License to AT&T for Installation, Maintenance and Operation of Telephone Facilities at the Corner of James and Eighth Streets in Geneva, IL.

Moved by Ald. Singer, second by Ald. Marks

No discussion. VOICE VOTE: 10-0 MOTION CARRIED.

- f. Review and Consider Draft Ordinance Approving Site Plan Review and Planned Unit Development Update – Delnor Community Hospital.

Mark Larson, head of construction at Delnor was on hand to thank the City for its continued cooperation and support for their expansion projects. Larson announced he was moving on from Delnor and introduced his replacement, John Mauer. On a question from Ald. Singer, Mauer assured officials that he would be available if they needed to contact them regarding constituent issues related to the construction, in particular, early morning construction noise.

On a question from Ald. Flanagan, Larson stated that no turn lanes on Williamsburg would be needed to access this new imaging facility.

VOICE VOTE: 10-0 MOTION CARRIED.

g. Consider Approval of Water and Sewer Rate Study by Rempe Sharpe Engineers.

Moved by Ald. Piper, second by Ald. Maladra

Timothy Grimm and Bill Gain from Rempe Sharpe were on hand to present their findings in Phase One of the Water and Sewer Rate Study. The study focused on years 2010 – 2013. Grimm stated the study would determine revenues would be sufficient with current rates or if adjusted rates would be necessary. Grimm reviewed where revenues are currently allocated, reviewed average precipitation levels, consumption levels over the last few years and factors related to higher rates of rainfall in recent years. In addition, further loss of revenue was seen due to the closing of the county jail site – a factor that was not known at the time of the last water rate study.

Staff would recommend Rempe Sharpe’s findings that a 5% water increase and a 4.25% sewer increase be implemented each year for 2010-2013 with an average of 4.75% per year for the next three years.

Water Supt. Bov VanGyseghem also gave an overview of his budget preparations and the factors going into the budget prep. VanGyseghem reviewed the upcoming capital projects as well as staff costs and IEPA loan repayment schedules. On questions from several aldermen, VanGyseghem noted that due to the newness of the Water Treatment Facility, more research on costs and consumption will occur and be brought to the council. Several council members asked about specifics regarding water and sewer main repairs and the current schedule for those capital projects.

Ald. Piper stated that he estimated that on a \$100 water bill, the increase would be about \$5.00 per month.

Ald. Hill did not approve an increase in 2010 noting the current financial difficulties affecting many residents. Mr. Gain noted that if no increases were put into place in 2010, larger yearly increases would need to be implemented in 2011 and 2012 to make up the difference and what they were proposing would help spread out the increase over three years instead of two.

Ald. Brown noted that when the council approved the new drinking water plant, higher costs would be inevitable.

Admin. McKittrick stated that while she could understand the reservations some council member had to raise rates, it was a need, not a want and if the city did nothing for three years, the city would not be able to continue to provide those services to its customers nor would the city be able to pay back the IEPA loans for the water treatment facility. McKittrick discouraged any consideration of dipping into reserves because what is currently saved is about a three-month cushion in the case of a major catastrophe. McKittrick also

reminded council about the new unfunded mandate the state legislature was considering regarding disposal of sludge containing radium. This would cost the city tens of thousands of dollars in the coming years. McKittrick urged the council to speak with their state legislators because elected officials listen to other elected officials when it comes to these issues.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: 6 (Burns, Brown, Maladra, Piper, Singer, Vogelsberg)
 NAYS: 5

MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Burns noted that this would not be on consent at the Feb. 1, 2010 City Council Meeting. This vote would now enable Rempe Sharpe to continue to Phase 2 of the study to further disseminate information and fine-tune possible rate structures.

4. Upcoming Meetings: Committee of the Whole: February 8, 2010

5. New Business

Dir. Dinges informed council that the wind energy project was still being studied and an update would be brought forth at the end of February

6. Adjournment

On a motion by Ald. Piper, second by Ald. Hill, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08pm by unanimous voice vote.