

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2010 - 6:30PM

CITY HALL BUILDING, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Council President Marsala calls the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call. Present: Alderman Marsala, Roehrer, Mott, Fesenmaier, Krohn, and Tolar. Absent: Alderman Krause (excused).

Open Meetings Law Compliance Check.

Tolar/Roehrer motion to approve Minutes of November 2, 2009 and December 7, 2009 Committee of the Whole Meeting. Unanimously carried.

Statement from the Chairman regarding public speaking.

At the last FLR meeting, they limited the public comments to only items on the agenda, as is the procedure at Council meetings. This is done to expedite and stay focused at those particular meetings for those specific items. At the same time, it has somewhat limited the public the opportunity to speak with their concerns, which is not the intentions of this Council. Statute §19.84(2) states we may allow for public input, but we don't have to. Here at the Committee of the Whole meeting, you may speak on any subject you choose. We can't respond to it at the meeting; but it can be directed to whatever committee necessary to address it. However, what we don't want and what is not meant for these Comments from the Public is a forum for people to come up here and personally attack people, politically or personally; this is not what this forum is for, and this is not the place to do it. Save it for the letters to the editor or blogs; do not bring it into these chambers. That's not why we are here; we are here to handle City business and please, please, that's what we should stick to. That we disagree is a fine thing. That we disrespect each other is not acceptable; that we will not allow. We sit up here as your City officials and you expect us to be professional, courteous, and respectful; and we expect the same from the public. So please bear that in mind. This is the first meeting of the new year; let's not repeat some of the mistakes of the past. Let's not disrespect each other. Let's tend to City business. If, by chance, someone comes up to this microphone and does personally attack somebody, I may ask you to step down and remove yourself from these chambers; and if you won't, I'll have you removed from these chambers.

Comments from the public as allowed by Wis. Stats. §19.84(2), except for public hearing items.

Ellyn Kehoe, 222 Warren Street, first district. She said she did some looking at other City Council meetings in our area and there is one Council that allows comments from the public for three minutes and it's at the end of the meeting. It's a brand new year and we have a lot of work to do. We need to work together; we need to explore possibly helping someone, for example, the food pantry. She encouraged staying with some of the projects that were part of TIF4 and the Master Plan, such as the pedestrian traffic; staying within our means; entrances at back of shops; building a parking ramp rather than expensive new meters; reviewing and updating brochures; alternate side parking; snow removal in allies and listening to your constituents.

Bob Schroeder, 324 Timber Lane, wanted to make sure everyone received the article on salt problems in Wauwatosa that he sent to City officials. According to the article, the salt levels in the river after the last snow storm rose to levels high enough to kill fish. He said he had received a call from the Mayor last week saying he was disappointed that Mr. Schroeder made statements at the last meeting without knowing the facts. He said there seems to be a lot of disagreement with the facts and commented on the agreement made with Judge Gibbs regarding suspended aldermen, legal fees, legal representation for the City, selection of a special prosecutor and who the impartial judges would be, and Mr. Condos clearing his name. He suggested the Council put on the agenda the results of this problem we've had for months for a complete discussion so the public knows what is going on before our next election.

Terri O'Neill, 954 George Street, had complaints about things that have not been put on the agenda, especially the financial report for 2008.

Jim Connors, 320 Oakwood Lane, commented on the public comments statement by the Chairman. He said he went to the League of Municipalities website and found a document discussing these issues, and added that there needs to be some research before we make snap decisions. He also commented on the new website, suggesting listing of all meeting agendas on the calendar, that each committee have it's own web page so members of the community can see their focus and get involved if they choose.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Finance, License & Regulation Committee, Alderman Krause

Krause excused from the meeting, no report. Fesenmaier asked when the 2010 budget would be available for the public. Marsala said he will check with the Comptroller.

Personnel Committee, Alderman Marsala

Marsala reported they have had their first sit down with some of the unions talking about union contracts, and have another meeting tomorrow for the Fire Department. There will probably be at least one or two more meetings with each contract and then it will go to Personnel. The Committee members have been reviewing the 30-page police report from the City Fountain change situation and it will be addressed at an upcoming meeting once everyone has had a chance to review.

Public Works Committee, Alderman Tolar

No meeting, no report.

Piers, Harbors, & Lakefront Committee, Alderman Marsala

Marsala said the job description for Riviera Security personnel was approved by Council and is being adopted. They are creating guidelines and rental agreements for the kayak and canoe racks, the first draft of which will be coming up at the January 28 meeting. Krohn asked whether they have had a meeting with the Security Guards; Marsala said they were waiting for the final approval, then they will have a meeting with all of them. The reworded boat trailer parking lot sign will be presented at the next meeting. Mr. Winkler is getting bids for repairs at the Riviera. Part of the brick staircase was damaged by a snowplow and will need to be repaired. Policy for weekday rental of the Riviera by non-profit groups outside of the Badger School district will be considered at the next meeting.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND BOARD REPORTS

Utility Commission, Alderman Roehrer & Tolar

Roehrer reported the last meeting was fairly short. Financially, they are in good shape.

Tree Board, Alderman Fesenmaier

No meeting, no report. Next meeting is January 20 at 6:00pm.

Police & Fire Commission, Alderman Tolar

At the last meeting, Captain John Peters was awarded Walworth County Officer of the Year. The dive team's three suits all need repair, costing approximately \$2000. They talked about the ladder truck which is about 25 years old and will need to be replaced soon. In the Police Department, two part-time employees resigned because they moved. They are down to three candidates to fill the part-time dispatch position, and they approved the purchase of some new weapons, which will be owned by the City. They accepted a \$100 donation from the Tri-County Riders and thank you letters from several area organizations. Discussion of ambulance fees was tabled to the next meeting.

Planning Commission, Alderman Tolar

No report. Tolar did not make the meeting because he was sick.

Park Board, Alderman Fesenmaier

Fesenmaier said they have no January meeting, but will meet February 3.

Library Board, Mayor Chesen

No report.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND BOARD REPORTS

Historic Preservation and Cemetery

Marsala asked Ken Etten to give a report. Etten, Chairman of the Committee, explained that the Historical Society will be holding their state conference here October 15 & 16, 2010. Several committee members met with Ketterhagen Memorials to discuss repair of some old, historic tombstones in Pioneer Cemetery which have been vandalized or disintegrated. There should be a new sign soon in the little park by the Water Commission, with some of the history of the Light & Water Commission here in Lake Geneva. They are looking at possibly doing another sign by Library Park at the corner of Main Street and Wrigley Drive, with a map and key of historic buildings. The Plan Commission has approved it and it will be coming to Council for approval. They have some extra Dozen Distinctive Destination banners, which Yunker Industries donated, and are looking for places to display them. He mentioned they have a very interesting website, HistoricLakeGeneva.org.

Krohn said the Cemetery Commission did not have a meeting last month.

Parking Commission, Alderman Marsala

The pay station installations have been intentionally delayed to see where to place them in relationship to where the snow is deposited. The handhelds should be coming along pretty soon. They have been watching how these systems are working in other cities to help determine if they will be useful here. Fesenmaier said she hoped that they would put on their agenda soon the two lots by City hall and museum, because it is free parking and she believes we will get more use out of the Dunn Field parking lot if these lots are metered. Marsala added that the shuttle service will be implemented again this year; they hope to have more weekends than just the special events, and they hope to include Dunn Field lot as part of the normal route.

Communications Committee, Alderman Fesenmaier

Fesenmaier said they did have a work session to finally roll over the website to the new website. There is a lot more information than on the old site, though they are still inputting data, and she encouraged anyone who had additions to email her with suggestions. She thanked Diana Dykstra and Jeff Miskie for doing a lot of work on it.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES SERVING ON OTHER BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.

Chamber of Commerce, Alderman Krause

No report.

Lake Geneva Museum, Alderman Roehrer

The museum may be closed until March, but they still have their monthly meetings and work on things inside the museum. There will be new street signs that are being donated. They can always use volunteers.

Geneva Lake Development Corporation, Aldermen Roehrer and Krause

Roehrer said she missed the meeting but there is not a lot going on right now.

Geneva Lake Environmental Agency, Alderman Fesenmaier

Fesenmaier said there is nothing new to highlight. Tolar added that when the Street Department does use salt, it is only about 20% or less.

Geneva Lake Use Committee, Aldermen Krohn and Spellman

No report.

Tolar/Mott motion to adjourn. Unanimously carried.

Transcribed from audio tape.

/s/ Artis M. Roenspies, Deputy Clerk