

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2013 - 6:30PM
CITY HALL BUILDING, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Council President Kupsik called the meeting to order at 6:35p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Alderman Kupsik.

Roll Call. Present: Aldermen Wall, Mott, Hill, Kehoe, Kupsik, Krohn and Tolar. Absent (excused): Hougen. Also present: City Administrator Jordan.

Tolar/Krohn motion for approval of Minutes from January 7, 2013 Committee of the Whole Meeting as distributed. Unanimously carried.

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

Jim Gee, N2454 Forest Rest Lane, President of the Board of the Geneva Lake Museum gave an update on the museum. They have been open this winter on Saturdays which has been quite successful. On Saturday, February 16, they will have Train Day with train enthusiasts from 3 states setting up model trains, and it will be a free day. On May 17, they will have a fundraising day which will be by invitation and celebrating their new exhibits, featuring and unveiling of a Wig-Wham exhibit and Crane family stained glass windows. They also have new items in the gift shop.

Jennifer Ott Wilson, 1129 Pleasant Street, commented that she is in favor of the rental inspection and chronic nuisance premises ordinance on tonight agenda. The major concerns of the Neighborhood Watch program have been safety in the neighborhood and run-down properties. The Police Department has been very helpful and safety has gotten better. Tonight she is asking for the City Council support in what they can do to help the upkeep of some of the rental properties in the neighborhood. As a landlord, she would be willing to pay a small fee to have her two rental homes inspected. She believes everyone in this community deserve to live in safe homes.

George Hennerley, 545 S. Lakeshore Drive and Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce gave a brief recap on Winterfest; he thanked the City of Lake Geneva and everyone else affiliated with the event. Everything went off without a hitch; the Police presence provided security and the Street Department did a great job keeping the community cleaned up. This is a big undertaking and would not happen without the support of the community. They have completed their 2013 marketing plan; their budget has come up because this year was a little bit better and they are looking forward to a really strong year.

Terry O'Neill, 954 George Street, objected to the public comments statement because it prohibited public comments when the City Council held and closed a public hearing on the sidewalk café ordinance. He wants the Council to reopen the public hearing to permit comments on any new or additional items they are considering. He agrees that we need a rental ordinance but cautions care in how it is worded.

Spyro Condos, 1760 Hillcrest Drive, offered to answer any questions on the sidewalk café ordinance. He also commented on the Winterfest activities and thanked the many people who work behind the scenes to make it work. He feels it is one of the nicest family events we do in Lake Geneva.

Announcement that the Spring Primary Election is Tuesday, February 19 and all voting will take place at City Hall for this election only. President Kupsik read the press release issued by the City Clerk.

Discussion/Recommendation to staff on possible modifications to sidewalk café ordinance.

President Kupsik asked for input on the ordinance. Alderman Hill was unclear on leaving furniture out overnight. She also feels Items 1-6 in the section on dogs should be removed leave it up to the health code and restaurant policy. President Kupsik read some of the changes and additions that the Mayor had drafted after researching policies from other communities. The Mayor noted that the amplified sound item should be removed and addressed by some other form of ordinance that would apply to all businesses. He also noted that people will be allowed to make public comments when this comes to the Council meeting. He said staff suggested addressing the issue of people encroaching into the five-foot right-of-way with their packages, strollers or dogs. There was a question on the color of umbrellas and the Mayor explained that staff will follow guidelines from the downtown design review criteria. A lengthy discussion followed on details and wording regarding dogs, furniture, walkways, umbrellas, and the business owners' discretion and responsibility.

Discussion/Recommendation on rental inspection ordinance and chronic nuisance premises ordinances.

Alderman Hill said this had been discussed at length in the past and never moved forward. The concern brought up was that every property be properly inspected, which is not how this ordinance reads. It is more a matter of how to deal with absentee or problem landlords and to set up a process in which those landlords can be identified, not that you inspect everybody. She explained that she had a meeting the end of last year with members from the Neighborhood Watch, the City Attorney, City Administrator, Mayor, Chief of Police and an officer who has been trained in tenant behavioral issues. They discussed what the issues have been, what had happened in the past and what the concerns are today. They tackled it from two angles. The first is from the building code side wherein landlords would have to register and pay a fee in order to handle complaints and to know whether the landlord lives in town or not. Alderman Hill read from the proposed ordinances, stating that she liked that they address both the absentee landlord and the tenant behavior while not requiring mandatory inspection of all properties, and all for a nominal fee. The Mayor explained that the rental inspection ordinance has been on the books since 1999 but has been unenforceable. The proposed chronic nuisance premises ordinance is an adaption that was recommended by the Chief of Police of what they have done in Green Bay and Janesville. A lengthy discussion followed on why the ordinance hasn't been enforced and what can be done to accomplish the goal. The Mayor felt we should repeal the current ordinance and go with the chronic nuisance ordinance which other cities have done.

Standing Committee Reports given:

Finance, License & Regulation Committee, Alderman Hill
Personnel Committee, Alderman Kupsik
Public Works Committee, Alderman Mott
Piers, Harbors, & Lakefront Committee, Alderman Wall

Committee, Commission and Board Reports given:

Utility Commission, Aldermen Hougen & Wall
Tree Board, Alderman Kupsik
Police & Fire Commission, Alderman Hill
Planning Commission, Alderman Hougen
Board of Park Commissioners, Alderman Kupsik
Library Board, Alderman Wall
Historic Preservation, Alderman Kehoe
Cemetery, Alderman Krohn
Parking Commission, Alderman Hill
Communications Committee, Alderman Hill

Avian Committee, Alderman Wall

Other Boards and Committee Reports given:

Chamber of Commerce, Alderman Hill

Geneva Lake Museum, Alderman Mott

Lake Geneva Economic Development Corporation, Aldermen Hougen & Kupsik

Geneva Lake Environmental Agency, Alderman Wall

Kupsik/Hill motion to adjourn at 8:38p.m. Unanimously carried.

Transcribed from audio tape.

/s/ Artis M. Roenspies, Deputy City Clerk

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WHOLE**