

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2011 - 6:30PM
CITY HALL BUILDING, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Council President Krause calls the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Alderman Mott .

Roll Call. Present: Aldermen Hartz, Mott, Marsala, Kehoe, Kupsik, Krohn, O'Neill and Krause. Also present: City Administrator Jordan.

Kehoe/Krohn motion for approval of Minutes from October 3, 2011 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.

Bill Huntress, 1015 Pleasant Street, asserted that City Attorney Jordan had been sent photographs more than a year ago of personal property that was stored on City property. The response was that they put up no trespassing signs so the public couldn't see what was going on behind those closed fences. A few weeks ago the Council gave the order and the newspaper had an editorial on it that personal property should be removed. As of last Friday, that order had not been completed; there is still personal property stored there. He reminded the Council that they are the elected officials whereas City Administrator Jordan and DPW Director Winkler are supervisors.

Ken Etten, 1109 Wisconsin Street, appeared on behalf of the Friends of the Geneva Theater, a group put together to try and save the old Geneva Theater downtown. They are a 501-C3 so are now a tax exempt, non-profit, charitable corporation under both state and federal law. The theater was built in 1928 and has a lot of history to it. It has been vacant for over a year and is for sale. They would like to raise the money to acquire it, with help from the City if possible, and restore it as a theater and a multi-use space for meetings, dinner theaters, art exhibits or a home base for the Geneva Symphony Orchestra. He displayed drawings to give an idea of possible restorations to the building and what it could look like. He said Cedarburg, Plymouth and Viroqua have been able to do this and they are cities about the same size as we are.

Janelle Powers, 1003 W. Main Street, also spoke on behalf of the Friends of the Geneva Theater. Their purpose is to preserve the Geneva Theater's architectural and historical significance and to foster a cultural arts center that will benefit the Geneva Lake community at large. The Geneva Lake Art Association has expressed interest in the space as has the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra, several professional and amateur theater companies, dance companies and concert groups. Some of their programming ideas are to have classical movie nights, foreign films, culinary arts nights, art classes, music classes, dance classes, lectures and art exhibits. Benefiting from this would be businesses, children who would take classes there and the City at large.

Finance, License & Regulation Committee, Alderman Krause

Alderman Krause reported that as of November 15, winter parking will be in effect with no overnight parking. This coming Wednesday is the first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System at 1:00pm C.S.T. There will be a public hearing on the budget on Monday, November 21 at 5:00pm. Alderman Hartz proposed amending an ordinance we currently have on Obstructions and Encroachments, suggesting that businesses could have tables and chairs on the sidewalk for serving food. He would like that on the next Finance Committee agenda.

There was discussion on funding for the preservation of the theater.

Personnel Committee, Alderman Hartz

Alderman Hartz reported they had a question at their last meeting to bring to this committee for discussion purposes, and that was the notion of combining the Treasurer with the Deputy Clerk's job. First the Treasurer is an elected position so that would have to change. The City Attorney put together a memorandum on how that could be done; it is all by charter amendment. One way to do it is a two-thirds vote by a governing body or a petition of the electors. Second is the City Council does it by two-thirds of the members who are elected, with a 60-day period when seven percent of the electorate that cast a vote for the last governor election has a chance to petition the City to put it on a referendum. The third method is for the City to adopt it and take it to referendum as well. It is possible to change it and it would be up to this body to determine how we do it if we decide to do it. The reasons we need to consider this are three-fold. One, it would be a step toward implementing some of the requested changes in the way the City functions that were written up in the internal audit. The idea was that the Treasurer and the Deputy Clerk would be a single person hired through the Personnel Committee like all the other employees after a search of candidates who would submit a resume and be interviewed. Another reason it would be a benefit to the City to appoint the Treasurer is that it would bring us in line with a majority of municipalities in the rest of the state, with roughly 89% of Wisconsin municipalities who do so. The idea was to bring it up in this group for the Personnel Committee to get a sense of the Council's view on this before the Personnel Committee proceeds any further. Alderman O'Neill feels it puts an awful lot of control under the City Administrator, whoever it is, and takes away authority from the citizens and the Council. Alderman Krause said our real intent here is to streamline our operations as much as possible and this is one step to get closer to that. He would like to find out what the general sense of this group would be on this. Alderman Hartz responded to Alderman O'Neill's comment, saying that on the other side of the scale is that the position would be evaluated annually for performance and would give the Personnel Committee and ultimately the Council the ability to administer the performance of that position. Right now, the Council has no authority at all short of recall because of malfeasance. Alderman Krohn asked if this means eliminating a position and combining the Deputy Clerk and the Treasurer as one position. Alderman Hartz confirmed this would be the case. Alderman Kupsik is in favor of changing this to an appointed position and feels it would be a benefit to the taxpayers. Alderman Krause concurred that this would be beneficial to the efficiency of the operations down here; cost wise, it makes sense and most importantly you are getting someone who is approved by the Council. The people elect us and there are certain tasks they would just as soon have us deal with; this might be an example of that. Alderman Mott agreed with combining the two positions. Alderman Marsala completed the Personnel Committee and other committees for doing their job of finding new, cost-saving ways and making recommendations for improvements to the Council. Discussion followed on various options and it was decided that this should go to Personnel Committee who would then come to Council with a recommendation.

Public Works Committee, Alderman Mott

Alderman Mott reported there were several items that will be brought up at the next meeting. One was private drives, with the big issue of plowing private drives and restoring pavement. The consensus seems to be that we would continue with the brush and the garbage pickup but not the plowing. They are also in discussion regarding making the parking lot west of this building a metered lot; they have worked out a tentative agreement with the museum people but that has not been totally covered. There was a lot of discussion on regarding the north street lighting replacements, from the Regional News outward; this will continue to be discussed at the next meeting. Shoveling of the sidewalks and who will do it is still under

discussion. Consideration of a sidewalk from Curtis Street to East Drive or Edwards Boulevard and from Walgreens to Geneva Square will also be continued at the next meeting. Alderman O'Neill suggested leaving the lights that are currently on north Broad Street and adding the decorative lights for better coverage. Alderman Krause mentioned the road repairs that are being done. Alderman Marsala commented on the sidewalk shoveling and that Mr. Carstensen is compiling a list of standby people that could be hired. Alderman Hartz would like to add to the next Public Works agenda consideration of the realignment of three intersections in town, specifically Interchange North & Center Street, westbound Main at Center and westbound 50 at Peller. Those are all instances where it goes from two lanes to one and sometimes back to two and it is pretty awkward; by realignment, he is just talking about painting stripes and better signage. There was discussion on leaf and brush pick-up, with a request that citizens keep leaves separate from brush and that if there is more than a reasonable amount of brush, they hire a contractor to remove it. Alderman Mott assured Alderman Hartz that his items are already on the next agenda. Alderman Kupsik commented on how dangerous the area from the church to Edwards Boulevard is, especially at night, because there is no sidewalk. Alderman Mott explained that Public Works Committee had discussed this but felt it was not a good idea. Because of the terrain, it would have to be on the Hillmoor property side, and by putting it in before any kind of determination is made as to what will happen on that property, it might interfere. Alderman Krause also noted that the south side of the street in this area is Lyons Township; the sidewalk will need to be incorporated when the Hillmoor property is developed. City Administrator Jordan noted he has a list of volunteers who will shovel or plow for the elderly and would appreciate more volunteers to donate their services.

Piers, Harbors, & Lakefront Committee, Alderman Marsala

Alderman Marsala said there was no meeting and they probably will not have another one until next year. The only thing they are really looking at are the leases for the concourse and they still have to sit down with the lessees to see if they are going to make any changes.

Utility Commission, Aldermen Marsala and Hartz

Alderman Hartz reported they reviewed budgets and are planning the Christmas party. Alderman Marsala added they approved the bid on the slip lining.

Tree Board, Alderman Mott

Alderman Mott said there was no meeting but he has received phone calls from people excited to see there is \$15,000 in the budget for trees since we are well behind on that. Alderman Krause inquired how the Tree Board will deal with that and whether it will be first-come first-served or highest priority. The city arborist knows the needs; if there are requests from those who have lost trees and need a replacement, they should contact City Administrator Jordan. There was discussion on trees in Library Park, some having been removed because of disease, but others will be added as memorial donations from citizens. Alderman O'Neill cautioned that, while the crab apple trees being planted are beautiful for a couple of weeks every spring, they are messy and hard to walk under the rest of the year. There was discussion on what trees would be best in Library Park.

Police & Fire Commission, Alderman Krause

Alderman Krause reported that he did a ride-along with the Police Department, from 8:00pm to 3:30am. He found it very interesting and was impressed with the Pro-Phoenix system and how well it works. It very quickly gives information to the officers, it gives a live view of where all the squads are, and the reporting system is very efficient and immediate. He also reported that Alderman Hartz, the Comptroller and he met at the Fire Department with LifeQuest, the billing company. In discussion they found the biggest breakdown seemed to be

a lot of information not getting to the company for them to efficiently do their job. A large percentage of the run sheets did not have signatures which is required for the billing company to process the claim. If we could clean up our recording and reporting, we could see greater revenues just from that. They are also considering having the Comptroller do the fire billing for inspection fees in-house. Alderman Krause said his impression of LifeQuest is that they are doing their job and at issue is the lack of needed information to begin the billing process. There was a lengthy discussion on how billing is done, some of the measures being taken to improve reporting, whether delinquent invoices should be put on the tax bill, how to handle disputes, and how the system works in general.

Planning Commission, Alderman Hartz

Alderman Hartz said they have not met since the last Council meeting, but he mentioned he would like an ad hoc or standing committee to be formed to look at economic development. Our current strategies for economic development, such as TIF and the notion that the lake is enough to bring people here, don't hold water in our current economic climate. Issues like the theater, the Traver Hotel, vacancies downtown, sales of lots in our business park and recruiting businesses from Illinois who want to escape the tax climate are now dealt with in a disparate group of commissions and committees and he feels the City could take the lead on economic development. The trend in more and more communities is elected officials taking a role in economic development efforts. In response to Alderman Mott's question as to whether the Economic Development Corporation has incorporated this in their work, Alderman Hartz replied that their primary responsibility is the industrial park. The Chamber of Commerce has bits and pieces of it; there is the Walworth County Development Corporation. However, there is no single group representing the City; it would be a good idea to have a committee that would start to coordinate these efforts and really focus on what is best for Lake Geneva. Alderman Krause added that even the BID concentrates mainly on filling vacant stores downtown. Alderman Kupsik mentioned that LGEDC did set up a committee to work on marketing and different methods to bring businesses here to Lake Geneva; in the minutes from their last meeting, it seems the biggest drawback we have here is that we cannot provide the skilled labor for the types of businesses that want to come to this area. It's hard to persuade someone to come here without a workforce. Gateway in Elkhorn is not providing the type of education that people who want to come here are seeking. Alderman Krohn asked for an update on the WE Energies building. City Administrator Jordan said he is meeting with the surveyors tomorrow so we can get the CSM done; that will go to the Planning Commission in December. Hopefully we can close some time in December.

Board of Park Commissioners, Alderman Kupsik

Alderman Kupsik reported that they are waiting for final plans and specifications for the new skate board park. They had more discussion on the dog park which will probably be on-going until next spring. The Boy Scout project at Vet's Park is complete. The Park Board always encourages the Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts to do projects in the parks or paths.

Library Board, Alderman Krause

Alderman Krause was unable to attend the meeting but highlighted that October 22 was the open house for the newly installed windows from the Lake Geneva Hotel.

Historic Preservation, Alderman Kehoe

Alderman Kehoe asked Ken Etten to give an update on what Historic Preservation is doing. There is a new sign on Sage Street about the old railroad turntable; they are trying to highlight the history of the railroad in Lake Geneva because other than the old bridge and the End of the Line Motel, you would probably never know there was ever a railroad here. It was a vital part of why this community developed the way it is; they are working on another sign

near North Street and Broad where the old depot was. They are also working on a walking tour brochure to highlight the seven individual buildings that are on the National Register and the two historic districts in the City of Lake Geneva. They were contacted by the Wisconsin Historical Society that next year on May 18, 2012, they are going to be doing a program here in Lake Geneva on the restoration of old cemeteries. Another Tales of Lake Geneva program is being planned, this time specifically relating to the theater. Mr. Etten explained the \$3,000 donation that Alderman Kehoe had referred to earlier. Last year, a private family trust made the donation to the Historic Preservation Commission, specifying that it be used to preserve the history of Lake Geneva and historic buildings in the City. When the Friends of Geneva Theater group was started, application was made with the IRS as a tax-exempt charitable corporation and the application fee was \$850. The Commission checked with the family who made the donation, and they said it was exactly the kind of thing they had in mind, so that amount was taken from the \$3,000 donation for that use. Alderman Krause asked that a link to the Friends of Geneva Theater website <http://friendsofgenevatheater.org>, be added to the City website.

Cemetery, Alderman Krohn

No report. Alderman Krohn did remind the committee that they need to find money in the budget to buy a new truck for the cemetery. Alderman Krause said they will watch for funding.

Parking Commission, Alderman Marsala

Alderman Marsala reported that the Library came to them and asked for a second handicapped stall. They decided to surrender the stall furthest south on Wrigley Drive and make it a pay stall so there will be no loss of revenue, and make a second handicapped stall in front of the Library. There was discussion about Ordinance 11-31, the parking change that is scheduled to go into effect January 1st; they would like to see that starting date changed to May when the other kiosks should be in place. That will come to FLR and Council to amend the ordinance by changing the date. The shuttle bus for Oktoberfest went over relatively well and was utilized quite a bit. Next year they are looking at running it for eight events from Winterfest through Oktoberfest. There was discussion about traffic signals and moving people through town. They are still working with the business owners and trying to put together a questionnaire, expanding it to address the business owners, homeowners in spillover locations near central business, homeowners in other locations and employees. There are about 1500 employees here at peak times during the summer; it is something that needs to be addressed and they are looking at alternatives.

Communications Committee, Alderman O'Neill

No meeting, no report.

Avian Committee, Alderman Marsala

No meeting, no report.

Chamber of Commerce, Alderman Krause

Alderman Krause was not able to attend the meeting, but the minutes show Oktoberfest was a huge success. There was a discussion on putting up downtown kiosks with store location maps similar to what is provided in shopping malls.

Lake Geneva Museum, Alderman Mott

Alderman Mott requested that all these meetings be on our city calendar. Discussion followed on what should and should not be on the City calendar and it was decided they will come back to this at a later time. The museum received a complimentary issue of the American Road

magazine with an article on the Geneva Lake area and its association with organized crime. They had the seventh annual Children's Halloween Parade on October 30th. They are considering creating a donor board or perhaps an area with the history of local service organizations. Dave Novak donated the flooring for the Ceylon Court display. The class of 1961 had their reunion at the museum. They are looking for a 24 x 72" piece of red carpeting to use in a display. They are planning Andy Gump, telephone office and Yerkes displays, as well as Lake Geneva buildings.

There was additional discussion on the idea of putting more meeting dates and special events on the City calendar. Alderman Krause opined it would ideally be located on the newspaper's website; it is a matter of someone monitoring and updating it. City Administrator Jordan explained that the calendar is pretty crowded with all the regular committee meetings on there as it is, and he is trying to think of a way to add a quick link that would show all activities or other meetings.

Lake Geneva Economic Development Corporation, Aldermen Hartz & Kupsik

No meeting, no report.

Geneva Lake Environmental Agency, Alderman O'Neill

Alderman O'Neill reported the Car Rally was a success; they made several thousand dollars on it. This is the last year they plan on having it. They had a boat count and there were approximately 5,000 boats which is up about 4% over last year; the personal watercraft count went up by 9.7%. Alderman Krause wondered if we or anyone can limit the number of boats on the lake. Alderman O'Neill answered that the best way of limiting boats on the lake is limiting storage in the area. DNR will not allow anyone to refuse access to the lake. Alderman Krause noted that it is the second most dangerous lake in the state. City Administrator Jordan pointed out that there are about 960 piers around the lake and every one is allowed four boats; you wonder who the enemy is and there are 5,500 to 6,000 boats just from the people who are on the lake. The number of people bringing their boats in is probably fairly minimal.

Marsala/Mott motion to adjourn at 8:50pm. Unanimously carried.

Transcribed from audio tape.

/s/ Artis Roenspies, Deputy Clerk