

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015 - 6:30 PM
CITY HALL BUILDING, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Council President Kupsik.

Roll Call. Present: Aldermen Chappell, Wall, Kordus, Hill, Gelting, Kupsik, Hedlund, Howell. Also present: City Clerk Waswo.

Kordus/Gelting motion for approval of Minutes from March 2, 2015 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.

Terry O'Neill, 954 George St., asked the council to address Mr. Pinkl's comment at the Police and Fire Commission, on whether or not he received the private meeting with the commission that he requested. Mr. O'Neill also asked if Mr. Pinkl had filed a complaint against the City Police Department and the City of Lake Geneva. He commented that every rule or city ordinance that is passed restricts citizen's freedom and increases administration power and control. He stated the attempt to stop noncitizens from speaking at council meetings was defeated, however it appears the council is attempting to limit everyone's right to speak. He feels that council would be misusing their authority if they limit content or the time people are allowed to speak.

Mary Jo Fesenmaier, 955 George St., read quotes from Benjamin Franklin. She requested Public Works Committee address the issue of sidewalks on next month's agenda, specifically on Sage Street. She would like to discuss sidewalk plans regarding where sidewalks are absent and how to get sidewalks into areas that are well traveled. She also felt further restricting public comments would not be healthy for the community. She feels everyone should be able to come and speak on issues they are concerned about. She hopes the council is not looking to further limit comments at council or committee meetings.

Richard Malmin, N1991 South Lake Shore Dr., Linn Township, stated at the last City Council discussion on public comments the objective was to have more citizen participation. He believes this is a great objective; however the plan of censoring and constraining speaking time can in no way send a positive message for encouragement of public participation, but would do the complete opposite. He questioned who the nonresidents are that the council would like to silence. Besides himself, he feels there are no other nonresidents who speak. He questioned why the community would pass an ordinance to silence one person. He only speaks on issues that affect him such as the Big Foot Beach State Park. He said no other municipality in the area has a residency requirement in regards to public speaking. He requested the council vote no on putting any additional restrictions on citizen's free speech.

Pete Peterson, 1601 Evergreen Lane, originally wanted to compliment the Mayor and Council on a good TIF meeting; although after talked with alderman he believes that workshop may not have accomplished anything. He stated he thought they did a great job of letting everyone speak. He hopes the alderman stick to what they said at the workshop. He also spoke regarding the 1 million dollar limit and was not aware the council could change this. If the aldermen feel they want to change the limit, he suggested they speak with their citizens to have it changed. Don't change it without approval to change it. A few years ago they used to allow unlimited speaking at Finance meetings. He felt by limiting the public comments at Finance meetings, more people speak at the council meetings. Mr. Peterson said the million dollars is directly related to the people who elected the alderman and gave them the authority to make decisions.

Presentation by Community Action Inc – creating pathways out of poverty

Lynn Volbrecht gave a presentation on Twin Oaks Shelter for the Homeless led by Community Action. Further information can be found on their website: www.community-action.org.

Discussion/Recommendation on Public Comments

Alderman Kupsik stated the Mayor suggested this item be put on the agenda in case there was any further discussion. Alderman Hill stated her initial intention was to have this item on Committee of the Whole. Mr. Kordus asked if there anything the committee would like to recommend to the council or would the committee like to leave it the same. He looked at what other communities have done and found that some do not allow comments at their council meetings. Mr. Kordus gave suggestions on how other communities handle their public comments.

Mr. Kupsik said there was some discussion on going from a 5 minute time limit to a 3 minute time limit. Alderman Chappell stated she felt the committee does not need to fix something that is not broken. She feels there is nothing more impressive than when a citizen comes forward with their voice. She said that people sending correspondence to the clerk to read into the record is not as impressive as standing in front of the committee. She respects that some people cannot but stated she is more swayed by people or a group of people who come down. The conversations she has with her constituents at the grocery store does not allow her fellow aldermen to hear their concerns. Ms. Chappell does not feel it should be changed or limited and does not think anyone is abusing it.

Alderman Howell said he would like to keep it the same. Alderman Hedlund commented that while it is time consuming, it is open discussion, and he would also like to keep it the same. Alderman Gelting stated from his observations, he does not feel the 5 minutes have been abused and is in favor of keeping it the same. Ms. Hill stated she is done with the discussion. Mr. Kordus said he is fine with leaving it the same way. He thought it was worth the discussion to see if there would be a better way to do the comments. Alderman Wall is fine with 5 or 3 minutes as long as everyone has a chance to speak. Mr. Kupsik stated the consensus is to leave it the way it is.

Standing Committee Reports given:

Finance, License & Regulation Committee, Alderman Kupsik
Personnel Committee, Alderman Hedlund
Public Works Committee, Alderman Kordus
Piers, Harbors, & Lakefront Committee, Alderman Wall

Committee, Commission and Board Reports given:

Utility Commission, Aldermen Hedlund & Wall
Tree Board, Alderman Kupsik
Police & Fire Commission, Alderman Gelting
Plan Commission, Alderman Kupsik
Board of Park Commissioners, Alderman Kupsik
Library Board, Alderman Hill
Historic Preservation Commission, Alderman Chappell
Cemetery Commission, Alderman Kordus
Parking Commission, Alderman Gelting & Kordus
Communications Committee, Alderman Kordus
Avian Committee, Alderman Wall

Other Boards and Committee Reports given:

Chamber of Commerce, Alderman Kordus
Geneva Lake Museum, Alderman Chappell
Lake Geneva Economic Development Corporation, Alderman Gelting & Hedlund
Geneva Lake Environmental Agency, Alderman Wall
Geneva Lakes Family YMCA, Alderman Kupsik
Geneva Lake Use Committee, Alderman Hill

Kordus/Hedlund motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Unanimously carried.

/s/ Sabrina Waswo, City Clerk

THESE ARE NOT OFFICIAL MINUTES UNTIL APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE