

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 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 Marsala.

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

Marsala/Mott motion for approval of Minutes from November 7, 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.

Ken Etten, 1109 Wisconsin Street, spoke as President of the Friends of the Geneva Theater, a 501-C3 tax exempt, non-profit, charitable corporation to save the theater and restore it as a cultural arts center. He gave out handouts for the fundraiser to be held at Simple on Thursday, December 15, from 6 to 9pm. UW Whitewater has offered to assist them on applying for grants. He also spoke as Chairman of the Historic Preservation Committee explaining what they are working on now, including the sign to commemorate the old railroad station and the program to be held here in May at Pioneer Cemetery on restoration of historical cemeteries.

Caroline Ausman, 6913 Womack Lane, Burlington WI, owner/operator of Field Stone Farm Carriage and Pony, who has held the permit for the horse-drawn carriage rides in Lake Geneva for the past eight years, is eager to hear what the Council will be discussing about the carriage stand tonight.

George Hennerley, President of the Chamber of Commerce, thanked the City and all its departments for the Christmas Parade. It turned out really well.

Discussion and recommendation on leases for carriage companies.

Alderman Krause said that in discussing the fee schedule, it was suggested the better approach may be to consider a carriage lease no different than we would have a lease for the Riviera Concourse spaces or the leases for the piers. Administrator Jordan said there are others who want to have carriages and wondered if we want to continue doing it the way we have been. Alderman Krause asked for ideas on whether to have a lease or not. The majority said they would be in favor of a lease and felt the current location is appropriate, with Alderman Hartz suggesting perhaps in front of the theater might be a better location. Discussion followed and the Committee directed the City Administrator to create a linear or square footage cost and have this put on a future agenda. Kehoe/Hartz motion to suspend the rules to allow Ms. Ausman to speak. Unanimously carried. Ms. Ausman said they have coexisted with taxis, limos and delivery trucks; they share and also try to keep the area very clean. She added that no one is getting rich but that it is rather a passion with her; she would hate to see the City get a carriage business that wouldn't operate to the fullest standards of the City. The carriage stand takes up about 20 feet of space plus a little room to wiggle in and out. She feels that space is the perfect place and would not consider another location unless the City priced it too high for her to be there. She looks forward to working something out where both she and the City would be happy. Alderman Kupsik informed the Committee that the City of Chicago charges \$400 per year for each carriage.

Update on private roads.

City Administrator Jordan explained the City Attorney was uncomfortable sending out the letter on private roads since it was only a first reading. He said we should wait until it is formally passed, although it would be short notice unless they want to extend the time. He also made a couple of small changes in it. He thought it was important to put in that we are doing this because of the Public Purpose Doctrine which makes it that we should not be spending taxpayer monies on this. Secondly, he listed the items the City did do, which includes sweeping, leaf and brush pick-up, snow plowing and street maintenance.

Finance, License & Regulation Committee, Alderman Krause

Alderman Krause brought up the possibility of a three-year term for aldermen, which would give one year where there would not be a turn-over of Council; this would give more consistency in getting things accomplished. As it is, there is not a lot of continuity other than with staff. Some municipalities have as many as four-year terms, but there are no state statutes regulating this. Discussion followed on the pros and cons of a longer term. Administrator Jordan commented that, from his experience as a Councilman from a city of 30,000 in Montana, their four-year terms forced them to look further out and gave greater stability and consistency. Alderman Krause added that in the strategic planning meetings the Council members attended a few years back, many of the aldermen said one of the problems is the quick turnover of the term.

Personnel Committee, Alderman Hartz

Alderman Hartz reported they will be discussing combining the Treasurer/Deputy Clerk office and also completing performance evaluations of the City Administrator and all the Department heads. Discussion followed on how to give input on these evaluations and whether the ordinance should be changed to have evaluations done by the whole Council.

Public Works Committee, Alderman Mott

Alderman Mott reported they discussed the museum parking lot on the north side of the building. Crispell Snyder gave an update on the traffic study for the downtown area. There was discussion about a sidewalk and lighting from Walgreens to Geneva Square. DPW will investigate LED lighting fixtures with Alliant for the next meeting. The islands at Vet's Park have deteriorated; the American Legion is offering their time and money to restore those islands. The Street Superintendent said he had found a contractor with insurance who he believes to be reliable to assist with cleaning delinquent sidewalks of snow this winter. By consensus, he was given the latitude to proceed with the contractor, Yard Dogs LLC. Public Works policies were presented for review, including speed bumps, mailboxes, and snow and ice control. There was discussion on the downtown street lighting upgrades; it was moved to a future meeting for continued discussion. There was discussion on striping and signage reconfigurations on the southbound interchange at Center and westbound Main Street at Center Street. After considerable discussion, it was moved to ask the county to install diagonal merge arrows to the left lane beyond the new traffic signal to move people over to the right lane more efficiently. There was also discussion on westbound 50 from Edwards to Peller Road. It was moved to ask Mr. Winkler to study the situation for further recommendations and bring it back for Public Works Committee. Alderman Mott said they discussed the Broad Street decorative lighting replacement and asked to continue the discussion here at this meeting. The Committee discussed the possibilities of dividing the cost of new lighting amongst business owners, amending the TIF, forming a separate BID district for the area north of the Regional News to Williams Street, and maintaining consistency in the lighting throughout the City.

Krause/Marsala motion to suspend the rules and skip to Item 10A on the agenda, the Chamber of Commerce report. Unanimously carried.

George Hennerley reported that they may reach a million hits on their website for the first time ever; they just hosted about 30 travel writers who will be writing articles in various publications. The Christmas parade went well and they are looking forward to Winterfest.

Piers, Harbors, & Lakefront Committee, Alderman Marsala

Alderman Marsala said there was no meeting but the Harbormaster and Administrator Jordan are working on the Concourse leases which should be ready for the January meeting.

Utility Commission, Aldermen Marsala and Hartz

Alderman Hartz reported they elected the officers of President and Secretary.

Tree Board, Alderman Mott

Alderman Mott reported the November meeting was cancelled.

Police & Fire Commission, Alderman Krause

Alderman Krause could not attend the meeting so had no report.

Planning Commission, Alderman Hartz

Alderman Hartz said the issues from the last meeting were addressed at the City Council meeting.

Board of Park Commissioners, Alderman Kupsik

Alderman Kupsik reported they had a short meeting, with only a couple of permits issued for next year. They are still waiting for the final design for the skate board park. They will continue to have an ongoing discussion on the location of the dog park. The building of the gazebo in Flat Iron Park has begun. Alderman Marsala commented that the Gazebo looks smaller than the previous one but it is actually the same size.

Library Board, Alderman Krause

Alderman Krause reported that the Library asked to be among the municipal facilities to be posted for banning concealed weapons. They want to install a new spot light for the new Frank Lloyd White window so it is viewable at night. He mentioned he has an interesting report they can view covering the circulation history of the Library.

Historic Preservation, Alderman Kehoe

Alderman Kehoe commented that she was very pleased with the work the Friends of the Geneva Theater are doing.

Cemetery, Alderman Krohn

No meeting, no report.

Parking Commission, Alderman Marsala

No meeting, no report.

Communications Committee, Alderman O'Neill

No meeting, no report. They will have a meeting in January when they will be reviewing the ordinance for the committee itself, with the goal of expanding the area of coverage to include different methods of communication in addition to the current website. Alderman Krause asked that they include the City Clerk in this discussion as he has had some experience with social media in his previous job.

Avian Committee, Alderman Marsala

No meeting due to a lack of committee members. He has been in discussion with Administrator Jordan as to what we need to retain our Bird City status. They have a few things in motion including swallow houses and the migratory chimney swifts which came through recently. They will try to market that as an annual event as soon as they determine the time frame.

Chamber of Commerce, Alderman Krause

Alderman Krause referred back to George Hennerley's report.

Lake Geneva Museum, Alderman Mott

Alderman Mott reported a lively board of directors meeting was called. Director Kleisner suggested there be the creation of a policies committee to discuss revisions to admission and facility use fees for the 2012 season. They will be talking to the City Attorney about the concealed weapons issue. They have been offered a railroad bell. They have received records from 1873 documenting the creation of Highway H going to Pell Lake and Genoa City and the reparations made to the various property owners affected by the construction. They are discussing having a spring grand reopening celebration. They have received a small, 100 year old telescope from Yerkes. They will be continuing monthly board meetings throughout the winter, even though the museum will be closed.

Lake Geneva Economic Development Corporation, Aldermen Hartz & Kupsik

Alderman Kupsik reported they discussed their normal monthly business with an emphasis on some possible marketing to try to sell some of their property at the business park. Alderman Hartz added there is a Breakfast and Learn session this month at Bella Vista and they approved something called small business counseling where the University of Wisconsin Whitewater will have representatives with whom small businesses can schedule appointments to have questions answered. They had a very strong and progressive discussion. More information is available on the City website link to the LGEDC website.

Geneva Lake Environmental Agency, Alderman O'Neill

No meeting, no report.

Alderman Krause reminded all the only Finance and License and Council meeting in December will be on the 12th.

Hartz/Kupsik motion to adjourn at 8:23pm. Unanimously carried.

Transcribed from audio tape.

/s/ Artis Roenspies, Deputy Clerk