

CITY OF GLENDALE COMMON COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2020

Regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Glendale held via Zoom conference call.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kennedy at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Bryan Kennedy, Ald. Tomika Vukovic, Jim Daugherty, John Gelhard, Richard Wiese, Steven Schmelzling, and JoAnn Shaw. Absent: None.

Other Officials Present: Rachel Safstrom, City Administrator; John Fuchs, City Attorney; Mark Ferguson, Police Chief; Megan Humitz, City Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

The members of the Common Council, City staff, and all those present pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

OPEN MEETING NOTICE.

Administrator Safstrom advised that in accordance with the Open Meeting Law, the local news media was advised on Thursday, August 20, 2020, of the date of this meeting; that the Agenda was posted on the official bulletin board of City Hall, the Glendale Police Department, and the North Shore Library; that copies of the Agenda were made available to the general public in the Municipal Building and the Police Department; and those persons who requested, were sent copies of the Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA.

- I. File No. _____
Adoption of Minutes of Meetings held on August 10, 2020, Acceptance of Monthly Reports, and Payment 3 to UPI, LLC for work completed on the 2020 Watermain Improvements and Reconstruction Project.

Motion by Ald. Wiese, seconded by Ald. Shaw, to adopt the minutes of meeting held on August 10, 2020, to accept Monthly Reports, and approve Payment 3 to UPI, LLC for work completed on the 2020 Watermain Improvements and Reconstruction Project. Ayes: Ald. Vukovic, Daugherty, Gelhard, Wiese, Schmelzling, and Shaw. Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS.

- II. File No. _____
Review and possible approval of Resolution to Withdraw Participation from the North Shore Library.

Administrator Safstrom stated for the past 18 months, she has been meeting with the Village Managers for the North Shore Library to attempt to renegotiate the North Shore Library Agreement and the building lease for the North Shore Library. The latest meeting has made it clear that the negotiations will not get close to the original draft agreement in October 2019.

Administrator Safstrom is recommending the Common Council review the Resolution to Withdraw from Participation in the North Shore Library. This is a three-year notice per the current agreement. The Common Council can then determine the best course of action to participate in the library system, as the City is required to provide library services. Unless it is fully dissolved, City of Glendale residents will always be able to utilize the North Shore Library facility at no additional cost to them, as well as libraries of neighboring communities and any Milwaukee County library. Upon approval of the Resolution, the recommendation is to conduct a community survey to gain the best information from the community on their library usage as well as to determine a future course of action.

Glendale resident, Rob Cronwell, expressed some concerns to the Council regarding the potential changes with the Library system. Mr. Cronwell raised the question regarding if the resolution is passed if that will mean things are set in stone for the next three years, or if the request to withdraw from participation could be withdrawn. Mr. Cronwell expressed concern that because the Library is in search of a new director, this change may make it difficult to do quality recruitment. Additionally, there was a question raised as to whether we would still participate as part of the general fund expenses. Mr. Cronwell voiced hesitancy over the Council taking this step if there was not a "Plan B" in place, as it would be desirable to have direction if a resolution cannot be reached within the agreement itself. Mr. Cronwell also requested the current version of the agreement be made available to the public. Administrator Safstrom stated it is not identified in the contract if there is a provision to re-enter, and the City does not anticipate participation in any capital expenses. Attorney Fuchs added if a new agreement is reached, a new agreement will be drafted. Mayor Kennedy stated there will be discussion of a plan for moving forward, and the Council members are all pro-library and would like to see the creation of a strong, vibrant library in the community. The Council does not intend to not have a plan to provide library services.

Mayor Kennedy stated the Library agreement was unanimously approved by the City of Glendale and approved by the Village of Bayside. However, Fox Point and River Hills could not come to agreement. River Hills wants the financial formula to be population based only, and no portion of the agreement to have an equal split. Fox Point was willing to work on an agreement with rent, but at a significantly lower rate than originally discussed. The City Administrator and Village Managers were tasked with taking the agreements back to their respective communities, but received backlash from their communities. Mayor Kennedy added that he and Administrator Safstrom have spent significant time in negotiations on the agreement, and each time an agreement is reached a community involved backs out and doesn't follow through with their portion of the agreement. The negotiations over the past 18 months have not been in good faith. This notice to withdraw will allow the City of Glendale three years to have a plan in place, and potentially partner with other communities.

Ald. Daugherty expressed his support of the Resolution, with the recommendation of amended language to state "That we task the Mayor and City Administrator with forming a Citizens Advisory Committee on the library and direct them to bring back to us at a future meeting names of people to appoint to that committee." Ald. Daugherty stated he believes in a need to immediately begin planning for what our future Glendale will look like.

Ald. Shaw stated she has been a member of the North Shore Library Board since 2006, and was hoping for a remodeled library, however the process has become frustrating and contentious. Constituents have indicated they enjoy the library because the staff is great to work with and are able to deal with several communities and different needs in those communities.

Ald. Wiese indicated that renovation has been discussed numerous times over the years, either by way of a remodel or new building. The City of Glendale Common Council has approved and set aside money for this project; however, other communities do not follow suit. At this time, it is imperative to think about what is best for the residents.

Ald. Schmelzling expressed the library is an important part of the community and residents should not get the impression that there is not a solution being sought to have a library. The library is not currently at a sustainable level and there is a need to renovate, but in order to make it fair to all communities contributing it is necessary to discuss how we get credit for the value we are providing and move ahead for an equitable solution. Through negotiations, it has become obvious that other communities may not see the same value and still feel entitled to their share. Ald. Schmelzling indicated he read a press release from Fox Point stating they are willing to work with partners, however it remains to be seen what they are willing to do.

Ald. Gelhard stated the current location is well liked by his constituents, and there is concern that a Glendale library may not be able to provide the same level of services. Other constituents are concerned this would lead to a separation from the North Shore Community. Ald. Gelhard is in support of the idea of a citizen advisory committee, and feels this is the time for bold action.

Ald. Daugherty indicated that we will not have the library we need to have with our current partners, so believes this is the best path for the City and that we should look at plans for three years from now to determine a new direction.

Ald. Vukovic stated she has not heard much from her constituents. However, she expressed concern that the North Shore burden always seems to fall on Glendale. While Glendale is not the biggest population-wise, due to equalized value others feel we should carry the programs and services. While we wouldn't necessarily have the same services we have now, this could be an opportunity to boost services and technology with new options. Ald. Vukovic stated it is the responsibility of the alder people to look out for Glendale.

Mayor Kennedy indicated he will support the motion put forward by Ald. Daugherty to create a citizen advisory committee. There are numerous people who know the trends in the library systems and are experts on what a library for the future would need. The Mayor indicated he is a huge proponent of consolidating services and working with neighboring communities. However, in all other agreements, if space is utilized there is rent charged. In the instance of the library, because Glendale wants to charge rent for space, it has become an issue. Currently, Bayside houses IT and dispatch in their facilities, and Brown Deer and Shorewood receive rent for the space utilized by the Health Department. These other agreements were templates for the library agreement.

Ald. Schmelzling questioned if leaving the agreement completely had been discussed during negotiations with other communities, and if not that it should potentially be tabled until this could be addressed. Administrator Safstrom clarified the resolution was sent to all managers last Thursday and the press release from Fox Point was the only response.

Motion by Ald. Schmelzling to layover the Resolution to Withdraw Participation from the North Shore Library to a future meeting. Motion was not seconded, therefore motion failed.

Motion by Ald. Daugherty, seconded by Ald. Wiese, to approve the Resolution to Withdraw Participation from the North Shore Library with the amended language provided. Ayes: Ald. Vukovic, Daugherty, Gelhard, Wiese, Schmelzling, and Shaw. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

III. File No.
Review and Approval of Fall City Newsletter

Administrator Safstrom stated the City publishes a newsletter three times per year, and this is the Fall issue. Once approved, the newsletter will be printed and mailed to Glendale businesses and residents. In addition, the newsletter will be posted on the City's website and additional copies will be available for pickup at City Hall.

Ald. Schmelzling recommended the addition of information regarding not burning yard waste, as well as bundling yard waste with biodegradable materials.

Motion by Ald. Vukovic, seconded by Ald. Shaw, to Approve the Fall City Newsletter. Ayes: Ald. Vukovic, Daugherty, Gelhard, Wiese, Schmelzling, and Shaw. Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

IV. File No.
Resolution Authorizing the Redemption of Community Development Refunding Lease Revenue Bond Series 2012 (TID No. 7) dated August 1, 2012.

Administrator Safstrom stated on August 1, 2012 the Glendale Common Council and Community Development Authority (CDA) approved a refunding debt issue in the amount of \$16, 545, 000 for Tax Incremental District #7 (TID 7). This provided for a debt structure that could be supported by TID #7 available revenues over seven years. The City started putting the final TID #7 debt repayment structure in place a year ago by refunding the 2011 TID #7 CDA issue. The 2012 debt issue is callable any date on or after September 1, 2020 with 30 days notice. This September 25th, 2020 call will complete the final phase of restructuring TID #7 debt obligations. The funds to retire the 2012 debt will come from current TID #7 funds and the Wisconsin State Trust Fund Loan that was recently approved.

Motion by Ald. Daugherty, seconded by Ald. Gelhard, to Approve the Resolution Authorizing the Redemption of Community Development Refunding Lease Revenue Bond Series 2012 (TID No. 7) dated August 1, 2012. Ayes: Ald. Vukovic, Daugherty, Gelhard, Wiese, Schmelzling, and Shaw. Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

V. File No.
Review and Approval of event at 701 W. Glendale Avenue – Sprecher Brewery Oktoberfest.

Administrator Safstrom stated staff has received information regarding Sprecher Oktoberfest to be held on September 26th from 5:00pm – 10:00pm at Sprecher Brewery. The event would include live music, with a stage in each of the 2 parking lots, as well as in the taproom; beer and soda served, as well as food via food trucks; drive-thru curbside pick-up and purchase of Beer and Soda; as well as contests throughout the day. There is no use of the City street being proposed.

The Police Chief, Fire Chief, Director of Public Works, North Shore Health Department, Welcome to Glendale and the City Administrator met with Mr. Boico and Mr. Kanter of Sprecher. Staff has reviewed their concerns with them, and a plan to respond to those concerns has been provided. The main points of concern are traffic patterns and parking, adhering to the noise ordinance, social distancing and crowd size, and the sale of alcohol remaining confined to private property.

Mr. Ilan Boico, a Sprecher representative, stated the stage closest to Glendale Avenue will face south and the second stage will be in the southwest corner facing west toward the cemetery. The music will begin around 5:00pm and end around 9:30-9:45pm, with the intention of the event being wrapped up by 10:00pm. To address the COVID and social distancing issues, Sprecher will require mask wearing while gathering, and will provide masks for those who do not have one. Additionally, tables will be socially distance in the parking lot and there will be spray-paint markings for the bathrooms and food vendors. Sprecher anticipates people will be in and out of the event, which will avoid large congregations of people. Sprecher staff will be on site to ensure compliance with mask wearing and social distancing.

Mayor Kennedy expressed concern regarding the parking plan which involves only parking on Sprecher property, and if there is a plan in place if cars exceed that space and spill into the neighborhood. Chief Ferguson added there are no parking restrictions, and if the police department puts up “No Parking” signs it will affect residents as well. Mr. Boico stated there will be an assigned lot and space between buildings for event parking, which will accommodate 120-130 cars at once. Sprecher also plans to work with the Holiday Inn and Solly’s to create an overflow parking plan. There will also be promotions offered with Uber and Lyft.

Ald. Vukovic expressed concern over the event as a whole, as she believes the community needs to do a better job taking the Health Department seriously, and that despite the need for normalcy an event like this does not take COVID as a serious issue. Ald. Vukovic indicated her concerns are not with Sprecher as a business, but with the event itself and she has expressed similar concerns over weekly events held at Bayshore. Mayor Kennedy echoed her concerns regarding the backlash received after every Bayshore event when there are attendees not abiding by the mask mandate.

Motion by Ald. Gelhard, seconded by Ald. Wiese, to Approve the Event at 701 W. Glendale Avenue – Sprecher Brewery Oktoberfest. Ayes: Ald. Daugherty, Gelhard, Wiese, Schmelzling, and Shaw. Noes: Vukovic. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS.

There were several updates from Council members, on the activities of the various Commissions, Committees and Boards on which they serve.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, motion was made by Ald. Gelhard, seconded by Ald. Daugherty, to adjourn the meeting. Ayes: Ald. Vukovic, Daugherty, Gelhard, Wiese, Schmelzling, and Shaw. Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried and adjournment of the Common Council was ordered at 7:07 p.m., until Monday, July 27, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Megan Humitz
City Clerk

Recorded: August 25, 2020.