

**Minutes of the
STE. GENEVIEVE BOARD OF ALDERMAN
SPECIAL MEETING
November 29, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER. Mayor Greminger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL. A roll call by City Clerk Pam Meyer showed the following members present:

Mayor Richard Greminger	
Alderman Phil Rogers	Alderman Keith Skaggs
Alderman John Stuppy	Alderman Mike Jokerst
Alderman Carl Okenfuss	Alderman Joe Steiger
Alderman Teddy Ross	Alderwoman Linda Brumfield (Arriving at 7:05 p.m.)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA. A motion by Alderman Steiger, second by Alderman Okenfuss to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

CONSENT AGENDA. At this time Mayor Greminger opened the public hearing to give the Public the opportunity to express its concern and input for the proposal from Citizens Electric Corp to the City of Ste. Genevieve. This proposal consists of the exchange of property with the City of Ste. Genevieve in which Citizens Electric Corp. is considering relocation of the corporate headquarters and replacing their Industrial Drive maintenance facility. Citizens Electric Corp. expressed the desire to keep the maintenance facility in the City and to avoid having its current headquarters building be vacant (150 Merchant Street) Citizens Electric has offered to exchange 15 acres in the City's industrial park for its building at 150 Merchant Street. Mr. Martin Toma, City Administrator for the City of Ste. Genevieve briefed the audience on the issue and explained that this is a public hearing to get the public's opinion on the issue of the exchange of land NOT a time for the public to voice their concerns with any other issues whether City related or Citizens Electric related. Mr. Toma asked those that would like to speak to come to the microphone and state their name and address and continue on with their concern.

At this time the following individuals addressed the Mayor and Board of Aldermen:

Dave Armbruster, 440 Spruce Street. Mr. Armbruster stated that there is no economic benefit in this property exchange and suggested that the City should make sure that they really look into how much maintenance they would be taking on if they would move accept the proposal and move into the Building on Merchant Street.

Carl Wehner, 1158 Valle Spring Trail. Mr. Wehner stated that he knows that when the City purchased this property that there are certain stipulations on the land use and he believes that the City should check and make sure if they proceed with this to make sure they follow the rules that apply on the land use.

Brittany Basler, representing the Ste. Genevieve Downtown Renewal Project, said that the organization opposed Citizen Electric's move and was worried another vacant building in the downtown area would have an adverse effect on promoting the community to visitors and businesses. Basler addressed the downtown area as the "Heart" of the county, because of the County Courthouse and the professional offices located downtown and stated that Downtown Ste. Genevieve is a one stop shopping for government resources and services and what makes it special is the shops, restaurants and businesses that are in the same area.

Alderman Joe Steiger stated that this a very important issue to the Board of Alderman. The loss of the executive, corporate and management jobs is something that he is taking serious. Alderman Steiger stated that he has heard that Citizens Electric had a consultant do a study on the moving of the CEC Headquarters but he has yet to actually see a copy of this. Alderman Steiger also is concerned that CEC's relocation plan will bring an increase of less than two percent in its operating budget for an unspecified period of time.

Lawrence Marler, 649 St. Marys Road addressed the Board and spoke about an agreement that he knew was made between Citizens and Ameren Electric many years ago that Citizens agreed not to raise rates for twenty years. Mr. Marler stated that it was after that twenty years period was over when Citizen Electric customer started experiencing rate increases.

ADJOURNMENT. A motion by Alderman Rogers, second by Alderman Okenfuss to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 8-0. 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

**Pam Meyer
City Clerk**

