

MINUTES
City of Geneva
Council Meeting
January 13, 2014
7:03 p.m.

Jeffrey Piotrowski opened the Council Meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call – Jeffrey Piotrowski, Tim Miller, Howard Anderson, Mike Shupska, Susan Hagan, William Buskirk and David W. Per Due.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was said and prayer was offered by Phyllis Dunlap, Clerk of Council.

Motion was made by Howard Anderson to accept the minutes of the December 9, 2013 Council Meeting, seconded by Tim Miller. Roll call, 7 yeas.

Department Presentation – Recreation – Chief Doug Starkey, Presenting

The Recreation Department will explore new programs in 2014.

The City is currently doing sign-ups for Bitty Basketball (K through 2nd grade). The cost is \$40.00. Season for Bitty Ball starts January 21st.

The gym is open to walkers Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

Thursday adult basketball sign-ups will start. It is a co-ed four on four competition. The season starts January 23rd. The cost is \$250 per team.

A Self Defense Class will begin on January 18th and is being offered free for the first session. Anyone can attend. Contact the Recreation Department to sign up.

The facility is rented out a couple of times for birthday parties.

A spaghetti dinner fundraiser is planned in March for travel softball.

Open gym is Monday through Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Events at the Community Center include a Bridal Fair, Middle School dances on Friday nights, and a community garage sale.

Chief Starkey gave an overview of the planned recreational activities for summer.

Citizens –

Tony Rose, Farrell Insulation of Ohio, Inc. – Dominion East Ohio Gas Home Energy Assessment Program

Ferrell Insulation of Ohio, Inc. is an authorized contractor working with the Home Performance with Energy Star Program which has been going on for two years. All Dominion customers not currently on PIPP or HEAP are eligible for this program. This is a reimbursement program. The maximum reimbursement is \$1,250.00 in upgrades.

Ferrell Insulation works with Goodcents, the administrator of the program. The program requires a 3 to 4 hour energy audit at an upfront cost of \$50.00. The \$50.00 fee can be reimbursed if energy upgrades are made. A report is then submitted to the homeowner listing upgrades that would increase the energy efficiency of the home. The items listed on the report are eligible for reimbursement up to \$1,250.00. The entire list of items need not be completed. The contract for work is with the homeowner. Work such as insulation, caulking of windows, etc. is completed. The invoice is submitted to Goodcents. The reimbursement is then sent to the homeowner. As a result of the work, the average energy savings is 30 to 40%.

Renters do qualify for the program, the landlord would have to apply and whoever is on the gas bill will need to give consent.

Vince Crawford, Public Sector Representative, Waste Management.

All subscribing residents will receive a cart. A brochure will be put together explaining the recycling program. Pickup of recyclables will be every other week with the residents east of 534 being picked up one week and residents on the west side of 534 being picked up the other week. For the first few pickups residents will receive automated calls reminding them of the recycling pickup. By the end of the second month most residents are comfortable with the schedule. Residents can also request an e-mail reminder.

The goal is to increase recycling. The carts hold the same volume as approximately 5 1/3 of the bins. Waste Management has seen a 40% increase in recycling volumes when moving to the carts in other communities. The carts are visually more appealing. Cardboard, newspapers, plastics number 1 through 7 can all be put in the cart. This is residential service, generally items that are purchased at the grocery store can be recycled. Items do not necessarily have to be washed out. The machines are made to handle what comes from the grocery store and can sort and process 30 tons of material per hour.

Garrett Ormiston, Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History has purchased property in and around the City as part of the Geneva Swamp Protection Program and is currently submitting a grant application which will purchase a number of additional tracts of land, 29 acres of which is located in the City of Geneva. The remainder of the parcels are in Geneva Township and Saybrook Township. The Museum's focus on this area is due to a unique type of wetland called the Lake Erie Lake Plain Swamp Forest that is a mix of wetlands and uplands which contain nineteen rare and endangered species.

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History is partnering with the City of Geneva, the Geneva Rotary Club and the Visitor's Bureau for Ashtabula County to develop a public access trail through a portion of the reserve. The site being considered is near a proposed site for a City exercise trail. The beginning of the trail could be at the Spencer Elementary School. The plan is to develop a loop trail.

Cleveland Museum of Natural History is applying for a Clean Ohio Grant which requires the applicant to obtain a resolution of support from the communities that the project occurs in. The State of Ohio does not want to fund a project that does not have local support. The Resolution before Council covers the parcels in the City. Most of them are small parcels. A few of parcels are critical in connecting the trail to the parking lot at the Spencer Elementary School where citizens could access the other side of the trail, Geneva's trail.

The Museum is located in Cleveland. A lot of the reserves are located in Ashtabula County.

The Geneva Swamp is wetlands and is prohibitively expensive to develop.

Most of what is being purchased is vacant wetland, not productive farmland.

Bill Baker, 440 Blaine St., Geneva, OH

As of December 31st the Recycling Center no longer accepts yard waste. How will the residents get rid of yard waste? Yard waste cannot be burned in the city. Saybrook Soil Compost will take it for a fee. Waste Management does not take it. However, some Waste Management will take yard waste. Is this something the City is considering?

For the last eleven years Mr. Baker has taken his yard waste to the Recycling Center.

Mr. Baker asked what are the City's plans for the citizens to dispose of yard waste?

Mr. Pearson stated that the cost of grinding the brush is prohibitive. The EPA is now classifying the Recycling Center as a Composting Facility. The water runoff from the brush pile would need to be captured and sent through the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This would be prohibitively expensive. The only option is to take it to Saybrook Compost which will cost a fee.

Mr. Baker stated that it is a large fee.

Mr. Baker asked if the funds to pay for grinding could be used.

The cost to double grind the current brush pile is \$12,000 a grind. The County had been paying for that. They are no longer doing so. The Township and Geneva-on-the-Lake assisted with the last grind, a one-time assist. There is no funding for grinding.

The City owns a chipper and will be able to do a small amount of grinding such as Christmas Trees. Storm damage can still be picked up. The City cannot do yard waste any longer.

Mr. Baker asked if the City could consider contracting with Waste Management to pick up the yard waste or contract with Saybrook Soil and Compost or another company that can take the yard waste.

Chief Starkey stated that you can burn small amounts, have camp fires, in the City of Geneva.

Mr. Buskirk stated that it is a combination of factors that have resulted in the decision to stop accepting yard waste. Everyone is reducing their service levels. This is a non-core service. Those are the first that get eliminated.

The EPA requirements for a compost center included capturing the water coming off the compost and piping it the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This would be costly.

Is the City willing to do something to take care of it?

Mr. Buskirk stated that it is unlikely because the cheapest way that the City had to deal with this cost the City approximately \$20,000 a year.

Mr. Baker is willing to pay a fee to have it picked up. Is Council open to looking into it?

Vince Crawford of Waste Management stated that they have contracted with cities in Lake County for that service. The residents pay for that service whether they use it or not. It is an expensive service. It is probably a cost of \$5 to \$6 a month.

Mr. Baker would like the City to look at the possibilities and come up with an answer or let Mr. Baker know that he is on his own and here is why. Mr. Baker stated that he believes \$5 to \$6 per customer is relatively cheap.

Vince Crawford stated that in Lake County Waste Management has three options to take that material. The \$5 to \$6 number is because Waste Management has JTO that takes that material at no charge. In speaking with Roaming Shores who are going through the same issue, they are not having the County reimburse their waste site anymore so they shut down their site. It is an expensive thing when you don't have the infrastructure, the companies that take that product and recycle it and turn it into a marketable material for people to buy in the County. Or maybe there is only a couple but that is all you need. Those two businesses right now know that it is supply and demand and they know that they can charge for that material coming into their facility.

Mr. Baker stated that we have Brobst and Saybrook, two local companies. It would benefit the City of Geneva by being able to do this. The City will be supporting local businesses.

There will be a lot of citizens calling the City in April and May when they begin to clean up their yards.

Mr. Buskirk stated that it is reasonable that the City do some research. The City can call the two local companies along with Waste Management.

Mr. Baker asked when he should return to Council to hear what the City had found out. The City should have some information the first Council Meeting in March.

Items for Consideration of Council –

Ordinance No. 3133. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 452.03 Prohibited Standing or Parking Places to Include Additional Provisions for Prohibited Parking Or Standing. First Reading.

This Ordinance will correct weaknesses in the parking ordinance. There is no mechanism to enforce signs that are on City property.

Resolution No. 3269. Resolution Supporting the Geneva Swamp Protection Project (Phase II) in the Township of Geneva, the Township of Saybrook, and the City of Geneva Proposed for Submission to NRAC District 7 Clean Ohio Fund by the Cleveland Museum Of Natural History, and declaring an emergency.

Motion by Tim Miller seconded by Howard Anderson to declare Resolution 3269 an emergency measure. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Susan Hagan, seconded by Howard Anderson that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution 3269 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Resolution No. 3269 duly passed.

Resolution No. 3270. Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement to Extend the Contract of Waste Management to Provide Refuse Pickup for the City Residents, and declaring an emergency

After researching Mr. Baker's questions, the City may want to amend the Agreement.

Motion by Susan Hagan seconded by Tim Miller to declare Resolution 3270 an emergency measure. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Tim Miller, seconded by David Per Due that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution 3270 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Resolution No. 3270 duly passed.

City Manager's Report –

Waste Management informs the City that Spring Clean-up is scheduled for May 3rd. The City will begin letting citizens know at the end of March.

The severe freezing and thawing is taking a toll on the roads. The City is using a lot of cold patch.

The City has used a lot of salt. At zero degrees the salt stops working.

The City has experienced water main breaks. On a couple of days there have been double breaks. There have also been frozen meters.

Mr. Anderson complimented the Street Department for keeping the streets clean. Mr. Per Due stated that he had three or four phone calls driving from his house to his office in Madison on Monday; the roads were almost like a sheet of ice. When Mr. Per Due came back they were in the same condition. Mr. Per Due talked to someone who stated that they were told not to put down any salt except at the stop signs, that the City did not have much salt. Mr. Per Due stated that he was not sure why the City doesn't have salt on hand; it was ordered on December 30th. The statement regarding the salt and temperatures doesn't make sense. Mr. Per Due went to Saybrook that night and the streets were clean. The streets were clean in Madison. The streets were not taken care of on Monday and were not appropriately salted. Mr. Per Due stated that the Street Department was out today patching and did an excellent job.

Mr. Pearson stated that the City never ran out of salt. The City did get low. The City begins plowing the main roads and then moves to the secondary mains and gets those cleared and salted. In the residential areas the City does not salt all the way down the road. The City does the intersections so that when people come to the stop signs they are able to stop. The City plows the rest of the road. This has been a general rule the City has followed. This can be changed but it will be more expensive.

Out by Giant Eagle it was very slippery. Mr. Pearson acknowledged that it was and he did speak with the Street Department and salt was put down.

Mr. Miller stated that at the very low temperatures, sometimes the salt is not real effective.

The Township uses sand and dirt. It works but it is very dirty. The Township does not have the same collection system as the City does.

Mr. Pearson would like to thank the Fire Department. The Fire Department put a fresh coat of paint in the Council Room and installed new carpet.

Mr. Buskirk asked how many indigent burials the City has. There are 3 to 4 a year. The number did spike last year.

Unfinished Business – None.

New Business - None.

Payment of Bills -

November 16 – 22nd – McDonalds \$1,500. A donation was made of \$1,500 for McDonalds gift cards to be distributed when the children came to see Santa at the gym. The City wrote the check after receiving the donation.

Page 2 of the November 16 -22nd – Turflex. The City will find out and report back.

Street Department – part-time help – November 10th Bills. The part-time help was for leaf pick-up. The leaves are taken to the composting facility, there is no cost to the city.

November 23rd through 29th – first page – Nicholas J. Codrea Jr. - \$2,750.00 and \$100.00 – Mr. Cordrea is a consultant who assists the City with the Arbitration Process. Mr. Per Due asked why a consultant was needed. The City has a solicitor.

The cell phone charges shown on the December 7th thru 13th Payment of Bills reflects the cell phone stipend given once per year. The City previously provided cell phones. The current practice is to pay a once a year stipend depending on the level of need. The stipend ranges from \$10 to a maximum of \$50 per month.

Mr. Per Due stated that approximately 20 people were receiving a cell phone stipend and questioned whether all 20 people needed to have a cell phone. Mr. Per Due asked why Tammy Shuttleworth would need a cell phone. Ms. Shuttleworth is the City Manager's Assistant.

Mr. Pearson stated that cell phones are necessary for the City to run efficiently.

The monthly total for the telephone at the Community Center of \$273.44 reflected on the November 30th thru December 6th payment of bills includes all the lines at the Community Center. The Senior Center does reimburse the City \$40.00 per month.

Mr. Per Due stated that the overall phone bill is high and asked if the City could get a better rate. It was noted that the City has emergency services included.

Mr. Per Due stated that the overtime on all but one department continues to increase over the last two to three years.

Mr. Pearson stated that a lot of the overtime is situational and not structural. The overtime can really increase if a baby is born or someone is injured. In the Police contract, coverage is split 50/50 between overtime and part-time. Some overtime is built-in, the rest is driven by illness.

Mr. Per Due asked if the City needed more full-time people.

Mr. Buskirk stated it is a little opaque, when you review what is actually causing the overtime; it begins to make more sense.

Committee Reports - None.

Citizens - None.

Council meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Recorded by: Phyllis Dunlap
Clerk of Council

President of Council

Clerk of Council