

MINUTES
City of Geneva
Council Meeting
January 22, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Susan Hagan opened the Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call – Susan Hagan, Philip Cordova, William Buskirk, Mario Butera, Cynthia Miller and Dana Schenk

Absent: Wm. Lucas McDaniel

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

Motion was made by Philip Cordova to approve the Minutes of the January 8, 2018 Council Meeting, seconded by Mario Butera. Roll call, 6 yeas. Motion duly passed.

Department Presentation – Finance Department, Traci Welch, Presenting

The 2017 books are closed and 2018 is open.

Based on the actual, the 2018 carryover, conservatively, is \$468,007. This is 2018 going into 2019. It is 2019 that is of concern. The Finance Committee is discussing some options.

Now that 2019 is open the Finance Department is working on issuing purchase orders. With the new system the purchase orders are being done on line, it is a paperless system.

The 1099's are done and will be mailed out this week. Ms. Welch is currently working on the W-2's and they will be mailed out on Friday.

At the next meeting Finance will have a beginning of the year appropriation ready for Council to approve. This appropriation is put the donations back on and to amend the 2018 budget.

Finance has contacted by the Auditors to begin the 2017 Audit.

Citizens –

Auditor of State Presentation:

Jim Shaw, Regional Liaison, State of Ohio Auditor's Office presented the 2016 Auditor of State Award to the City of Geneva for their 2016 Audit. Mr. Shaw stated that the award shows that the entity receiving the award is a good Stuard of taxpayer dollars. Less than 10% of all entities in the State of Ohio receive an award for their audit. There are over 5,000 government or quasi-government entities that are subject to audit by the Ohio Auditor's Office.

Mr. Shaw stated that this is due to the City's Finance Director running a tight ship. The auditors that audit the City's books have a lot of good things to say about the Finance Department. The City is very lucky to have good staff in the City that run the City's finances.

Mr. Buskirk stated that when he first came on Council, the City did not always have the best information. The City has been lucky over the last ten years to have good people who provide information the City can be confident in when making decisions.

Council thanked Traci Welch for her hard work.

NOPEC Presentation:

Tony Ramos, Community Outreach Manager for NOPEC.

NOPEC since 2016, has administered a Recognition Program for outstanding efforts of employees in the communities NOPEC serves. In 2016 NOPEC recognized executive assistants of Mayors and City Managers. Last year NOPEC recognized the efforts of Council Clerks. This year NOPEC opened up the nomination to their communities stating that they could nominate any employee in the City. NOPEC recognized Phyllis Dunlap, Clerk of Council for her efforts to the City of Geneva. Phyllis Dunlap was nominated by Douglas Starkey.

Superintendent Tim Bittner – Snow Removal

This winter has been extremely bad. Years ago the City decided to run rubber blades on the trucks instead of steel because of manhole covers. This year the City has changed that up, the City has put steel blades on some trucks. Once the snow pack got so packed, the steel blades were needed to peel the snow up.

The State has an unlimited amount of salt and their trucks are different, they carry calcium chloride. Under fourteen degrees the salt not does work. The snow starts to pack down by the cars and causes issues. The rain did not help.

There has been a couple of weather breaks and the snow has melted off; however, the roads are developing a lot of potholes from the freeze and thaw.

The City is using the Ventrac Machine to clear sidewalks so the kids have a clear path to walk. The City's Street Department is doing what they can. The Schools need to remember that the City's levy failed too. The Street Department will continue to do what they can but the employees that have been helping with the sidewalks work in the Water Department. When there is a water break, they need to address it.

Overall the City has done well. There was one instance that the City did not have salt. The City had salt allotted, there was money for the salt. Cargill did not deliver the salt. We are currently waiting on a delivery. There is salt in the bin, but there seems to be a lag time. The City is going through the State of Ohio in order to get a better price. We buy in bulk. The City calls in directly to Cargill. Cargill is supposed to deliver within two days. It went to five days. Currently, the City is past the five days for the current order. Calls have been made to Cargill and to the State.

The City has four big trucks that are plow trucks. There was a fifth truck, however, the City had to auction that truck off as it was no longer safe for the streets. The City has a 1995 truck that the cab has dropped down on the frame.

The Street Department has four employees and four trucks. Legally, an employee is limited to driving no more than twelve hours. There are two public works employees, one which has a CDL and the other is working on obtaining a CDL. Mr. Bittner has a CDL and Will Roby has a CDL.

Every time the mains are plowed, downtown and Forest Street get plowed. Route 534, Route 84 and Route 20 are the mains. It takes two to three trucks two and half to four hours to clear the main roads depending on how bad the snow is falling. If someone comes through five minutes after the plow, it will look great. If someone comes through an hour and a half later and it has been constantly snowing, the road will look terrible.

The Street Department is watching the conditions. This year when the rain came in and then the cold and snow. The Street Department salted the roads just as it was switching to snow to try to get ahead of it. The Street Department is trying different things to address the issues that the City has had this winter such as switching the blades to address the packed snow on the side streets.

The State has calcium chloride. For the City to use calcium chloride, the City would need a different set up on the trucks. The cost would be between \$60,000 and \$80,000 per truck. Additionally, we need to purchase the tank and the pumps. There is a lot involved. Mr. Bittner has asked the State for a total cost to do a lane road. Calcium Chloride would destroy the trucks, it is corrosive. The City would not be running a 1995 truck if it were using calcium chloride.

Mr. Buskirk stated that for the number of days that the temperature goes below 20 degrees and stays below 20 degrees, it is hard to justify a \$250,000 expense for a situation that may happen every five years.

Ms. Hagan commended the Street Department for their hard work. Mr. Starkey thanked Mr. Bittner and his staff for trying some new ideas.

Mr. Bittner has ordered some thicker steel blades to help peel the snow. The blades will not be used all the time as they get damaged by the manholes.

Lindsey Bell
674 Chestnut Street, Geneva

Ms. Bell is with the Levy Committee for the Geneva Area City Schools. The Geneva Area City Schools will be putting their levy on in May. Ms. Bell stated that the Committee is very appreciative that the City has chosen not to put their levy on in May at the same time as the Schools. The Committee is aware of the sacrifice the City is making. Anyone who wants to volunteer to work on the Levy can be directed to Mr. Butera.

Items for Consideration of Council –

Ordinance No. 3221. An Ordinance to Approve the Editing and Inclusion of Certain Ordinances as parts of the Various Component Codes of the Codified Ordinances; to Provide for the Adoption of New Matter in the Updated and Revised Codified Ordinances; to Provide the Adoption of New Matter in the Updated and Revised Codified Ordinances; to Provide for the Publication of Such New Matter; to Repeal Ordinances and Resolutions in Conflict Therewith; and to declare an emergency.

The Ordinance is being passed as an emergency as it is comprehensive update and the code on line cannot be updated until the Ordinance is passed. Nothing is being changed in the Ordinances that have been passed by Council. There are some changes to the Ohio Revised Code.

Mr. Buskirk asked if this Ordinance applies to all previously changed law that needs to be published.

The updates that are from the Ohio Revised Code will be new Ordinances for the City of Geneva. They are a part of the comprehensive update.

Motion by Cynthia Miller, seconded by Mario But era that the rule of law requiring certain Ordinances be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Ordinance No. 3221 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 6 yeas. Motion by Philip Cordova to declare and pass Ordinance No. 3221 as an emergency measure, seconded by Dana Schenk. Roll call, 6 yeas. Roll call on passage, 6 yeas. Ordinance No. 3221 duly passed.

City Manager Report –

Chief Arkenburg received the Firefighters Exposure to Environmental Elements Grant in the amount of \$9,240. The grant will cover the cost of two hoods and two sets of gloves for each firefighter. Mr. Starkey congratulated the Chief.

Spring clean-up is May 5th.

The roof is leaking in the Recreation Center. The City is addressing the problem.

Winterfest is February 3rd. The Winterfest Committee is trying to expand the event.

A Service Committee Meeting was scheduled prior to the next Council meeting on February 12, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. to bring Council up to speed on the former Benson property.

The government shut down delayed the USDA Grant for the Fire Truck. The City is reaching out to other funding sources.

Mr. Starkey introduced Brandon Hanna, the new Recreation Coordinator.

Unfinished Business – None.

New Business –

Bill Buskirk made a motion to re-appoint Scott Carley, Calin Lechintan and appoint James Restad and Jen Fredericks to the Geneva Soccer Board. Mr. Butera seconded. Roll call on passage, 6 yeas. The motion duly passed.

Liquor Permit – Family Dollar Stores of Ohio, Inc., 120 E. Main Street. No objections.

Payment of Bills – None.

Committee Reports –

A Finance Committee meeting was held just prior to the Council meeting. The City will be drafting a resolution in support of the school district income tax levy.

The City continues to have revenue issues. Mr. Starkey will be providing additional information to council. The City will not be putting a levy on the ballot in May.

Citizen – None.

Mario Butera made a motion to adjourn to executive session for Attorney-client conference regarding legal dispute/imminent litigation at 6:35 p.m. Philip Cordova seconded the motion. Roll call on passage, 6 yeas. Motion duly passed.

Mario Butera made a motion to reconvene at 7:01 p.m. Cynthia Miller seconded the motion. Roll call on passage, 6 yeas. Motion duly passed.

Mario Butera made a motion to adjourn.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Recorded by: Phyllis Dunlap
Clerk of Council

President of Council

Clerk of Council