

MINUTES
City of Geneva
Council Meeting
October 27, 2014
7:00 p.m.

Jeff Piotrowski opened the Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call – Jeff 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 Rev. Jonathan Schroeder, St. John's Lutheran Church.

Motion was made by David W. Per Due to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2014 Council Meeting, seconded by Howard Anderson. Roll call, 6 yeas. 1 abstention.

Department Presentation – Kenneth Johnson – Great Wave Communications – Public Access Channel.

Mr. Buskirk has talked with Mr. Johnson regarding the City looking at a Community Access Channel. Community Access Channels can keep the community informed. Conneaut includes local sporting events and community programming.

Mr. Johnson sent an e-mail regarding pricing which was provided to Council. The pricing cannot be added together as a total. There are three different parts to the information sent. The first part is the price for the equipment to broadcast onto the Cable TV System; middle to upper level equipment is quoted. The second section is the price for all the equipment required to broadcast. A camera can cost anywhere from \$350.00 to \$10,000. Great Wave Communications chooses to use a camera in the \$1,200.00 range. It is a high definition camera with a better picture. Conneaut purchased electronic kits. Someone wishing to televise an event can grab the camera, film the event, bring it back and someone will publish it. In Conneaut anything that meets the standards is aired.

Ohio Revised Code regarding Cable TV Franchises changed eight to nine years ago. The Ohio Department of Commerce governs. To meet the standard you must produce forty (40) hours of original programming per week in order to maintain a government access channel.

A gentleman in Conneaut films all of the sports events.

Conneaut does not televise audience participation to avoid grandstanding.

If the City were to apply for a public access channel, the franchise is obligated to respond and provide.

Ashtabula Tech does televise but they do not operate it, the City School District does.

Ashtabula and Conneaut both have public access channels at their disposal.

The first step in the process is to find out what kind of resistance Time Warner will give the City.

Conneaut has a Cable Advisory Board. Approximately 5% or \$18,000 to \$22,000 per year of the cable franchise fees are used by the Board. There is part-time help that does the schedule. The Board buys the equipment and decides what airs and what does not.

Advertising is great source of controversy. It may be better to use sponsors. Ohio Revised Code does not prohibit advertising. Wave is a for-profit company and was challenged for putting advertisements in the show. The Cable Advisory Board chose to allow it. You cannot advertise liquor, gambling or fire arms. Local businesses can advertise.

Replays do not count towards the forty (40) hours of original programming.

Should the City want Great Wave to assist while the City moves toward capacity, it would cost approximately \$1,800 a month for a year. The City would not need to buy the equipment. Because of the fiber optics, the City could do remote scheduling without having to have someone physically in the building. A server will be needed. The cost for a server would be \$8,000 to \$9,000.

Should the City sign a contract with Great Wave Communications to spell out expectations, if something did not work out, something could be worked out between the City and Great Wave Communications.

School Board Meetings could also be televised.

Parents and citizens can film sports events or other items that are considered public.

Band concerts can be taped but sound cannot be included due to copy-write laws on the music.

In Conneaut the Cable Advisory Board is under City Council. Board meetings are open to the public.

Is there a way to measure the number of persons watching the public access channel?

If only three or four households are watching, it is a lot of money to spend.

There may be a way to determine the number of households watching through digital boxes. There is no-way to know for Dish and Direct TV customers.

Great Wave Communications quoted an interface box that would allow the City to broadcast over cable.

The service area would be the franchise area. Ashtabula City's is seen in seven different communities.

Conneaut is able to do 40 hours of programming. Conneaut airs the Red Hat Lady luncheon, community plays, fundraisers, public service announcements.

University Hospital is always interested in getting information out. Church services are allowed.

Conneaut's advisory board is five to seven people; 1 councilman, 2 with knowledge of audio/visual, 1 or 2 media people and 1 or 2 citizens.

A person needs to be in charge of previews.

Conneaut citizens watch the public access channel quite a bit.

The City currently has the fiber optic backbone for service to the government buildings and others.

Great Wave Communications hoped that they would be offering residential service to this area in the spring. A test done at Pairings went flawlessly.

Great Wave has filed a franchise for Ashtabula, Geneva and Jefferson. Great Wave coming to the area may not cause the price of cable to go down. Programming costs are the bulk of the cost. The quality provided by Great Wave will be better. Great Wave is interconnected with Windstream. Phone service will also be offered. The Company may do a demo for Council in a couple of months.

Citizens –

Bill Baker – 440 Blaine Street, Geneva, Ohio

Mr. Baker stated that he read a letter in the Opine Section of the newspaper in which it appeared that Susan Hagan was endorsing Michael Charney in her capacity as a council person.

Mr. Baker stated that he did not think it is appropriate for City Council to endorse people for election.

Ms. Hagan stated that she did write a letter. Ms. Hagan is a public official and is a citizen who has the right to express her opinion as a citizen. Ms. Hagan did not say she was endorsing Mr. Charney on behalf of the City.

Items for Consideration of Council –

Ordinance No. 3144. An Ordinance to Create Fund “464 – North Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation Fund,” and declaring an emergency.

Motion by David W. Per Due, seconded by Howard Anderson to declare Ordinance 3144 an emergency measure. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Tim Miller, seconded by Howard Anderson that the rule of law requiring certain Ordinances be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Ordinance No. 3144 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Ordinance No. 3144 duly passed.

Ordinance No. 3145. An Ordinance Consolidating and Amending the Geneva Civil Service Ordinance. First Reading.

Ms. Gardner has reviewed the Civil Service Ordinance. The Ordinance has had portions of it amended over the years. James Pearson, Lauren Gardner, Chief Dudik, Captain Wiley and Tammy Shuttleworth's assisted in working on an amendment to the entire ordinance to simply and clarify the ordinance. The old ordinance was 27 pages, this ordinance is 7 pages. The two major changes to the Ordinance are the allowing for lateral entry of a currently employed officer in a local, state or federal police department with at least three years of continuous service and the move to a pass / fail civil service.

Under the former ordinance the City can hire 1 from the top 10 and 2 from the top 15. This ordinance is presented on a pass / fail. These are people coming right out of the academy and the City is making them pass / fail / pull. The new ordinance will allow the City to take the best qualified.

Does this open a window for biased or prejudice? If you don't like candidate number 3, candidate number 11 can be picked.

The current ordinance allows the administration to pick one from the top 10. The administration did not have to pick number one, number nine could be selected. This new ordinance will give the City a larger pool to select from.

The current list contains nine people.

The wisdom of having a ranking made more sense when the City had lots of people applying for the job and applying to take civil service.

That is true right now, what about two or three years from now?

The ordinance can always be amended.

If Council feels it is better to have a ranking, it can be written back in.

A candidate for employment is recommended by the Police Chief to the City Manager. The City Manager is the appointing authority and makes the final decision.

The City Manager is hiring across the board.

What is the basis for taking the test if there is no ranking?

How much correlation is there between how well you do on a test and how good a police officer you will be?

Ordinance No. 3146. An Ordinance to Create the Following JEDD III Funds: "465 – JEDD III Construction Fund, 836 JEDD III Harpersfield Township Fund and 837 JEDD III District Board Fund," and declaring an emergency.

Motion by Susan Hagan, seconded by Howard Anderson to declare Ordinance 3146 an emergency measure. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Tim Miller, seconded by Howard Anderson that the rule of law requiring certain Ordinances be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Ordinance No. 3146 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Ordinance No. 3146 duly passed.

Resolution No. 3298. A Resolution Declaring Certain Property to be Surplus Property, Authorizing the City Manager to Dispose of Surplus Property, and declaring an emergency.

The surplus is the one vehicle.

Motion by Tim Miller, seconded by Howard Anderson to declare Resolution 3298 an emergency measure. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Howard Anderson, seconded by Tim Miller that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution 3298 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Resolution No. 3298 duly passed.

Resolution No. 3299. A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into Amendments to the Operating Contract Between the City of Geneva and Aqua Ohio, Inc. for 2015 Planned and Unplanned Maintenance of Water Transmission and Distribution Facilities, and declaring an emergency.

Standard resolution that the City passes every year with Aqua. From year to year there is not much change. The biggest change came when the City took over the unplanned maintenance and started doing it in-house. The planned maintenance is the meter reading. The unplanned encompasses some lab work that our lab is not capable of completing. Also having Aqua as a back-up plan if our contractors we select for main breaks cannot respond. They are also available during the day for turn-ons and turn-offs. There is a small increase of 3%.

Once the City's AMR is in, the City will not be paying someone \$39.52 to go out and read meters. The cost is \$24,000 to read the meters in the City.

Motion by Howard Anderson, seconded by Tim Miller to declare Resolution 3299 an emergency measure. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Howard Anderson, seconded by Tim Miller that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution 3299 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Resolution No. 3299 duly passed.

Resolution No. 3300. A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Prepare and Submit an Application To Participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and / or Local Transportation Improvement Program and To Execute Contracts As Required, and declaring an emergency.

Resolutions 3300 and 3301 were added late. The OPWC applications are due November 5, 2014 for the North Ave. Bridge and the AMR.

Motion by Susan Hagan, seconded by Tim Miller to declare Resolution 3300 an emergency measure. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Tim Miller, seconded by Howard Anderson that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution 3300 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Resolution No. 3300 duly passed.

Resolution No. 3301. A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Prepare and Submit an Application to Participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and / or Local Transportation Improvement Program and to Execute Contracts as Required, and declaring an emergency.

Motion by Susan Hagan, seconded by Tim Miller to declare Resolution 3301 an emergency measure. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Howard Anderson, seconded by Susan Hagan that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution 3301 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Resolution No. 3301 duly passed.

City Manager's Report – Assistant City Manager, Jennifer Brown Presenting

A Clean Fuel's Ohio meeting will be held tomorrow, October 28, 2014 at 9:00. Representative Patterson has invited many people to attend.

Unfinished Business – None.

New Business – None.

Payment of Bills - None

Committee Reports -

The following meetings have been scheduled:

Planning Commission Meeting – November 3, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

Safety Committee Meeting – November 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Utility Committee Meeting – November 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Citizens –

Bill Baker, 440 Blaine Street, Geneva, Ohio

Mr. Baker asked that Council explain the three readings to the students attending. Council gave short explanation.

David W. Per Due made a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss sale of property at 7:59 p.m. Howard Anderson seconded the motion. 7 yeas.

David W. Per Due made a motion to reconvene at 8:52 p.m. Howard Anderson seconded the motion. 7 yeas.

Council meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Recorded by: Phyllis Dunlap
Clerk of Council

President of Council

Clerk of Council