

MINUTES
City of Geneva
Council Meeting
November 14, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Tim Miller opened the Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call – Tim Miller, Susan Hagan, William Buskirk, David W. Per Due, Philip Cordova, and Mario Butera

Absent – Wm. Lucas McDaniel

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 Mario Butera to approve the Minutes of the October 24, 2016 Council Meeting, seconded by David W. Per Due. Roll call, 6 yeas. Motion passed.

Department Presentation – Planning Commission, Architectural Review Board, Zoning – Amanda White, Presenting

Ms. White is working on updating various parts of the Zoning Code. Ms. White had a long meeting with David Hart, Planner, CT Consultants, Inc. providing helpful guidance on organization.

Ms. White hopes to have a draft to the Planning Commission for their next meeting and a recommendation to Council by early 2017. The updates to the Zoning Code are much needed. The last update was done in 1992. This revision may not be perfect but will be much closer to where it needs to be.

The City had a number of conditional use permits and variances; five conditional use permits and four variances in the past year. The Planning Commission met nine times in 2016. There are cases scheduled for December.

The Architectural Review Board has a new board member, Jessica Humphrey who owns Great Lakes Ashtanga Yoga in the Downtown. This coming Monday will be her first meeting.

The Architectural Review Boards intends to finalize a recommendation to the Planning Commission for the Downtown Design District Parameters. Currently in the City's code there is a different set of standards for the downtown aesthetic and other design standards that keep the character of our district. The boundaries of the district are not defined in the zoning code. The Architectural Review Board will be making a recommendation to the Planning Commission and then a recommendation will be made to Council.

The Zoning Department is installing new zoning software. The current software has been in place since 2002. The new software, City Force, is the same software used by the County. Todd Nagy of the Building Department is excited that the City and the County will be able to share information. The software should be up and running within the week. In order to make this change, twelve years of data needed to be transferred from one program to the other, approximately fifty hours of coding.

Ms. White thanked the Fire Department, and in particular Tim Parks, for their work on doing the rental inspections since September. Ms. White is pleased with the detail that Mr. Parks has been giving to the work.

Mr. Miller sits on the Architectural Review Board. It is nice when business owners are coming in to make improvements or maintain the aesthetics that, for the most part, they are receptive to the ideas, occasionally there is an applicant that is denied and they are asked to make revisions and come back.

Mr. Cordova sits on the Planning Commission Board. Everyone on the Commission appreciates Ms. White's organization. Ms. White is informed on the cases before they come before the Commission. There is never a question that Ms. White does not know the answer to or at least has thought about ahead of time.

Mr. Per Due stated that Ms. White is doing an excellent job.

Citizens –

Ms. Hagan commended County Commissioner Dan Claypool for his incredible service to Ashtabula County. Mr. Claypool has shown such honor to what it means to be a public servant. Although he was not re-elected, his service will not go unnoticed by all of the lives that he touched. Ms. Hagan wanted to commend Mr. Claypool and Ms. Peggy Carlo.

Mr. Per Due echoed Ms. Hagan's sentiments. Mr. Claypool and Ms. Carlo served this County well.

Bill Baker
440 Blaine Street, Geneva, Ohio

Mr. Baker asked Council for the reasoning behind the change to one meeting in the months of June, July and August as stated in Ordinance 3199.

Council stated that the agendas that come through in the summer months sometimes are very short. Council felt that these could be combined into one meeting and would free up some meeting time that Council is required to do. Council would like to see how it will work doing one meeting a month during the summer months.

Rev. Jonathan Schroeder
1070 Sherman Street, Geneva, Ohio

Rev. Schroeder thanked Council for all the work done with the local park. Rev. Schroeder thanked Council for dealing with the water issues, installing the dog park and for the equipment provided for the children.

Mr. Miller stated that it goes way beyond Council. There has been a huge volunteer effort that has gone into the revitalization of the park.

Mr. Buskirk stated that Mr. Starkey pushed the dog park and it is an asset. Mr. Buskirk is looking to schedule a public hearing at the park to get some input from the public on future options that the public would like to see in the park.

Items for Consideration of Council –

Ordinance No. 3199. An Ordinance Amending Codified Ordinances Section 220.01 Rules of Order. Third Reading. Mario Butera made a motion to pass the Ordinance. David W. Per Due seconded the motion.

Mr. Buskirk stated that Mr. Butera did a lot of work on the Ordinance and did a great job; however, Mr. Buskirk's concern is reducing the meeting to one meeting will preclude the public's opportunity to comment.

Mr. Butera stated that this schedule is more in line with what other City Councils do.

Mr. Miller stated that if this becomes a hassle for the Administration, Council can go back to the current schedule. Additionally, special meetings can be scheduled.

Roll call on passage. 5 yeas, 1 nay. Motion duly passed.

Ordinance No. 3201 – First Reading. An Ordinance Making Appropriations for Current Expenses of the City of Geneva, State of Ohio, from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017, and declaring an emergency.

The emergency clause has been included with Ordinance 3201, 3202 and 3203 to allow Council the option to pass as an emergency at either the first, second or third reading in order for the legislation to take effect January 1, 2017.

Mr. Buskirk stated that he appreciated the Administration getting the budget to Council early enough to have three readings. Obviously, the longer you wait, the more solid the numbers are.

Mr. Per Due commended the staff and Doug Starkey. It is time consuming and tedious and Mr. Per Due commended the Administration for a great job. Ms. Hagan agreed. Ms. Hagan stated that no question went unanswered, incredible work by the staff. Mr. Miller agreed and also thanked the Clerk for the detailed minutes. Mr. Miller was unable to attend the budget hearing but looking at the minutes, it was very thorough and very detailed.

Ordinance No. 3202 – First Reading. An Ordinance Amending the Compensation of Officers and Employees of the City of Geneva Effective January 1, 2017 Amending Chapter 250 of the Codified Ordinances, Repealing Ordinance No. 3181, and declaring an emergency.

This is a first reading for the pay ordinance. At some point at the second or third reading this will need to be passed as an emergency to allow the City time to put the ordinance in effect by January 1, 2017. If passed at the second reading, Council would need to waive the rule and declare it as an emergency.

Ordinance No. 3203 – First Reading. An Ordinance Establishing Compensation for Clerk of Council.

This is a first reading. This will also need to be passed as an emergency at the second or third reading.

Mr. Per Due made a motion to amend the Ordinance. The Clerk is paid approximately \$1,000 a month. There is a small increase included in the Ordinance. Mr. Per Due requested to increase the amount to \$1,200 a month, for a total of \$14,400 per year.

Mr. Per Due stated that the Clerk puts in a lot of time and a lot of effort. Mr. Cordova had no issues; but asked if this would this be a first reading. Mr. Buskirk stated that yes it can be a first reading; the Administration can make an amendment and bring it back. Mr. Miller agreed with Mr. Per Due.

Ms. Hagan asked if when Council is discussing compensation for the two employees, that this is something that is to be discussed publicly. Mr. Buskirk stated that the motion would have to be made publicly. Ms. Hagan wants to be sure Council is not setting a precedent. Mr. Buskirk stated that any motion to change the legislation would need to be made publicly. An in depth discussion about performance would need to be done in executive session.

Mr. Butera seconded the motion. Roll call, 6 yeas. Motion duly passed.

Resolution No. 3370. A Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor, and declaring an emergency.

This is the tax budget that goes to the Auditor, gets certified, comes back and then Council needs to pass it. There are deadlines for this process. The deadlines are passed. The Auditor is asking the City to get it back to them.

Motion by David W. Per Due to pass Resolution 3370, seconded by Philip Cordova to declare Resolution No. 3370 an emergency measure. Roll call, 6 yeas. Motion by Philip Cordova, seconded by Mario Butera that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution No. 3370 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 6 yeas. Motion duly passed.

City Manager Report –

The annual Chamber Dinner is December 7, 2016. If any council members are interested, please let Mr. Starkey know by the next meeting.

There have been lots of good comments on the Centennial sidewalk that went in.

Mr. Starkey thanked all the staff and everyone involved in the budget process.

Mr. Starkey attended the AAA Traffic Safety Initiative with Captain Wiley. The City was awarded the Gold Award for success and dedication to traffic safety initiatives and its effects and impact on our citizens. This is the click it or ticket; drive sober, get pulled over. Laurie Donatone deserves a lot of credit for gathering all the documentation that is required to be submitted. There are bronze, silver, gold and platinum awards. The City has been silver for quite a few years. The last few years the City has been gold. Mr. Starkey commended the Police Department for their safety initiatives.

Mr. Per Due stated that Finance Committee Minutes indicated that the City has three residential rental units in the Community Center. Two of those units are rented on a regular basis. It also stated that there are months when the residents don't pay. Why would the City allow the people to go without paying. Mr. Starkey stated the City meets with tenants who are behind, the tenants get

caught up. One of the tenants has a good track record. The City has had people that run the time frame out for eviction and the City receives no money. The current tenants have been fairly current; they get behind and then get caught up.

Mr. Cordova would like to attend the Chamber Dinner.

Unfinished Business – None.

New Business –

Liquor License – MACS Convenience Stores, LLC, South Broadway – no objections.

Payment of Bills – None.

Committee Reports – None.

Citizens –

Lauren Gardner

City Solicitor – Ordinance 3199 was not passed by emergency. The December 12th meeting will be on the current timeframe. The December 26th meeting will be under the new timeframe.

Council will likely wrap everything up at the December 12th meeting and not hold a meeting on December 26th. December 26th is the official holiday as December 25th falls on a Sunday. Everything will need to be passed on December 12th.

Susan Hagan made a motion to adjourn.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Recorded by: Phyllis Dunlap
Clerk of Council

President of Council

Clerk of Council