

MINUTES
City of Geneva
Council Meeting
April 23, 2018
6:00 p.m.

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

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

Absent – Wm. Lucas McDaniel, Philip Cordova.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was said and prayer was offered by Pastor Harry Pishcura – New Life Assembly of God.

Motion was made by Mario Butera to approve the Minutes of the April 9, 2018 Council Meeting, seconded by Cynthia Miller. Roll call, 5 yeas. Motion duly passed.

Department Presentation – Fire Department – Chief Dale Arkenburg, Presenting.

The new fire truck suffered a technical difficulty, an oil leak. In the casting process something caused a fissure which was allowing oil in places where it should not be. The truck is at the Bridgeway Cummings dealer in Hubbard. The repairs are covered under the warranty. The truck is expected to return in 4 to 6 days. The City has a bumper to bumper warranty. The truck be back on Wednesday or Thursday and is expected to will be in full service next week.

The City received confirmation of the \$9,800 in grant funds to purchase 2 sets of hoods and gloves for each firefighter.

Training Center – The Center is being used regularly. The Center has been utilized by such groups as the OPIOD Task Force Group and Water Rescue Team. A level two class, which is the 240 class, will be held at the Training Center at the end of next month. Sheffield and Pierpont Firefighters are scheduled to use the Training Center.

The sign at the Training Center was installed last year and the finishing touches will be put up this year.

The Department has participated in many joint trainings; which helps with the ISO rating as they want to see that the department trains with neighboring departments. Last week the department was in Madison making sure Madison is familiar with our procedures and how to set the truck ladder up. This Thursday the department will be doing joint water movement and aerial drills with Harpersfield at their Community Center. In Harpersfield the departments will be simulating the process with the ladder truck when there are no hydrants. Council is welcome to attend the training.

New Fire Code was released in January. It has been chaotic signing our firefighters and inspectors up for classes. Many classes are full. One inspector had to go to Parma. Tomorrow

morning three firefighters are traveling to Canton. The only local classes were at Auburn; however, it was full.

There have been significant changes to the Fire Code including for carbon monoxide detection and the sprinkler requirements for occupancy. Facilities that will be affected by these changes have been contacted.

The Chief and two firefighters will be attending the FDIC's biggest conference in Indianapolis on Wednesday through Saturday this week.

The new 911 CAD System is in place. The City is no longer answering the 911 calls; they come through the Sheriff's Department and then come over to the City. Some hick-ups are expected. This System as well as the records management system will help our ISO rating.

It has been a very busy start to 2018 both from natural disaster standpoint and in general.

The Fire Department is monitoring a number of projects including the Route 20 construction project. The traffic configuration will change to one lane east, one lane west and a turn lane. The speed will be reduced to 40 mph. The project will begin soon.

Hydrant maintenance starts next week.

The County will be doing hydrant maintenance more regularly.

Citizens –

Dave Johnson – Grape Jamboree

Mr. Johnson requested Council's permission to hold the 55th Annual Grape Jamboree on September 29th and September 30th. Mr. Johnson submitted his letter requesting normal times and closures except that the Committee would like to request part of the lot behind Hergenroeder's be closed on Friday night. The craft show sets up on the western half of the lot. Last year there were three vehicles that were parked for hours were the crafters set up. With permission the Committee will have signs in that area the same as in the Depot Lot.

Sunday there is a scholarship meeting. The Committee will be selecting two Geneva High School students with strong backgrounds in community services to receive \$1,000 scholarships. The Committee will be interviewing candidates on Sunday.

The Committee is working with the Police and Fire Department looking at ways to increase security and safety during the Jamboree.

The headliner for Saturday night is Mark Wills from Nashville Country Music. Mark Wills has had a couple of number one hits and eight top ten hits.

The new fire code impacts the vendors. There are quite a few items being updated for concession trailers. The Fire Department shared those requirements with Mr. Johnson. The Committee has made copies of the information to include with the contracts being mailing out to

the vendors. Vendors will be informed of these regulations at they attend various events between now and the Jamboree. The only vendors that may not be aware would be local vendors which may only attend one or two events.

The Grape Jamboree brochure is being put together by the Gazette this year. Proofs of the brochure will be available in May. The final brochure will be printed in June. A finished product will be available for distribution in July. The brochure should give the Jamboree a lot more exposure and the quality will be better. The paper is a better grade and the cover will be glossy.

Mr. Johnson stated that most festivals do not scale up wireless services. A service company such as AT&T or Verizon could bring in a temporary cell but that is costly. The cost comes back to the event to pay.

The Jamboree spends the extra funds to put in hard wired phones at the stage and judging platforms. In addition the Jamboree is using UHF radios with a repeater for communications plus the police department. In this way there are communications going that are separate from the cell phones. Mr. Johnson noted that in an emergency texting goes through a lot faster.

Social media can create a great deal of exposure. Last year on Saturday there were 24,000 unique visitors to the website.

Ms. Grapette and some of the court members are working with the Art Department at the High School to make seven cut outs that will be situated around the Jamboree. Guests will be able to get a picture with their face in the cut outs. Each will have a sign saying please post this or please tweet this.

When Mark Wills was announced on the Jamboree Face Book page, it was acknowledged by 9,000 people within a week. The Jamboree began receiving phone calls and e-mails asking about the cost of the tickets.

A few years ago the idea of a webcam downtown was discussed. People would be able to look at what is going on, good and bad. It was an idea that was shelved at the time.

The Committee receives ideas for the festival on a fairly often basis. The Committee gathers all of the information and sits down in October and looks at what went well, what was okay and what did not work. The Committee strives to improve the festival each year.

Susan Hagan stated that people become complacent with festivals that are held year after year. Ms. Hagan asked if there is concern that the locals may not be attending.

The Jamboree mixes up the bands by alternating rock and roll and country. New ideas are reviewed and some are incorporated if there are volunteers to put together that idea. Mr. Johnson would like to include a wine barrel race utilizing plastic barrels if volunteers were willing. Contestants will get points for decorating and the barrel in addition to the race. Committee members attend the State Festival Events Association Convention which holds seminars for two days.

Mario Butera made a motion to approve the 55th Annual Grape Jamboree for the weekend of September 29th and 30th. Cynthia Miller seconded the motion. Roll call on passage. 5 years. The motion duly passed.

Ms. Susan Hagan read a Proclamation proclaiming Friday April 27, 2018 as City of Geneva Arbor Day. Andover Bank will be planting a tree for Arbor Day.

Items for Consideration of Council –

Ordinance No. 2337 – Third Reading. An Ordinance to Create Chapter 1293 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Geneva Establishing Sign Regulations within the City of Geneva.

Roll call on passage, 5 years. Ordinance No. 2337 duly passed.

Mr. Burskirk stated he was glad that this was updated and inquired as to what the plan is for the overall zoning text. Some items are unconstitutional.

Quotes received to update the Zoning Code range between \$30,000 and \$80,000. Signage was the most immediate section to be addressed.

Mr. Buskirk gave an example of a group home that had wanted to locate in the community and the issues that arose.

Tackling one section of the Zoning at a time is a challenge. Mr. Buskirk stated his concern is for the City to be caught in the middle should a situation arise.

Ms. Gardner stated that the unconstitutional portions were written before court rulings addressing the constitutionality. Federal laws overwrite. The Supreme Court rules on an issue. MRDD rules changed in the federal law. An attorney can enforce it based on the ruling.

The zoning code is something that we need to keep on top of. Changing one section can affect another. The entire code should be addressed all at once. There are parts that are antiquated, wildly out of compliance. The code puts people on notice of what they can and cannot do.

The lowest quote received was \$30,000. The City will continue addressing sections as needed.

Mr. Buskirk stated that there is never extra money but the City needs to set priorities.

Ms. Gardner suggested that a subcommittee to talk about how to prioritize what zoning codes to address; discuss vendors who do this type of work and how they would price it.

The Planning Committee was suggested as the appropriate committee to discuss.

Ordinance No. 3229 – Second Reading. An Ordinance Amending Codified Ordinances Chapter 222 – Ordinances and Resolutions.

This legislation will address how the City passes Ordinances and Resolution.

Mr. Buskirk expressed concern with removing the thirty day waiting period.

Ms. Gardner stated that the thirty day waiting period is inefficient. The City has already put notice out to the public. There is no reason to have a new law wait thirty days.

Mr. Buskirk stated that he cannot think of anyone that has come in to protest during the thirty day waiting period.

Most people get a lot of their information on line.

Moving through the three readings is where the slow down takes place.

The legislation will continue to require 5 votes to waive the three reading rule.

Questions are raised as to why something is an emergency. The term emergency is confusing. The term immediate effect would be clearer than emergency.

Mr. Buskirk requested that Lauren Gardner provide information on other communities that have or are moving away from the thirty day rule. Mr. Buskirk will also do some research.

The procedure is a way to slow down the government and protect the individual citizens.

Mr. Buskirk stated that allowing a council member to vote remote is a big change.

A voting quorum would still need to be present.

Mr. Buskirk stated that this could be a potential problem. A controversial issue with a three to three vote and a request to allow a councilperson to attend by video could be denied by any member and therefore end in a tie or failed vote.

Ms. Gardner stated that the vote to allow the councilperson to attend by video would need to take place at the beginning of the meeting.

Questions were raised regarding a council member having the ability to allow the councilmember attending by video to vote for 6 of the 7 pieces of legislation and then object to the councilperson voting on the 7th?

Ms. Hagan stated that we could research this.

Lauren Gardner stated that the legislation may need work before it goes to the third reading. Council could make a motion to table the legislation while we work on buttoning up the language.

Resolution No. 3407 – Third Reading. A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into an Agreement between the City of Geneva and Geneva Township for the Purpose of Establishing Equity on the 2014 Sutphen Fire Engine.

Geneva Township will pass their resolution when the truck is in service.

Roll Call on passage, 5 yeas. Resolution No. 3407 duly passed.

Resolution No. 3408 – Third Reading. A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into an Agreement between the City of Geneva and the Township of Geneva for the Purpose of Receipt of Fire Protection Services.

Roll call on passage, 5 yeas. Resolution No. 3408 duly passed.

Resolution No. 3409 – Second Reading. A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Agreement with the Board of Ashtabula County Commissioners for Non-emergency and Emergency Shared Services.

Motion by Mario Butera, seconded by William Buskirk that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution No. 3409 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 5 yeas. Motion by Mario Butera to declare and pass Resolution No. 3409 as an emergency measure, seconded by William Buskirk. Roll call, 5 yeas. Roll call on passage, 5 yeas. Resolution No. 3409 duly passed.

City Manager Report –

Road projects have begun, crews are out.

The City presented the West Main project at ODOT for the Small Cities Grant. The presentation went well. The Power Point was submitted prior to and the questions were incorporated into the presentation. There were additional questions afterwards. The City should have a determination at the end of May.

Karen McRoeden was in attendance. Mr. Starkey thanked her for her years of service.

Mr. Starkey thanked Shelly Huff and her staff for their hard work during Tax Season. The Tax Department served 400 people from Friday to Monday. The Department was open on Saturday to assist residents.

The North Cedar Street waterline is being done in-house. The City is getting ready for the waterline on Water Street. The Bridge work will begin next year but the process has started.

The repaving of Route 20 East and Route 84 in the City is scheduled for 2019. The repaving of Route 20 West is anticipated for late 2020 or more likely 2021. It is possible that Route 20 could be torn up for two consecutive summers. Grape Jamboree has been discussed. The City will try to keep the road open; however, soil conditions on West Main may be a problem. The logistics of closing sections will be discussed.

The City's share of East Main and Route 84 is \$200,000.

The West Main project is estimated at \$6.7 million. Currently the City hopes to obtain \$2 million from ODOT Small Cities, \$375,000 ODOT paving, \$2.5 million WPCLF. This will leave \$1.6 million that needs to be covered.

Unfinished Business – None.

New Business – None.

Payment of Bills – None.

Committee Reports – None.

Citizen –

Chief Dale Arkenburg
Geneva Fire Department

Chief Arkenburg recognized Anthony Anastasia who transitioned to the Fire Department from the Explorers. Chief Arkenburg also recognized the hard work that Karen McRoeden does to keep the Department's head above water.

Mario Butera made a motion to adjourn.

Cynthia Miller seconded.

Council meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Recorded by: Phyllis Dunlap
Clerk of Council

President of Council

Clerk of Council