

MINUTES
City of Geneva
Council Meeting
June 27, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Susan Hagan opened the Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call – Susan Hagan, David W. Per Due, William Buskirk, Wm. Lucas McDaniel and Mario Butera

Absent – Tim Miller, Philip Cordova

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

Motion was made by David W. Per Due to approve the Minutes of the June 13, 2016 Council Meeting, seconded by Mario Butera. Roll call, 5 years. Motion passed.

Presentation – Shade Tree Commission – Superintendent Tim Bittner, Presenting.

The City of Geneva received its eighth Tree USA recognition, not consecutive. The City attended the Tree City USA Awards held in Westlake this year to accept the award. Earning the Tree USA award involves more than just planting of new trees. It also involves taking care of the hazardous trees, pruning, watering, and a lot of paperwork that Tammy Shuttleworth prepares. Andover Bank has annually donated a tree for the Arbor Day Celebration.

The City removes hazardous trees with the allowable funding. CEI will also take out hazardous trees that are under the electric lines. They do not remove the stumps or the wood. The wood from the trees removed is left for the use of residents.

Mr. Butera is working on putting the Shade Tree Commission back together. Alan Siewart, the Northeast Ohio Arborist has attended committee meetings. The City needs volunteers to assist the Shade Tree Commission on working on mapping the current trees in the City and planning what trees should replace them.

There is money set aside to purchase trees. Vine Street between Eagle and Swan had the trees removed. It is important to pick the correct trees to replace them.

The majority of the older trees planted in the tree lawn are Maple Trees. Utilizing only one type of tree can be a problem if a disease such as the one attacking the Ash trees would attack the Maple trees. Mr. Siewart was working with the City to identify what trees to plant were. It is important to plan out what types of trees will do best in different areas. Dwarf trees are needed under the electric lines so that CEI is not hacking them up.

The Pear trees on Broadway are getting taller than expected. At some point CEI may begin cutting them away from the lines. At that point the City will need to make some type of decision. The trees are beautiful when they are all flowering. The City can get the same effect with some smaller trees.

Citizens complained that the City was cutting trees down and not replacing them. The City began reviewing what should be planted.

At one time the City had a program where the City would plant a tree in the resident's yard. Because the tree was planted in the yard, the resident would then care for the tree. The City is consistently having to trim the trees in the tree lawn.

Trees that are growing into wires in citizen's yards can be turned into CEI. CEI will trim them back away from the wires at no charge.

Citizens –

Bill Baker
440 Blaine Street, Geneva, Ohio

Mr. Baker stated he was still confused on the Budget between the meeting on March 23rd and his phone call with Mr. Buskirk.

The tax budget is due July 1st. The City presents the operating budget to Council in November / December. The fiscal year 2016 budget was presented in November of 2015. The budget that is presented in November / December can be presented any time prior to May. The Charter mandates it be presented by May 15th. In the past the City would present the Operating Budget in November / December and then present the Capital Budget in April. Currently, the City has combined the Operating and Capital Budgets.

Mr. Baker suggested that the City amend the Charter.

Lauren Gardner stated that the City is in compliance with the Charter. Any amendment to the Charter would require a vote by the citizens.

Mr. Buskirk apologized, he stated he misunderstood the question. Mr. Buskirk thought Mr. Baker was asking about the budget to the County.

Ms. Hagan made a suggestion that a mirror be installed on West Liberty and South Broadway where the road and tracks meet to increase visibility when a car is coming over the tracks. Mr. Bittner will check with other communities. Mr. Bittner's only concern would be the sun hitting the mirror and possibly blinding drivers.

Mr. Per Due stated that the light at Centennial is still not working properly, only one car gets through. The Centennial light is a State installed light. Mr. Bittner had them come out and check the timing. Mr. Bittner offered to meet Mr. Per Due at the location to review the situation. Mr. Bittner stated that if the cars do not stop where the sign says to stop, the light will not work properly.

James Santiago
48 E. Union, Geneva, Ohio

Mr. Santiago inquired about the City's ordinance regarding abandoned vehicles and vehicles for sale. Some vehicles are up for sale for a long time. One vehicle down the street from him has been up for sale for three years.

Mr. Starkey stated that the City does have an ordinance regarding junk vehicles. There is a process. The vehicle has to meet certain qualifications. It is difficult. Portions of the ordinance have to do with signage that were enacted many years ago and no longer enforceable due to a Supreme Court ruling. It was suggested that Mr. Santiago contact the Zoning Department to see if the car would qualify as a junk vehicle. Residents are allowed one inoperable vehicle.

Mr. Per Due stated that the City needs to look into addressing the junk cars.

The City does rely on citizens to let them know about junk and abandoned vehicles.

The City is working on updating the Zoning Code.

Mr. Santiago suggested that if the issue is trying to enforce the ordinance based on the property owner, the City may want to consider basing it on the vehicle owner.

Mr. Santiago stated that the City does a good job with mowing people's lawns. People are notified and if they don't address it, the City comes out and mows it. Could the same process be done with the cars? After so many days if the car is not dealt with, the City could come and take it away. The City could then charge them towing and storage.

Mr. Arkenburg stated that there have been four fatal accidents in this area this year. The volume of traffic is being looked at. There were multiple factors in each incident. The passive miles per hour signs are being looked at as a deterrent. Citizens will likely see more law enforcement to try to address this issue.

Items for Consideration of Council –

Resolution No. 3361. A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of “Then and Now” Certificates by the Director of Finance for Purchases, and declaring an emergency.

Motion by David W. Per Due, seconded by Mario Butera to declare Resolution 3361 an emergency measure. Roll call, 5 yeas. Motion by William Buskirk, seconded by David W. Per Due that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution No. 3361 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 5 yeas. Roll call on passage, 5 yeas. Resolution No. 3361 duly passed.

City Manager's Report

The North Avenue Bridge opened on Saturday with barricades on both sides. The guardrails are not at the proper height.

The Wastewater Plant project came in a little less than projected. Please encourage everyone to not flush wipes (disposable or non-disposable). Wipes were in the digester causing problems. The wipes also causing problems with the pumps.

There was a television show that discussed this issue, it was called “Adam Ruins Everything.”

The proclamations will done at the next meeting.

Tom Clay, Carl from the Street Department and Jeff Scribbs helped to put up the Quilt. Mr. Starkey receive word that it will be a part of the National Quilt Calendar for 2017. The business names are not yet printed. Once printed the sponsors will bill added to the quilt.

The youth project a Benson's has been started.

The Street Department finished up a storm line that was needed on Route 84. This will allow the car lot to finish their landscaping in the front which is part of their conditional use permit.

Ms. Hagan stated that she is friends with Bill Endress' sister. Ms. Hagan stated that Bill's Sister wrote a beautiful tribute to her brother on Facebook.

Mr. Per Due noted that Mr. McQuoid's name was spelled incorrectly in the July 13, 2016 minutes. The name should have been spelled McQuoid.

Unfinished Business – None.

New Business – None.

Payment of Bills – None.

Committee Reports – None.

Citizens –

James Santiago
44 E. Union, Geneva, Ohio 44041

Mr. Santiago asked if the City has thought about doing anything to better educate the students and parents on the dangers of addictive medications in light of the heroin issue. Rotary is sponsoring booklets for the 10th Grade Health Class to assist in talking about the drug problem. UH has the manpower need funding for the textbooks.

Mr. Starkey stated that the City is aware of the issue. It is not just children, it is also adults. Lauren Gardner and Doug Starkey met with Robin on the issue. There will be follow-up discussions.

David W. Per Due made a motion to Adjourn.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Recorded by: Phyllis Dunlap
Clerk of Council

President of Council

Clerk of Council