

MINUTES
City of Geneva
Council Meeting
August 14, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Tim Miller opened the Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Motion was made by David W. Per Due to approve the Minutes of the July 10, 2017 Council Meeting, seconded by Philip Cordova. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion duly passed.

Department Presentation – Finance Department – Traci Welch Presenting

The 2016 Financial Audit is complete. The financial statements are complete and being reviewed by the State’s Auditor’s Office. The City is waiting for the official response. Unofficially the independent auditors have told the City there are no audit findings. The City will know more when the official notification is received.

The transition to the new finance and payroll software is complete. There were some implementation hurdles. Things are now running smoothly. When all of the departments are trained and use the software to its fullest potential, the software will increase reporting efficiency and decrease the use of paper.

The Finance Department will be working on the Utility Billing software conversation next as well as the 2018 operating budget.

Ms. Welch thanked her the staff for all of their hard work during the audit and the software upgrades. Ms. Welch also thanked the Department Heads for their patience and assistance through the audit and the software upgrades and their willingness to learn the new procedures with the new software.

Mr. Buskirk thanked the Administrative staff for changing the budget process to allow for three readings of the Operating Budget. Previously, the budget was not available to Council until mid-December.

Traci Welch and her staff do a great job in preparing the budget.

Citizens –

Representative Patterson presented the Endress Family with the State issued miniature version of the sign which appears at the entrance to the City in honor of Sgt. William “Bill” Endress and all of those Geneva veterans that served. Mr. Patterson stated that this was long overdue.

Representative Patterson presented Council with a donation for the bricks at the monument.

Mr. Per Due stated that he played football with Bill Endress. Sgt. Endress was a wonderful character.

Ms. Hagan has known the Endress family since she was in her twenties.

Ms. Hagan stated that people need to think long and hard before sending our children off to war. It should be a last resort.

Mr. Miller read a proclamation for the GHS Football Team for their achievements in the Gridiron Academic Challenge.

Mr. Miller read a proclamation on "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over."

Items for Consideration of Council –

Ordinance No. 3213. An Ordinance to Amend the 2017 Budget through Appropriations and Fund Transfers, Attached Hereto and Marked Exhibit "A", and declaring an emergency.

Included is repair of the cracked heat exchanger at the Western County Court building and the repair of the collapsed ceiling in the Recreation Center.

Motion by David W. Per Due, seconded by Mario Butera that the rule of law requiring certain Ordinances be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Ordinance No. 3213 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Philip Cordova declare and pass Ordinance No. 3213 as an emergency measure, seconded by Susan Hagan. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Ordinance No. 3213 duly passed.

Ordinance No. 3214. An Ordinance Determining to Proceed with Improving the Following Streets by Supplying Street Lighting, and to Levy Assessments for Such Lighting, and declaring an emergency.

Motion by David W. Per Due, seconded by Mario Butera that the rule of law requiring certain Ordinances be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Ordinance No. 3214 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Susan Hagan to declare and pass Ordinance No. 3214 as an emergency measure, seconded by Mario Butera. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Ordinance No. 3214 duly passed.

Resolution No. 3390 A Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of the Bid of Phil Miller Construction for Sidewalk Repair and Replacement in the City of Geneva, and declaring an emergency.

The City appropriated up to \$40,000 for the sidewalk program. It is a 50/50 program. Fifty percent to be paid by the owner. Fifty percent to be paid by the City. Funding is still available for this program.

Motion by Mario Butera, seconded by Philip Cordova that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution No. 3390 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Phil Cordova to declare and pass

Resolution No. 3390 as an emergency measure, seconded by Mario Butera. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Resolution No 3390 duly passed.

City Manager Report –

Citizens expressed comments on the structure of the capital plan. The City Manager distributed an updated capital plan.

Geneva Police Officers are now wearing body cameras.

Betsy Deering is retiring. The City would like to thank Betsy for her many volunteer hours. Betsy has been very active in the community and has served on various committees including the Community Improvement Corporation.

The City would like to schedule a Finance Committee meeting to discuss the tax levy, consider options.

Chief Arkenburg achieved accredited status with the Ohio Fire Chief's Association.

The groundbreaking for the South Broadway Sanitary Sewer is scheduled for tomorrow, August 15, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

There are frame issues with the Fire Department Engine #321. The fleet is getting old. There are problems with some of the pump testing and there are issues with the frame of the pumper tanker. The newest engine is a 2003. Chief Arkenburg is looking into a \$50,000 grant plus a loan. The City is exploring options. The City will come back to Council with more information.

The capital budget has had a column added to state the reason for replacement of the piece of equipment. For example, the Street Department Leaf machine is a 1968 Leaf Machine.

A Pepp Rally is scheduled for August 22nd at Memorial Field. The players are marching to the field.

Mr. Starkey thanked Mr. Patterson for changing how the construction at Clay Street and Route 534 was planned. Route 534 was originally scheduled to be closed. Mr. Patterson helped to get the lane shift approved through ODOT.

Amanda White was informed that the City has been awarded a grant to replace North Cedar Street. The grant is in an amount close to \$500,000. This grant is tied to the Kanicki's building their addition and the addition of 12 full time employees. This project includes the two phases of Brownfield grants, the reclamation of the land and now the expansion.

The City met with the Library to discuss bringing Arts into the Warner building. These discussions are in the beginning stages.

The new Water Department vehicle is set up outside for Council to view.

Western County Court rededicated the Spenserian Monument on Friday.

Mr. Starkey requested an executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Mr. McDaniel pointed out that the capital budget documents identifies that the City of Geneva completed \$4.2 million in grants for capital projects between 2013 and 2017, thirty (30%) percent of what the City spent on capital was grant funding.

The reconstruction of North Cedar will be completed with a 100% grant. The project will provide access for the expansion of A-Lois Steel.

The City has had talks with ARC Rubber. One of the major complaints is their loads are shifting due to conditions on Water Street. The hope is that with the bridge replacement and the improvement of the access road that ARC Rubber will benefit as well.

Mr. Buskirk requested a complete accounting of the Cedar Street project including the EPA Brownfield grants. The reconstruction of North Cedar Street is the tail end of the project.

Unfinished Business –

Mr. Per Due stated that Chief Arkenburg is doing a great job.

Mr. Per Due thanked Chief Dudik for the article included in the Council Packet.

Mr. Per Due inquired about the blue house on Lockwood across from Assumption on the east side. The house is dilapidated. Mr. Starkey stated that the house is on the list to be demolished.

Ms. White stated that the County has given a time frame of September or October for demolition. Several houses including 69 Lockwood, 562 E. Main St., 584 E. Main Street and at least one other will be taken down in the same timeframe.

Mr. Starkey received a letter Mrs. Balash. Mr. Miller read Mrs. Balash's letter. Mrs. Bayash states that she read the article in the Star Beacon regarding the committee Susan Hagan has formed to seek to combat the drug epidemic and reach young people through the arts. Mrs. Balash is in support. Inviting a medical marijuana dispensary into the City will not help the situation. Ms. Balash stated that she hopes that Council has done the research to make a well informed decision. She asked that each member of Council go on record and identify whether they have read all of the information provided to Council. Mrs. Balash also asked each Council member to identify any additional research they have done and to share the same with her.

Mr. Miller stated that he had just received the e-mail today. He has not had a chance to read all of the information provided. Mr. Miller will look into it. Mr. Miller stated that he does not know that a dispensary is what Geneva would be looking for. Mr. Miller would not necessarily be opposed to a grow facility. There is a lot of information coming out from the State.

The e-mail just went out to Council today. Mr. Per Due has not yet seen it.

Mr. Cordova stated that there is nothing imminent before Council that needs any action.

Mr. Cordova stated that he has not done any additional research and does not feel it is warranted at this time.

Mr. Butera stated that it is very unwise for the City to close the door or prop the door open without having a deal on the table to see what the impact would be. Mr. Butera would like to keep an open mind.

Mr. Buskirk did read the information as well as the information from Chief Dudik. The City is not considering legalizing usage or operating motor vehicles. This is something that was done at the State level. With the OPIODs there is a clear addiction problem, it is a very dangerous group of drugs as far as fatalities. With marijuana, there is very limited research. It is not as clear that there are either of those issues associated with marijuana. You don't hear of anyone dying in the community from marijuana overdose. The main concern is the very dangerous OPIODs. The City needs to be careful about taking peoples driver's license and fining them and potentially sentencing them to jail time, that the risk from the behavior warrants the City's decision to do so.

Mr. Per Due stated that he has made his position known. Mr. Per Due also agrees with Mr. McDaniel, as stated at the prior council meeting, it is federally illegal. That would have to be dealt with before a decision could be made.

Mr. McDaniel stated that it would be silly to come to a hasty decision and then Attorney General Sessions decide to roll back any State legalization efforts. More time is needed to wait to see how the federal and state laws will play out.

Chief Arkenburg attended the Fire Chief's Conference over the summer. Captain of the Aurora Colorado Fire Department addressed the group. There is a bureau to deal with legalized marijuana grow facilities. There are zoning issues. Fire inspection issues. Ohio is requiring a 25,000 square foot area for a grow facility. The gentleman stated that will not work, they have million square foot facilities. When the fire department has to inspect those, instead of inspecting one secure facility, Fire Departments will be inspecting many. There are conditions that are needed to grow the product. The City will have to look into it from the standpoint of regulations.

Mr. Miller stated that before the City would allow a grow facility there would need to be committee meetings and discussions with department heads.

Ms. Hagan stated that we all need to learn together. Genuine people suffering from cancer have found relief from medical marijuana. Ms. Hagan is not opposed. If someone has cancer, they need this, Ms. Hagan is not opposed.

New Business –

There are two re-appointments on the Agenda. Andy Netzel – Planning Commission and Bill Widlitts – Architectural Review.

Mr. Starkey stated that both have been on committees for some time.

Mr. Per Due asked if either were in attendance.

Mr. Per Due stated that Mr. Netzel had previously come to Council to oppose Circle K. The neighbors were not in favor of the Circle K. Council members commented that it is a nice facility.

Mr. Cordova stated that he has been on the Planning Commission for some time and Mr. Netzel has been a productive member. Mr. Netzel takes his position seriously and is usually informed. He does the leg work. Mr. Cordova stated that Mr. Netzel has been an asset.

Mr. Miller stated that Bill Widlitts is with Chestnut Homes. He is an asset to the Architectural Review Board.

Mr. McDaniel asked what the process was. Mr. Miller stated that by the charter the Architectural Review Board has to have certain members. Mr. Widlitts fits into one of the criteria. The Planning Commission is a volunteer position. Mr. Netzel lives in the Township. The positions were not posted. Mr. Starkey stated that when their terms come up, the City asks them if they are still interested in continuing on. If so, they come back before Council for reappointment.

Roll Call for Andy Netzel to be re-appointed to the Planning Commission. 5 yeas. 2 nays. The motion duly passed.

Roll for Bill Widlitts to be re-appointed to the Architectural Review Board. 5 yeas. 2 nays. The motion duly passed.

Liquor Permits renew October 1st. Chief Dudik stated that there were no problems with the current permits. The Chief does not feel there is a need for any hearings.

Mr. McDaniel would like to pursue having blind buys to be sure children are not given access to liquor. The City has not done anything to pursue this. The last time the City did something of this nature the City worked with the Department of Liquor Control. Chief Dudik will contact the Department of Liquor Control.

Mr. McDaniel noted that the Fire Department came out to rescue a cat. It was good for the kids to see the Fire Department in the neighborhood.

Payment of Bills – None.

Committee Reports –

The Safety Committee is now doing Ad Hoc meetings. Ms. Hagan thanked Dave DeLuca for his article in the paper. Ms. Hagan would encourage people to contact her with ideas. Ms. Hagan thanked Helena Richardson of the Geneva Library, Amanda White, Mr. Butera and Chief Dudik among others.

Lauren Gardner is looking into the texting issue as far as what State law would be doing regarding the issue.

Mr. Cordova would like to schedule a Finance Committee Meeting prior to the first meeting in September.

Citizens –

Sarah Baker
481 Blaine Street, Geneva

Ms. Baker was concerned about putting in a sidewalk around the tree. Mr. Starkey stated that Superintendent Bittner had been out and looked at it and the sidewalk can curve around the tree.

Mario Butera made a motion at 6:59 p.m. to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel matter. Wm. Lucas McDaniel seconded the motion. Motion duly passed.

Philip Cordova made a motion to reconvene at 7:20 p.m. Mario Butera seconded the motion.
Motion duly passed.

Mario Butera made a motion to adjourn.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Recorded by: Phyllis Dunlap
Clerk of Council

President of Council

Clerk of Council