

Council Meeting  
August 27, 2007  
7:30 p.m.

Roll Call – Brown, Buskirk, Cordova, Ebersole, Fuller, Latimer and Piotrowski.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was said and prayer was offered by Father Melvin Rusnak of the Assumption Church.

Motion by Fuller, seconded by Piotrowski to accept the minutes of the August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Council Meeting.  
Roll call, 7 years.

Citizens – Citizens were present along with representatives from the Gazette and Star Beacon.

Department Presentation – Police – Chief Dan Dudik

Chief Dudik stated that the Geneva Police Department recently passed a lengthy jail inspection on July 24<sup>th</sup> held by The Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections. Chief Dudik thanked Captain Greg Wiley immensely for heading the jail inspection.

Chief Dudik gave the following statistics from January 1<sup>st</sup> to present:

- 185 inmates – of that they spent 666 man days
- 7.4% of the 185 inmates were females = 25
- 17 felony arrests
- 82 incidents were alcohol related, 10 were drug related, and 50 were traffic offenses. 157 inmates had prior criminal records
- \$3,194.44 was spent for food, cleaning supplies, and other related items
- 1,920 microwave meals were served and 2,040 drink boxes ~ Chief Dudik added that the meals and drinks are always stocked in the Police Department in the case of an emergency situation.

Chief Dudik announced that Officer Randy Smoot retired from the Geneva Police Department after 14 years of service as a Part Time Police Officer. Chief Dudik congratulated Officer Smoot and presented him with a retirement badge and wallet and thanked him for all of his service to the City.

Jim Pearson congratulated Randy Smoot on receiving his retirement badge. Mr. Pearson stated that Randy Smoot has been a huge asset to the community and he will be missed. Mr. Pearson wished Randy Smoot all the best in the future.

On behalf of Council, Denny Brown congratulated Randy Smoot and thanked him for his service. Mr. Brown added that Part Time Employees with the quality and dedication of Randy Smoot are invaluable.

Father Rusnak asked Chief Dudik what percent of the inmates actually live in the City of Geneva.

Chief Dudik replied that the majority are repeat offenders that live in the greater Geneva area.

Denny Brown asked Chief Dudik to obtain that information for both Father Rusnak and the media.

Citizens

None

Items for Consideration of Council

None

City Manager's Report – Jim Pearson

- Jim Pearson thanked Chief Starkey and all the staff for participating in the disaster preparedness drill on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Pearson stated that it is very important to train in this area and the City will continue to work on their Emergency Operations Plan.
- Paving is complete on Centennial Street.
- Mr. Pearson asked that Council inform him tonight if they are interested in attending the Best of the County dinner.

- The Comprehensive Plan and Route 534 Corridor Plan are moving along very well ~ Ashtabula County Planning Director, Albert Dispenza has put together a Request for Proposal which will be advertised in the near future in conjunction with the City's for the Comprehensive Plan.
- The Austin Rd. Project is on schedule.

### Unfinished Business

None

### New Business

None

### Payment of Bills

No questions.

### Committee Reports

Phil Cordova stated that the Planning Committee met on August 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss Eric Oplinger's request regarding the property located at 372 West Main Street. Mr. Cordova explained that Mr. Oplinger asked that the City make an exception to this property which was reverted back to a B-1 Limited Service District after sitting vacant for two years. Mr. Cordova affirmed that it is the opinion of the Planning Committee that they not make an exception to this property. Mr. Cordova explained that although the City is very appreciative of the work Mr. Oplinger is doing, it is the thoughts of both City Administration and the Planning Committee that previous Councils were correct with the direction they chose to go at that time.

Motion by Piotrowski, seconded by Cordova to direct the Fire Department to submit the S.A.F.E.R. Grant application for one full time position being staffed by part time employees. Roll call, 7 yeas.

Jeff Piotrowski stated that the possibility of having an additional canine in the Police Department was discussed at the Safety Committee Meeting August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Funding and resources are available and the Police Department will be moving forward with the canine program.

Bill Buskirk stated that a Utilities Committee Meeting was held August 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the possibility of dual water meters. The separate meter would be used for things such as watering lawns and gardens, and filling pools. This meter would not have sewer costs calculated in with the water use. Mr. Buskirk stated that it is the feeling of the Utility Committee that dual water meters can be offered to the citizens of Geneva. Additional information will be brought to Council after further research is complete.

Jeff Piotrowski added that a change to the Parking Ordinance was also discussed at the Safety Committee Meeting. An Ordinance will be prepared and brought to Council for their review.

Crystal Latimer asked why the Parking Ordinance will be changed.

Chief Dudik explained that initially the 3:00 to 5:00 a.m. parking ban was placed to enable street sweepers to get through. That is no longer an issue and residents have been complaining about the ban. The 3:00 a.m. – 5:00 a.m. ban will now be for the central business district only at the request of the Street Department for snow removal.

### Citizens

Denzel Carpenter – 223 Woodlawn, Geneva – Denzel Carpenter asked Council if the issues regarding Cowles Creek being cleaned up after last years flooding have been addressed.

Jim Pearson replied that FEMA has issued money in the areas of Rt. 84 and Rt. 534 for stream bank repair, but nothing in Mr. Carpenter's area. Unfortunately all of the retaining walls are owned by the citizens and it is the property owner's responsibility to make those repairs.

Mr. Carpenter asked if there was any aid available for those who can not afford repairs.

Jim Pearson replied that Council has not addressed local aid from the City and there is very little Grant money available for that type of repair on an individual basis. Mr. Pearson suggested that it would be helpful to have a Committee assigned to study the issues that the City is having with storm water, and water flow.

Rodger Fuller agreed and offered to head the Committee.

Denny Brown stated that this could be addressed at the next Council Meeting and directed Mr. Carpenter to contact City Administration for any additional information he might need.

Jim Pearson added that the Army Corps of Engineers does not permit the City to get in the creeks to clean them out any longer. Mr. Pearson believes that if the property owners were to repair their retaining walls they would have to contact the Army Corps for permitting.

Rodger Fuller asked if that information could be made available for those interested.

Mr. Pearson replied typically citizens talk with the Zoning Department on these issues, but he could have this information included in the City news letter.

Bill Buskirk added that the City is revisiting the Comprehensive Plan and he hopes to see storm water management addressed.

Eric Oplinger – 3465 N. Ridge Rd. West – Eric Oplinger asked if the B-1 Limited Service zoning is similar to zoning in the downtown area.

Jim Pearson replied that the City will provide him with a detailed list of permitted uses for that zoning.

Denny Brown announced that the Financial Compliance Audit for December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006 has been complete. A review will be held August 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the City Manager's office. This is not a public meeting, however up to three Council Members can attend if they are interested. Mr. Brown encouraged one member of the Finance Committee to attend.

Rodger Fuller replied that he and Jeff Piotrowski will attend that review.

Motion by Fuller, seconded by Ebersole for Council to adjourn to executive session to discuss active and threatened litigation and personal property acquisition. Roll Call, 7 yeas. Council adjourned to executive session at 8:00 p.m.

Council Member Bill Buskirk left meeting at 9:19 p.m.

Council Member Crystal Latimer left meeting at 9:34 p.m.

Motion by Ebersole, seconded by Piotrowski to re-convene the August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Council Meeting. Roll call, 5 yeas. The meeting re-convened at 9:55 p.m.

Council meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Recorded by: Laurie Donatone  
Clerk of Council

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President of Council

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Clerk of Council