

City of Geneva Council Work Session – January 22, 2007

Denny Brown called the work session to order at 7:15 p.m.

Council members present were Brown, Cordova, Ebersole, Fuller, Latimer, and Piotrowski. Buskirk absent.

Denny Brown extended an invitation to Council to accompany Chief Starkey to his newly remodeled office and training center. All present went on the tour.

On behalf of Council, Denny Brown complimented Chief Starkey and all personnel that helped with the remodeling. Mr. Brown stated that the remodeling was very impressive and will help to enhance the Fire Departments ability to serve the community and its citizens.

Work session adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Recorded by: Laurie Donatone
Clerk of Council

MINUTES
City of Geneva
Council Meeting
January 22, 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 Rusnak of the Assumption Church.

Motion by Fuller, seconded by Piotrowski to accept the minutes of the January 10th, 2007 Council Meeting. Roll call, 6 yeas, 1 abstain - Cordova.

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

Department Presentation –Tax Department – Shelly Huff

- The difference in revenue generated in 2006 from 2005 was \$43,000.00.
- Part-time employee, Pauline Loveland, was hired in July and is a great help to the Tax Department.
- Over 1,000 Failure to File letters were mailed out in June. Numbers are reduced from 2005.
- 107 complaints have been filed with Western County Court starting in August. This has generated \$54,000.00 in revenue.
- 4,300 tax returns were sent out this week.
- 550 retirement exemptions have been sent out and are starting to come back in.
- The goal for 2007 is to diligently collect taxes and keep files up to date.

Bill Buskirk asked what the reception has been with the senior exemption forms.

Shelly Huff replied that the exemption forms were very simple, stating clearly that this is a one time form and they will not be required to file again. The seniors have been very patient and kind about it.

Denny Brown asked if there is a process used before filing a complaint to Western County Court.

Shelly Huff replied that numerous attempts are made to contact the person to make arrangements for payment before filing with the court.

Citizens

Mike Shuttleworth – 277 North Avenue – Mike Shuttleworth asked how the Recreation Center is funded. Jim Pearson explained the budget process and stated that funding for the Recreation Center comes out of the General Fund.

Mike Shuttleworth also expressed concern about the children of Geneva not having anything to do and asked Council to appropriate more money for youth recreation.

Jim Pearson stated that Council is very open about the budget process and he would be very happy to meet with Mr. Shuttleworth to explain the money taken in and where it is used in the City.

Denny Brown thanked Mike Shuttleworth for coming in and stated that Council is very supportive of recreation at all levels and he encourages Mr. Shuttleworth to meet with Jim Pearson.

Bill Buskirk added that Mr. Shuttleworth's concerns are very valid and they would like to talk with him regarding this matter.

Jason Palmer – 287 North Avenue – Jason Palmer commended Council for saying prayer before the Council Meeting.

Mr. Palmer expressed concern for the high water rates in Geneva due to neglect of the water system and stated that the citizens should not be paying for the neglect.

Bill Buskirk explained the history of the Water Company and neglect of the infrastructure. Mr. Buskirk stated that Council made the decision to address the repairs needed to the water system and pay as they go along instead of having a long term debt burden. Bill Buskirk added that he would be happy to meet with Mr. Palmer to discuss this in detail.

Jason Palmer stated that the Police and Fire Departments are doing an excellent job in the City.

Mr. Palmer expressed concern of juvenile delinquents living in his area. Mr. Palmer asked if it was possible for the City to fine parents for their children's actions.

Chief Dudik replied that the juvenile delinquency rate in the City is much lower than it has been in the past. The Juvenile Diversion Program run by Officer Joe Carroll has had great success converting some of the offenders. Chief Dudik explained the process for juvenile delinquents in Ashtabula County and stated that the repeat offenders usually have parents and grandparents that have been arrested – unfortunately it is a cycle. Chief Dudik added that this is a very small percentage of our population and the majority are very good people.

Denny Brown agreed that the City of Geneva is a great community. Mr. Brown stated that Council, city employees, Geneva Schools, concerned citizens, churches, and the juvenile system all work together to help the children, but unfortunately some do slip through the system.

Mike Shuttleworth explained a recent incident involving juveniles in his neighborhood and was not happy to hear that parents would not be fined for their child's actions.

Denny Brown stated that there are restrictions on Law Enforcement Agencies and suggested that Mr. Shuttleworth and Mr. Palmer meet with Law Director, Lauren Gardner regarding this matter.

Bill Buskirk stated that this is something that the Law Director could look into for a possible modification to the City Ordinance. Mr. Buskirk added that he would also be more than willing to look into this matter. Chief Dudik added that parents do pay when the juvenile appears in court and is fined.

Thomas Hall – 230 North Avenue – Tom Hall expressed concern about speeding on North Avenue.

Chief Dudik stated that this is the first he has been made aware of speeding on North Avenue and explained that the problem is all over the City. There are only two officers on duty at one time, who also take care of jail needs. Chief Dudik stated that he will make the Officers aware of the problem on North Avenue.

Denny Brown expressed appreciation for the citizens who came forward and encourage them to meet with City Administration to address the problems mentioned and resolve these issues.

Jason Palmer asked if the City has someone who takes care of property maintenance problems. Mr. Palmer stated that 288 North Avenue is beyond code violations on both the exterior and interior.

Jim Pearson replied that the Zoning Department is in charge of property maintenance and he will check on this property tomorrow and start through the process.

Mr. Palmer also asked if it is feasible to have cameras installed for the speed problem on North Avenue.

Jim Pearson replied that he will have the Law Director look into that.

Mike Shuttleworth mentioned that a street light is burned out on North Avenue.

Jim Pearson replied that it is the duty of the midnight shift Officer's to identify burned out street lights.

Chief Dudik will leave a note for the Officer's to establish if that light is on the list for replacement.

Bill Buskirk added that in the next few months Council will be considering a new Right of Way Ordinance that will help address some of these issues.

Denny Brown stated that Council is genuinely concerned and these problems will be addressed.

Items for Consideration of Council

Ordinance 2924.

Jim Pearson explained that he and Chief Starkey have been meeting to finalize changes to Ordinance 2924 and they are comfortable removing it from the table at this time for consideration of passage.

Chief Starkey explained that this Ordinance is in compliance with the National Incident Management requirements to prepare for an emergency or disaster in our community.

Motion by Cordova, seconded by Ebersole to remove Ordinance 2924 from the Table. Roll call, 7 yeas. .

Ordinance 2924 was read, third reading. (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 212 OF THE CITY OF GENEVA CODIFIED ORDINANCES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CODE).

Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Ordinance 2924 duly passed

Ordinance 2932 was read, first reading. (AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2007 BUDGET THROUGH APPROPRIATIONS AND FUND AND INTERFUND TRANSFERS, ATTACHED HERETO AND MARKED EXHIBIT "A", AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY).

Motion by Ebersole, seconded by Fuller to declare Ordinance 2932 an emergency measure. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Fuller, seconded by Cordova that the rule of law requiring certain Ordinances be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Ordinance 2932 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Ordinance 2932 duly passed.

City Manager's Report – Jim Pearson

Mr. Pearson had nothing to add to his Manager's report in the Council packet.

Phil Cordova asked how the open position at the Community Center is being advertised and if there is a job description available.

Jim Pearson replied that it is advertised in the local news paper and on the City website. A job description is available with the application.

Crystal Latimer asked how many hours the position will have.

Jim Pearson replied that it is traditionally a 25 to 30 hour position.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Rodger Fuller asked that Council be updated at the next Council Meeting on what has been resolved regarding the citizen complaints expressed at tonight's meeting.

Denny Brown informed Council to contact Jim Pearson if they are interested in attending the Elected Official Academy offered at Kent State University.

Liquor Permit Transfer ~ Arthur & Lloyds, 18 South Broadway
- No Objections

Payment of Bills

Jeff Piotrowski questioned the \$6,077.97 for Aqua's unplanned maintenance.

Jim Pearson explained that the unplanned maintenance amount is contracted for water main breaks and things of that nature.

Committee Reports

Bill Buskirk stated that a Cable Franchise Meeting was held with Scott Huggins, Tony Long, Jennifer Brown and Bill Buskirk attending. A public meeting will be scheduled and a survey will be sent out to the citizens of Geneva to better understand their needs.

Bill Buskirk mentioned the Right of Way Ordinance and Customer Service Ordinance that go hand in hand with the Cable Franchise Agreement, and he recommends that Council move forward with those separately.

Kim Ebersole stated that a NAD Board Meeting was held and they are moving forward with the Global Positioning Unit Project. This project should be complete in 1½ months.

Citizens

Father Rusnak – Assumption Church – Father Rusnak asked if the City has ever had a citizen based crime watch.

Chief Dudik replied that the Eagle Eye Block Watch was implemented years ago, headed by Officer Joe Carroll. This program was strong and worked well for a while, but currently is not what it was in the past. Father Rusnak explained a program that he is familiar with in Youngstown that has been very successful. Father Rusnak has heard testimony of people who were in this program and explained that they were very thankful for the second chance that was given to them. Father Rusnak stated that he would be happy to make contact with Youngstown if anyone was interested in the program for Geneva.

Denny Brown asked Chief Dudik to look into that program to see if it could help resolve some of the problems in Geneva. Mr. Brown added that Geneva is a great community and he feels very fortunate to live here. Mr. Brown stated that Geneva has a lot of support through the churches, schools, recreational programs, and civic minded people that mentor and genuinely care about the young people in the community.

Phil Cordova mentioned that Officer Jay Thomas is leaving the City of Geneva to work with the Sheriffs Office. Mr. Cordova added that Jay Thomas was extremely professional and did a very nice job representing the City of Geneva. Phil Cordova could not say enough good things about Geneva's Officer's and wished Officer Jay Thomas well.

Council meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Recorded by: Laurie Donatone
Clerk of Council

President of Council

Clerk of Council