

MINUTES
City of Geneva
Council Meeting
September 24, 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 Reverend Jonathan Schroeder of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Motion by Fuller, seconded by Ebersole to accept the minutes of the September 10th, 2007 Council Meeting. Roll call, 7 yeas.

Citizens – Citizens were present along with a representative from the Star Beacon.

Department Presentation – Fire – Chief Starkey

Chief Starkey stated that Fire Prevention Week is October 7th through October 13th. Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during this week since 1925.

Dale Arkenburg coordinates fire prevention for the City of Geneva year round. Mr. Arkenburg is also a trained juvenile fire setter and educator. Training is offered to a wide variety of people, from pre-school children to senior citizens. Chief Starkey stated that Dale Arkenburg deserves a lot of credit and thanks for the great job he does for the Geneva Fire Department.

Chief Starkey added that he would be happy to coordinate the time to have Council attend a fire demonstration if they are interested.

Rodger Fuller asked Chief Starkey how the training tower was coming along.

Chief Starkey replied that a contractor was going to donate excavation and they are expecting to move forward any day. The Fire Department hopes to have the training tower complete before winter.

On behalf of Council, Denny Brown acknowledged all of the work that the members of the Fire Department put into the community for the safety of the citizens and added that it is deeply appreciated.

Citizens

Denny Brown read a Proclamation declaring September 24th, 2007 Channel 19 Action News Day. Channel 19 Action News has shown great involvement and support in promoting the Grape Jamboree. The proclamation will be presented to Channel 19 Action News Saturday after the Grape Jamboree Parade.

Bob Rosebrugh – 1421 Sherman Street, Geneva – Bob Rosebrugh stated that he was not happy about the decision to chip seal the streets of Geneva. Mr. Rosebrugh feels that there are more negatives than positives with chip seal and he urged Council to focus on the basic needs of the City; paving the streets, addressing inflow and infrastructure needs, and bridge repair and replacement. Mr. Rosebrugh also suggested that Council go to the citizens of Geneva with a levy for funding for the Romeo Park project and asked that Council not pass Ordinance 2947 as an emergency.

Items for Consideration of Council

Resolution 3041 was read, second reading. (A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN RECOMMENDED BY THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATOR).

Resolution 3043 was read, first reading. (A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY). Motion by Fuller, seconded by Cordova to declare Resolution 3043 an emergency measure.

Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Cordova, seconded by Fuller that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution 3043 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Resolution 3043 duly passed.

Resolution 3044 was read, first reading. (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE BID OF UNITED SURVEY, INC. FOR THE MAIN STREET SEWER LINING PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY). Motion by Buskirk, seconded by Cordova to declare Resolution 3044 an emergency measure. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Ebersole, seconded by Piotrowski that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution 3044 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Resolution 3044 duly passed

Resolution 3045 was read, first reading. (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO FILE AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COMPREHENSIVE DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM TIER TWO, DOWNTOWN BUILDING AND STREETScape REVITALIZATION APPLICATION AND PROCLAIM THE TARGET AREA AS SLUM & BLIGHTED, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY). Motion by Fuller, seconded by Ebersole to declare Resolution 3045 an emergency measure. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Piotrowski, seconded by Fuller that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution 3045 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Resolution 3045 duly passed

Ordinance 2946 was read, first reading. (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 452.13 OVERNIGHT PARKING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY).

Crystal Latimer asked if it was necessary to pass this Ordinance as an emergency.

Bill Buskirk explained that Ordinance 2946 loosens up the parking ban in certain areas and if not passed as an emergency, citations will continue to be written for people parking on the street.

Rodger Fuller stated that he was concerned if this ordinance is not passed as an emergency because it will affect parking at the Grape Jamboree. Council agreed to proceed with the Ordinance as an emergency.

Motion by Fuller, seconded by Ebersole to declare Ordinance 2946 an emergency measure. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Ebersole, seconded by Piotrowski that the rule of law requiring certain Ordinances be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Ordinance 2946 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Ordinance 2946 duly passed

Ordinance 2947 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.

Crystal Latimer read a statement explaining the history of the Romeo property and expressed her concerns for the costs of the park, up keep and maintenance. Ms. Latimer stated that she is not anti park or anti recreation, but believes that it is a matter of priorities. Ms. Latimer asked that Council not pass Ordinance 2947 as an emergency, but that they have three readings to allow citizens an opportunity to give their opinions.

No discussion was held on this issue.

Motion by Buskirk, seconded by Brown to declare Ordinance 2947 an emergency measure. Roll call, 2 yeas, 5 nays – Cordova, Ebersole, Fuller, Latimer, and Piotrowski. Motion failed.

Lauren Gardner explained that it was the motion to declare Ordinance 2947 an emergency that failed and this Ordinance still has the opportunity for three readings if Council so desires.

City Manager's Report – Jim Pearson

- Assistant Manager Jennifer Brown has worked with FEMA and received the first quotes to redo the walk bridge on Sherman Street which were over budget. Additional funding has been approved and the bridge replacement project will be moving forward.

- A number of Council members still have to attend NIMS Training - IS-700 and ICS-100 Courses. This can be done on line or Council can contact Chief Starkey who will schedule work sessions to help through that process.
- City Council will need to act on legislation in reference to Senate Bill 117. If Council does not act within certain time limits the City will lose any franchise fees that have been collected in past years. Council agreed to have Jim Pearson work with Walter and Haverfield to prepare that legislation.

Mr. Pearson explained, in response to Mr. Rosebrugh's comments regarding chip seal, that without the maintenance to the streets as required by the Ohio Department of Transportation, the City will not receive State funding which is an 80/20 split. Mr. Pearson added that chip sealing is a common practice throughout the Northern States as an effort to extend pavement life. Mr. Pearson agreed that pavement is the perfect thing to do, but in an effort to save some of the streets the City elected to chip seal.

Denny Brown stated that Council depends on the department heads recommendations based on their experience, knowledge, training, and skills to help them accomplish what is needed in the City. Mr. Brown stated that Council has no knowledge of problems with chip sealing and asked for detailed documentation explaining the problems with that process.

Mr. Brown added that all but one of the bridges in the community have been repaired and Council is trying to the best of their ability to serve all of the needs of the entire community.

Unfinished Business

Denny Brown stated that there is a Civil Service vacancy and an appointment will need to be made.

Mr. Brown asked Phil Cordova to head a Personnel Committee along with Bill Buskirk and Rodger Fuller.

Phil Cordova, Bill Buskirk, and Rodger Fuller agreed.

Mr. Brown asked the Personnel Committee to review the applications and make a recommendation to Council.

New Business - None

Payment of Bills - No questions

Committee Reports - None

Citizens

Bob Rosebrugh – 1421 Sherman Street, Geneva – Bob Rosebrugh stated that if there is only one bridge left to be repaired than Council should do it.

Rodger Fuller replied that Council is working on it.

Denny Brown explained that it entails a great deal of planning, engineering and cost analysis.

Bob Rosebrugh stated that he will take the time to look into the problems with chip sealing paved streets and added that he appreciates Council's decision to have three readings for Ordinance 2947.

Township Trustee Bob Russell added that the Township has chip sealed 5 or 6 miles of paved roads.

Council meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Recorded by: Laurie Donatone
Clerk of Council

President of Council

Clerk of Council