

MINUTES
City of Geneva
Council Meeting
April 27, 2009
7:30 p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was said and prayer was offered by Laurie Donatone.

Motion by Ebersole, seconded by Beckwith to accept the minutes of the April 13th, 2009 Council Meeting. Roll call, 5 yeas, 2 abstains – Cordova and Piotrowski.

Citizens – Citizens were present along with a representative from the Gazette.

Department Presentation – Employee of the Year 2008

- Fireman of the Year – Lt. Tom Clay – presented by Chief Starkey.
- Full Time Dispatcher of the Year – Rhonda Varckette – presented by Chief Dudik.
- Part Time Employee of the Year – Officer Mike Miller – presented by Chief Dudik.
- Full Time Police Officer of the Year – Officer Doug Zetlaw – presented by Chief Dudik
- In Honor of K-9 Officer Omar – presented by Chief Dudik and Jim Pearson. Chief Dudik explained that Omar worked with Officer Cahill for eight years at community events, schools, and protecting our community. Jim Pearson added that he knows how much Omar meant to Officer Cahill and that he was a real asset, not only to the Geneva Police Department, but also the entire community and Ashtabula County. Mr. Pearson declared that it is with great honor the plaque with Omar's picture on it will be hung in the hallway of the Municipal Building for all to remember him.
- City Wide Employee of the Year – Karen McCroden – presented by Rodger Fuller and Chief Starkey. Chief Starkey stated that Karen McCroden has been a blessing to the Geneva Fire Department volunteering 2,470 hours, entering data, developing a filing system, and working on the Fire House Software. Chief Starkey could not express how much Ms. McCroden means to the Fire Department.

Rodger Fuller stated that he had an opportunity to work with Officer Cahill and Omar which was an eventful and amazing experience.

Citizens

Donna Light – Light Touch Florist, 220 East Main St., Geneva – Donna Light expressed concern for the vendors that are allowed to come into the city on holidays to sell flowers on the street. Ms. Light stated that this takes a toll on their business and they can not compete. The Light Touch Florist Shop has been in Geneva for a couple of years and they would like to stay. Ms. Light stated that she would appreciate it if Council would consider not allowing vendors to sell flowers on the street.

Jennifer Brown explained that the City of Geneva does offer vendor's permits that are good for one year as long as they receive permission from the property owners.

Crystal Latimer asked if the City knows if the flower vendors do in fact have permits.

Jennifer Brown replied that she doesn't necessarily know, but can verify that permits have been issued.

Bill Buskirk suggested that the City compare Geneva's permit prices to other communities and consider a tiered level for different situations.

Rodger Fuller felt that Mr. Buskirk had a good suggestion and stated that it is not fair that the local merchants are being challenged in this way.

Jeff Piotrowski asked how permits are enforced.

Jennifer Brown replied that she will check the City's books if she notices a vendor.

Jim Pearson added that the Police Department can also check for permits.

Phil Cordova asked what documentation is required to show there is approval from a property owner.

Jennifer Brown replied that a letter is all that is required.

Jeff Piotrowski stated that Ms. Light brings up a good point and the City needs to be sure to take care of the local businesses that are here 365 days a year and should step up enforcement.

Phil Cordova added that he feels there should be a different type of permit issued for vendors that come in for the Grape Jamboree.

Greg Strnisa – 50 South Broadway, Geneva – Greg Strnisa suggested that Donna Light do what ever she can to compete with the vendor's. If they are standing on the corner she could consider going out to the front of her property with flowers.

Rodger Fuller stated that Ms. Light makes a valid point and he appreciates her bringing it to Council's attention.

Lowell Beaudoin – 160 Raymond Dr., Geneva – Lowell Beaudoin stated that he was present during a 911 alarm call on Sherman Street that Officer Cahill and Omar answered. Mr. Beaudoin explained that Omar immediately entered the building to begin the search. Mr. Beaudoin knew that nothing would get by Omar and felt that they were safe. Mr. Beaudoin expressed sympathy to Officer Cahill for his loss.

Items for Consideration of Council

Ordinance 2993 was read, first reading. (AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING SELECTED SUBSECTIONS OF THE GENEVA CODIFIED ORDINANCES RELATING TO WASTEWATER OPERATIONS).

Ordinance 2994 was read, first reading. (AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY INTO THE JEDD I AGREEMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY).

Motion by Ebersole, seconded by Piotrowski to declare Ordinance 2994 an emergency measure. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Beckwith, seconded by Ebersole that the rule of law requiring certain Ordinances be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Ordinance 2994 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Ordinance 2994 duly passed.

Resolution 3091 was read, second reading. (A RESOLUTION ON THE SPENDING OF FEDERAL ECONOMIC RENEWAL GRANTS TO THE CITY OF GENEVA, OHIO).

Resolution 3095 was read, first reading. (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR STATE/HUD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDS FOR FY 2009, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY). Bill Buskirk acknowledged Jennifer Brown and Phyllis Dunlap who do a wonderful job administering this program. This is the sixth time the City has applied for the CHIP Grant which has put over one million dollars into the City's housing stock.

Rodger Fuller added that he knows people who have utilized the CHIP Program and it has been very beneficial.

Motion by Cordova, seconded by Ebersole to declare Resolution 3095 an emergency measure. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Latimer, seconded by Piotrowski that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution 3095 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Resolution 3095 duly passed.

Resolution 3096 was read, first reading. (A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GENEVA ADOPTING IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY).

Jennifer Brown explained that communities with utilities are required to have a red flag rule in place which shows that you are training your employees to identify red flags if someone is trying to steal identity. Ms. Brown added that there is a lengthy policy in place that she will copy for Council if they so desire.

Rodger Fuller stated that Jennifer Brown deserves recognition for coming across this and putting it together.

Jennifer Brown replied that she can not take all the credit. The Finance Office, Tammy Shuttleworth, and Lauren Gardner were also involved in implementing this process.

Motion by Beckwith, seconded by Latimer to declare Resolution 3096 an emergency measure. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Ebersole, seconded by Cordova that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution 3096 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Resolution 3096 duly passed.

City Manager's Report – Jim Pearson

Mr. Pearson had nothing to add to the Assistant City Managers Report found in Council's packet.

Unfinished Business - none

New Business - None

Payment of Bills – No questions

Committee Reports

Kim Ebersole stated that a Service Committee Meeting was held tonight at 5:30 to interview applicants for the open Planning Commission seat. After much consideration, the Service Committee made a decision to recommend Rob Perkins to serve on the Planning Commission.

Motion by Cordova, seconded by Latimer to appoint Rob Perkins to serve on Planning Commission. Roll call 7 yeas.

Citizens - None

Council meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Recorded by: Laurie Donatone
Clerk of Council

President of Council

Clerk of Council