

City of Geneva Council Work Session – November 23, 2009

Rodger Fuller called the work session to order at 6:45 p.m.

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

Bruce Beckwith asked if the pre-construction meetings are out of the way for upcoming projects. Jim Pearson replied that there was a partial meeting on the downtown lighting. The purpose was to have CEI there to look at the three wooden poles by Broadway Breakfast and discuss how that section will be re-powered. A pre-construction meeting was held for the Elm Street Project. The intent is to mobilize shortly after the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Bill Buskirk arrived at 6:47 p.m.

Mr. Pearson added that the City just received word that the Lab Building loan was approved and a pre-construction meeting for that project will be scheduled within the next two or three weeks.

Crystal Latimer stated that the Shade Tree Commission had fourteen Paperbark Maple Trees planted. Ten European Beech Trees will be planted in the spring. Ms. Latimer thanked the Fire Department for helping to water the trees and also mentioned that there is an open seat on the Commission if anyone is interested.

Crystal Latimer asked for an update on the Senior Bus Program.

Jim Pearson replied that the program is going well. New tires have been put on the bus along with light maintenance.

Bruce Beckwith affirmed that he spoke with a number of citizens who have used the bus and are very appreciative to have it available to them.

Jim Pearson added that the City is well under the budget that was set by Council for that program.

Work session adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Recorded by: Laurie Donatone
Clerk of Council

MINUTES
City of Geneva
Council Meeting
November 23, 2009
7:00 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 Reverend Bob Cunningham of the United Church.

Motion by Beckwith, seconded by Ebersole to accept the minutes of the November 9th, 2009 Council Meeting. Roll call, 7 years.

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

Department Presentation – Architectural Review Board – Chairman Todd Nagy

- 2009 has been slow in terms of applicants coming before the board. The main types of applicants are for sign approvals and minor phasod modifications to the downtown historical district.
- Building owners are investing in their properties to improve the look of the building and to help make the downtown look better in general.
- The board is currently looking at new standards and guidelines regarding outdoor furniture for sitting areas in the downtown area to ensure uniformity.
- Mr. Nagy stated that Architectural Review Board members have slowly dwindled away – the board now consists of two members plus Jennifer Brown. Jennifer Brown has advertised open seats in the paper, but has not received any interest.

Jennifer Brown added that this is the only board that requires certain standards to be met in order to be a member. The board is looking for an engineer and someone with historic rehab background.

Todd Nagy stated that he has seen that other communities are combining their Architectural Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board into one entity to include representatives from each division and suggested that Council consider this option.

- Mr. Nagy mentioned that he would like to see the Architectural Review Boards jurisdictional boundaries broadened to include the general business district. Mr. Nagy is concerned that things will boom in the City of Geneva and the code will not have guidelines in place.

Rodger Fuller asked Mr. Nagy if he has researched his suggestions.

Todd Nagy replied that he has researched various communities and has all the information. They now need to discuss how to get everyone on board and how to execute the idea.

Rodger Fuller asked what the current Architectural Review Board boundaries are.

Jennifer Brown explained that the boundaries are East to Forest Street, West to Eagle Street, North to Dominoes Pizza, and South a little past Behm's Funeral Home.

Jeff Piotrowski asked if expanding the boundaries was part of the Comprehensive Plan.

Jennifer Brown replied that design review based on different districts was included in the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Brown stated that the Comprehensive Plan included a lot of components of action items that the City needed to take, one of which was the start to look at the zoning code. The thought is that if large components of the zoning code will be redrafted, this might be the time to incorporate change.

Bill Buskirk agreed that now is the time to address the zoning issues that the City has. Mr. Buskirk added that the Planning Commission is in the City Charter and in order to revise the Planning Commission there would have to be a Charter change. Mr. Buskirk affirmed that Council will be open to seeing examples of how other localities set up their Planning Commission.

Mr. Nagy reiterated that it is difficult to find people who are willing or able to become a member of the Architectural Review Board.

Crystal Latimer stated that the Shade Tree Commission is also finding it difficult to find members due to being limited to people that live within the City. Ms. Latimer would like to see it changed to include Geneva Township.

Jim Pearson affirmed that they will explore the suggestions discussed and bring the information to Council for review.

Rodger Fuller thanked Todd Nagy for his presentation.

Citizens - None

Items for Consideration of Council - None

City Manager's Report – Jim Pearson

- Mr. Pearson stated that they met with Jay Hutchison from Wichert Insurance who presented the Corp. Insurance Package which includes commercial property, boiler machinery, automobile, general liability, fire and EMT liability. The City also has public official and police professional due in March. Mr. Pearson stated that the City is in a trend of decreases. The City's current package was \$56,796 which was down \$9,900 from the previous year. This year the City will see a reduction of \$5,700 down to \$51,000 which is a historic low. The Corp. Insurance package in 1990 was \$78,000.

Bill Buskirk asked if the City has the Workers Comp rate.

Juanita Stuetzer replied that this years Workers Comp liability was \$26,000 and will increase to \$70,000 next year. The Bureau has changed how rates are being calculated – being part of a group is not as big a benefit as it was in the past, but the City is still saving 33%.

Jim Pearson affirmed that although rates have gone up for next year, they have been much worse in the past.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business - None

Payment of Bills – No questions

Committee Reports - None

Citizens

Ted Roberts – Peddlers Exchange, Geneva – Ted Roberts stated that he has been at Peddlers Exchange for three years and expressed concern for the safety of people who are crossing the street at RT. 534 and Walnut Street. Within the three years Mr. Roberts has seen at least thirty auto accidents. Mr. Roberts gave Council a map of the area and asked if they would consider putting in a safety path for the safety of residents and tourists alike.

Jim Pearson stated that the City will discuss this issue with the traffic engineer.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Recorded by: Laurie Donatone
Clerk of Council

President of Council

Clerk of Council