

City of Geneva Council Work Session – November 9, 2009

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

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

Chief Starkey explained that new Fire Department employees are expected to attend a Council Meeting along with a list of other requirements. Chief Starkey introduced Aaron Wallace and Eddi Chernisky to City Council.

No business was discussed.

Work session adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Recorded by: Laurie Donatone
Clerk of Council

MINUTES
City of Geneva
Council Meeting
November 9, 2009
7:00 p.m.

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

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

Motion by Cordova, seconded by Latimer to accept the minutes of the October 26th, 2009 Council Meeting. Roll call, 6 yeas.

Citizens – Citizens were present. There were no representatives from the media.

Department Presentation – Zoning – Jennifer Brown

Jennifer Brown passed out the 2009 Zoning Update to Council:

- 117 permits have been issued so far this year.
- Commercial permits listed come to \$1,835,000.
- Schools are at \$22,855,000.
- Two homes were constructed this year.
- Total community investment is at \$25,558,235.
- 250 violation letters were sent out. The top three violations are high grass, property maintenance and parking in residential areas.
- Billing for grass that was mowed this year totaled \$11,690.
- Property taxes assessed for next year total \$10,250.
- 2,673 images were added to the database this year. Jennifer Brown explained that when violation letters are sent out, photographs are taken of the violation to include the address on the house.
- Rental permits are at 207.
- Jennifer Brown explained that total investments were tallied from 1993 to 2009. A significant difference was seen in new homes - 21 in 2005 and only 2 new homes in 2009.

Kim Ebersole asked if there is an age correlation with the grass that was mowed.

Jennifer Brown replied that she has not seen an age correlation – mowing was high due to abandoned properties.

Bruce Beckwith mentioned an article in the Cities and Villages magazine regarding solar improvements and asked if there are any limitations on solar in Geneva.

Jennifer Brown replied that the only limitation she can see is a height restriction, but there is nothing in the code that speaks to solar or windmills. There is a zoning seminar Friday which is an intro to new code developed based on green concepts and solar power.

Citizens - None

Items for Consideration of Council - None

City Manager's Report – Jim Pearson

- South Eagle Street was paved.
- Geneva timber for the covered bridge was harvested from Phil & Cathy Schmidt's property. The Ashtabula County Joint Vocational School will also donate timber. Mr. Pearson affirmed that Dr. Brockway, ACJVS Superintendent, has been very generous in dealing with the City on this project.
- Ashtabula County received about \$600,000 of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) Stimulus money for the rehab and purchase of homes. CIC agreed to work with the County to purchase and rehab homes which will be good for the community and also provide a little revenue for the CIC. A committee will be formed to look at a list of foreclosed properties that the City may want to negotiate on.
- Chief Starkey has been working with NAD, Harpersfield and Austinburg regarding a number of Dispatch contracts that are up this year. Those contracts should be resolved shortly.
- Jennifer Brown puts in a lot of time with members of the Geneva Business Association to plan for Christmas. Mr. Pearson stated that he expects a very nice Downtown this fall.
- There will be a pre-construction meeting tomorrow with CIR who was awarded the Downtown Electrical & Streetscape Project. Discussion will mainly be on electrical issues to see how much can be done over the winter.
- The loan from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) was approved for the Elm Street Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project. The City should hear on the Lab Building Project within two weeks.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business - None

Payment of Bills – No questions

Committee Reports

Crystal Latimer announced that a Shade Tree Commission Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, November 16th, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Ms. Latimer stated that trees have not been planted at North Nearing Circle yet, but she hopes the Street Department will be able to get to it very soon.

Jim Pearson stated that he spoke with Tim Bittner who affirmed that the Street Department plans to begin digging and get those trees planted.

Rodger Fuller asked what trees will be planted.

Crystal Latimer replied that Ornamental Maples will be planted on the north side and either Beech or Birch trees will be planted on the south side.

Citizens – None

Council meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Recorded by: Laurie Donatone
Clerk of Council

President of Council

Clerk of Council