

Bill Buskirk called the work session to order at 6:46 p.m.

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

Chief Starkey stated that the Fire Department did not apply for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant in December, but the deadline has been extended to January 15th and they will be submitting an application to meet retention and recruitment needs. Chief Starkey explained all components of the SAFER Grant which is designed to give the tools to recruit new volunteers or to provide incentives to retain existing volunteers and increase their involvement in the department. Chief Starkey would like to:

- Get more people ages 13 – 21 interested in fire service and involved in the Explorers Program.
- Send five cadets a year to Hopkins College in Athens, Ohio to go through a program in which they will be certified to be a Fire Fighter once they turn 18 years old.
- Hire a full time Program Coordinator for four years, 32 hours a week, paid by the Grant. This Coordinator will work on recruiting, retaining existing Fire Fighters and coordinating training.
- Chief Starkey hopes to put six people through training in years one and two and then six new people through training years three and four. The Grant allows the purchase of four sets of turn out gear.
- Purchase a \$6,000.00 module to aid in instruction. There are currently four Fire Fighters that are certified instructors and will be certified to teach state requirements through this Grant.
- The SAFER Grant will absorb insurance costs for volunteer Fire Fighters plus physicals, shots and costs to attend training.

The total package will cost \$565,000.00 at no cost to the City with the exception of uniforms and two sets of turn out gear. Chief Starkey added that the Geneva Fire Department would also offer help with recruitment, training and retention for neighboring departments.

Bill Buskirk asked if there are any points given if you can show this will also contribute to recruitment and retention in surrounding areas.

Chief Starkey explained that this is not a point system, but rather a peer review which is favorable to hiring a Program Coordinator in order to put a program in place.

Bill Buskirk affirmed that the first four years will be a minimal cost for incidental items, but the concern will be for year five in determining what to do with the Program Coordinator.

Chief Starkey agreed and stated that Council would have to pass an Ordinance to create a permanent part time position during this grant cycle and then decide whether to keep that position in place after the four years or not.

Bruce Beckwith affirmed that this would be operated within our department, available to other departments, but not contingent upon other departments.

Tim Miller asked if letters of support from other departments would help with the application. Chief Starkey replied that he typically contacts elected officials for support and explained that there really is not an avenue to add letters of support, but they do mention in the narrative that they have the support of neighboring communities.

Council did not have any objections and agreed to have Chief Starkey move forward with the Safer Grant application to be submitted Friday, January 15th.

Crystal Latimer acknowledged that the signs at the City limits announcing the birth place of R.E. Olds need to be refurbished and asked if that could be done this spring.

Jim Pearson replied that they will research when the signs were last refurbished and stated that he thinks it has been done every five years in the past.

Crystal Latimer suggested that signs be considered for Platt R. Spencer who was very notable and worth bragging about.

Bill Buskirk stated that it would be worth discussing with the Township Trustees.

Jim Pearson affirmed that he will get estimates for the refurbishing and also ideas from Mr. Conrad regarding signs for Platt R. Spencer.

Jennifer Brown announced that the Wastewater Department is submitting an Environmental Education Grant which is due Friday, January 15th. This Grant is sponsored by the EPA to enhance the public's awareness and knowledge to what is involved in recycling and to promote it in our community. There is no monetary involvement from the City.

Ms. Brown added that Beverly Hoffman has been working on this Grant along with John Barbo with Geneva High School. Ms. Hoffman has also received letters of support from the Street Department and Hospital.

Work Session adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Recorded by: Laurie Donatone
Clerk of Council

MINUTES
City of Geneva
Council Meeting
January 11, 2010
7:05 p.m.

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

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

Motion by Fuller, seconded by Beckwith to accept the minutes of the December 14th, 2009 Council Meeting. Roll call, 7 years.

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

Department Presentation – Recreation – Myke Anderson

Myke Anderson gave an overview of 2009:

- The Playground Project at Eagle Street Park was a huge success. There was an amazing turnout with help from Tim Miller, the Fire Department, and many members of the community.
- Summer lunches were handed out from mid June to the end of August and will be given again this summer.
- The Back to School Distribution was held in August supplying 300 children with a backpack filled with everything they needed for the first day of school.
- The Golf Program was held for the 12th year. A Grant received last year enabled 24 children to use a new set of child size clubs. Adult clubs donated from the Lyons Club were previously used.
- The Ghoul Fest was held in October with a parade, haunted house, games and food. The Fire Department, Police Department and Northwest Ambulance all helped to make this possible. There was an amazing turnout and everyone had a great time.
- The City of Geneva's basketball leagues were held at the GaREAT Sporting Complex from October to December. 350 children participated to include bittyball, 3rd & 4th grades and 5th & 6th grades.
- The Christmas Parade was held in December offering pictures with Santa at the Recreation Center.

2010

- The Recreation Department hopes to work on the Skate Park which is in need of repair. There is a group of children that are willing to participate on fund raising events.
- There has been discussion of classes starting, directed by the older children, to teach the younger ones how to do tricks properly on their skate boards.
- Looking into obtaining Grants that will enable the Recreation Department to do more for the City.

Bruce Beckwith asked if the kids use safety equipment at the Skate Park.

Myke Anderson replied that safety equipment is mandated on the sign, but there is no one to enforce it.

Bill Buskirk asked if the City has received any claims connected to the Skate Park.

Myke Anderson replied that there have been no claims as far as she is aware. The children understand the risks of skate boarding.

Citizens - None

Items for Consideration of Council – None

City Manager's Report – Jim Pearson

- The Street Department used 225 tons of salt during the last snow storm and did a great job as always clearing the downtown area. Typically 1000 tons of salt are use per year – 1/5 of that amount was used for one storm.
- Mr. Pearson asked that the Street Committee meet within the next few weeks to discuss projects for 2010. Mr. Pearson would like the City Engineer to attend that meeting. Crystal Latimer, Chair of the Street Committee, stated that they will schedule a meeting for Monday, January 25th at 6:15 p.m.
- Mr. Pearson acknowledged that Jennifer Brown has worked tirelessly for the last year on the monument move and environmental issues. A letter was received today from the Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) releasing the property to having no environmental issue and stating that the City can move forward.

Rodger Fuller asked if the City had snow plows out of service.

Jim Pearson explained that there have been mechanical issues with a couple of the blades. All trucks are in operations using old blades, but Tim Bittner will purchase one cylinder for backup at the cost of \$1,000.00.

Bruce Beckwith stated that it appears the parking lot change in town has been working out.

Jim Pearson agreed that it has been working well so far.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business - None

Payment of Bills – No questions

Committee Reports

Rodger Fuller stated that NAD had a meeting Wednesday evening to discuss housekeeping items. Mr. Fuller acknowledged that the NAD Board is upset about the 911 situation with the Commissioners and are concerned that it will not be handled properly.

Citizens – None

Council meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Recorded by: Laurie Donatone
Clerk of Council

President of Council

Clerk of Council