

City of Geneva Council Work Session – January 25, 2010

Bill Buskirk called the work session to order at 6:59 p.m.

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

No business was discussed.

Work Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Recorded by: Laurie Donatone  
Clerk of Council

**MINUTES**  
**City of Geneva**  
Council Meeting  
January 25, 2010  
7:02 p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was said and prayer was offered by Reverend Robert Cunningham of the United Church.

Motion by Beckwith, seconded by Cordova to accept the minutes of the January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Council Meeting. Roll call, 6 yeas.

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

Department Presentation – None

Citizens - None

Items for Consideration of Council

Ordinance 3018 was read, first reading. (AN ORDINANCE REQUESTING THE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PLACE ON THE PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT THE QUESTION OF SUNDAY SALES OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR AT THE GENEVA COMMUNITY CENTER).

Jim Pearson explained that the Grape Jamboree Board has wanted to start a wine tasting at the Community Center. Lauren Gardner has worked with the Board of Elections and found that this ordinance is the simplest way to move the process ahead if Council so desires.

Bill Buskirk affirmed that this ordinance places the question of Sunday sales of liquor on the ballot for the citizens to decide.

Phil Cordova asked if the Grape Jamboree Board has looked into educating the citizens that this is limited to Grape Jamboree weekend.

Jim Pearson agreed that there will have to be some education and added that for anyone to have liquor at an event they still have to apply for an F4 permit issued through the Ohio Division of Liquor Control. This will allow the Grape Jamboree Board to apply for that permit.

Crystal Latimer asked who will be responsible for the ballot expenses.

Jim Pearson replied that he didn't think there were any expenses because it is not a special election.

Lauren Gardner stated that this is something she didn't know to ask and she will find out.

Mr. Pearson commented that if Council wants to put this on the ballot, it will have to be to the Board of Elections by February 18<sup>th</sup> and passed as an emergency at the next Council Meeting.

Ordinance 3019 was read, first reading. (AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE FUND “298 – BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT GRANT”, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY).

Motion by Latimer, seconded by Beckwith to declare Ordinance 3019 an emergency measure. Roll call, 6 yeas. Motion by Cordova, seconded by Beckwith that the rule of law requiring certain Ordinances be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Ordinance 3019 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 6 yeas. Roll call on passage, 6 yeas. Ordinance 3019 duly passed.

Ordinance 3020 was read, first reading. (AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2010 BUDGET THROUGH APPROPRIATIONS AND FUND TRANSFERS, ATTACHED HERETO AND MARKED EXHIBIT “A”, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY).

Bruce Beckwith commented that he noticed the City is up to \$215,000.00 on the Bridge Fund and asked if this is what the City has to front prior to the Grant coming through.

Jim Pearson replied that is the City's part and explained that the spreadsheet handed out during the Street Committee Meeting detailed funding from the OPWC Grant, In Kind, and General Fund for the W. Liberty Covered Bridge Project.

Motion by Piotrowski, seconded by Beckwith to declare Ordinance 3020 an emergency measure. Roll call, 6 yeas. Motion by Beckwith, seconded by Miller that the rule of law requiring certain Ordinances be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Ordinance 3020 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 6 yeas. Roll call on passage, 6 yeas. Ordinance 3020 duly passed.

Resolution 3121 was read, first reading. (A RESOLUTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING THE HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN FUND ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF OHIO, DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT, AND THE CITY OF GENEVA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY).

Mr. Pearson explained that this is the seventh year the City has received the CHIP Grant and that these are three year agreements.

Motion by Beckwith, seconded by Miller to declare Resolution 3121 an emergency measure. Roll call, 6 yeas. Motion by Cordova, seconded by Piotrowski that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution 3121 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 6 yeas. Roll call on passage, 6 yeas. Resolution 3121 duly passed.

#### City Manager's Report – Jim Pearson

- Mr. Pearson stated that an appointment has to be made to the Planning Commission by February 29<sup>th</sup>. Historically the Service Committee has met to have interviews for that appointment. Mr. Pearson asked if that is what Council desires, and if so, suggested that a Service Committee Meeting be scheduled for the first or second week of February. Council agreed to schedule a Service Committee Meeting.
- Administration has begun to look back at Automatic Meter Reading. A meeting was held with one company and another is scheduled tomorrow. Mr. Pearson stated that at some point in the spring they will be prepared to meet with the Utilities Committee to discuss the benefits of Automatic Meter Readings and the possibility of moving forward with this project.
- The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Covered Bridge Festival is scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. The Ashtabula County Bridge Committee would like to put the W. Liberty Covered Bridge on the festival schedule and if it is complete, they may plan an event at that location. Mr. Pearson asked Council if they would consider a donation to sponsor this event. Bill Buskirk asked how much the donation would be. Jim Pearson replied that commercial support is a \$150.00 donation. Bruce Beckwith asked if that money is available in Community Development. Mr. Pearson replied that it is. Council agreed that this is a worthwhile investment.
- An opportunity has come to the City of Geneva dealing with the Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS) and a tower needed in Northeast Ohio. Chief Starkey explained that the MARCS System allows interoperability with other agencies. This is a state wide program and there are three towers in the county. The Township Trustees have a cell tower on their property and offered 10 feet of free space they have available for a MARCS antenna. However, after several discussions between MARCS and the tower company, it was determined that they would like to build a 180 foot tower in Geneva. The Fire Training Center has been discussed as a possible site for that tower. Chief Dudik stated that they use MARCS radios whenever NAD goes to Trumbull County. The tower will give them coverage throughout the entire state. Chief Starkey added that MARCS is an added safety measure and a great opportunity to enhance communications. Jim Pearson stated that if Council allows for the construction of the tower, they may be able to generate monthly savings along with possible shared monthly revenues if anything commercial were to go on the tower.

Bill Buskirk confirmed that the City would lease MARCS a portion of the property to put up the tower and in return get a discount on MARCS.

Jim Pearson added that if the City were to proceed with the MARCS tower, it would have to go to the Planning Commission for a variance due to a height restriction.

Council had no objections with the City proceeding with MARCS negotiations.

- Mr. Pearson stated that there is a CIC vacancy with the passing of Tom Swesinger. Mr. Pearson asked Council if anyone has approached them with interest.

Council did not have anyone approach them regarding the CIC vacancy.

Mr. Pearson stated that Chief Starkey has expressed interest in being considered for the vacancy.

Motion by Piotrowski, seconded by Miller to appoint Chief Doug Starkey to fill the CIC vacancy. Roll call 6 yeas.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business - None

Payment of Bills – No questions

Committee Reports

Crystal Latimer announced that the Street Committee met before Council tonight and the Committee voted to proceed with Sherman Street and Eastwood Street in 2010.

Bill Buskirk affirmed that 2010 will be a busy year for construction projects.

Citizens – None

Council meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Recorded by: Laurie Donatone  
Clerk of Council

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President of Council

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Clerk of Council