

City of Geneva Council Work Session – March 22, 2010

Bill Buskirk called the work session to order at 6:48 p.m.

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

Jim Pearson asked Council if they have the desire to put flowers on the light posts in town as seen in surrounding communities. A hanger sample made locally by Schmidt Welding was available to view. Mr. Pearson stated that there are 30 poles downtown. There would be a onetime cost of \$3,000.00 for hangers and then \$2,000.00 annually for planting and watering. Rodger Fuller asked who would do the maintenance.

Mr. Pearson replied that there is not a lot of maintenance required besides shaping the flowers once a month. Part time help would do the watering.

Crystal Latimer suggested that watering tubes be installed which are turned on with a switch. Mr. Pearson stated that this project will be a reasonable cost and have great impact on the community.

Bill Buskirk affirmed that there is already sufficient money appropriated for this project.

Jim Pearson stated that the money would come out of Community Development.

Council agreed to move forward with this project.

Council Member Jeff Piotrowski arrived at 6:52 p.m.

Jim Pearson stated that there was an inquiry at the last JEDD Board Meeting to see if Harpersfield and Geneva City would entertain the approval of a Job Creation Tax Credit Program. This is another incentive that communities are using to attract business. Mr. Pearson stated that this would keep the City of Geneva on par with what other communities are doing.

Mr. Pearson gave Council a packet put together by Joe Mayernick to review.

Bill Buskirk affirmed that it is common for businesses to look for this kind of incentive.

Phil Cordova asked if Harpersfield has given an indication that they are on board.

Mr. Pearson replied that both communities wanted to spend more time thinking about it and added that he wanted to bring it to Council's attention. Both Communities would allow the JEDD Board to administer this tax credit.

Bruce Beckwith affirmed that in adopting a program like this, there would not be a problem having it within our own City.

Jim Pearson replied that if Council decided to move ahead, it would make sense that the City set up the same ability internally.

Bill Buskirk stated that he will be referring this to the Finance Committee for further discussion.

Work Session adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Recorded by: Laurie Donatone
Clerk of Council

MINUTES
City of Geneva
Council Meeting
March 22, 2010
7:00 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 March 8th, 2010 Council Meeting. Roll call, 6 yeas, 1 abstain - Miller.

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

Department Presentation – Wastewater – Gary Hydinger

Gary Hydinger passed an I & I Flow Study and Flow Charts to Council for review.

- 2009 had the second lowest flow through the plant in the last 10 years. The only year with lower flows had less than 29” of precipitation. 2009 had over 41” of precipitation and still only flowed 1.3 million gallons more for the entire year. Mr. Hydinger stated this is very encouraging and he feels the Wastewater Department is making progress on this front.
- Mr. Hydinger invited Council to come down to look at videos of the laterals on the Elm Street Project. Leaks, huge chunks of missing pipe and a new leak in plastic pipe where water is pouring into the sewer was found. These issues will be eliminated in the Elm Street Project and Mr. Hydinger feels they are making headway.
- Last year Beverly Hoffman was nominated and won the Northeast Ohio Section of the Ohio Water Environment Association Lab Analyst of the Year Award. This year, Ms. Hoffman will be named the State Lab Analyst of the Year. There will be a presentation in June. Mr. Hydinger is delighted at the prospect of Beverly Hoffman receiving recognition for the exceptional work that she has done and added that they are very proud and happy to have her at the City of Geneva Wastewater Plant.
- The new Lab Building construction will begin shortly. The vote at the plant was to paint the building leaf green with a bright white roof which has a higher solar reflective index - this will make a difference on air conditioning costs. Mr. Hydinger passed the paint chips to Council and asked for their approval.

Council had no objections to the Lab Building color choice.

Bill Buskirk thanked Gary Hydinger for his presentation.

Citizens

Paul Mikulin, Geneva Soccer League Board President, announced the following elected Board Members to be ratified by Council:

Term expiring December 31st, 2010

Paul Mikulin
Katie Carter
Sarah Gonzales
Nicolette Lechintar

Term expiring December 31st, 2011

Dan Dudik
Maureen Vaughn
Scott Carly

Motion by Piotrowski, seconded by Cordova to approve the Geneva Soccer League nominees.

Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion: Carried.

Bill Tokarczyk, Ashtabula County District Library Director, explained that a Library Levy will be placed on the May 4th ballot. The Ashtabula County District Library consists of the Ashtabula Public Library, Geneva Public Library and County Bookmobile. Mr. Tokarczyk gave Council a flyer of basic information and a map of the service area they are responsible for. Since 2001, State funding has declined – with a loss of over 2 million dollars. This has forced the Ashtabula County District Library to find another source of funding. They are requesting 1.25 mills to generate 1.4 million dollars which will provide a 50% match with the State. Mr. Tokarczyk asked Council for their support of this five year levy and essential services they provide and added that the Library could disappear in two to five years if State Funding continues to cut back.

Rodger Fuller asked what the levy equates to for each home.

Mr. Tokarczyk explained that the cost for a home valued at \$75,000.00 would be \$28.75 a year.

Bill Buskirk stated that Council is a sympathetic body who has seen the erosion of local government funds from the State over the last few years and affirmed that this does have a significant impact on the level of service that can be offered. Mr. Buskirk stated that he hopes this levy passes and wished Mr. Tokarczyk much luck.

Items for Consideration of Council

Ordinance 3023 was read, third reading. (AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVING ON THE GENEVA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD).

Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Ordinance 3023 duly passed.

Ordinance 3025 was read, first reading. (AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF NEW MATTER IN THE UPDATED AND REVISED CODIFIED ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLICATION OF SUCH NEW MATTER; TO REPEAL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY).

Jennifer Brown explained that this is an update to the Codified Ordinances which the City does every two years.

Bill Buskirk affirmed that this is standard housekeeping done every two years to publish the City's Codified Ordinances.

Jim Pearson stated that some years it has been less than two years and some years it has been more. They try to hold off until there is a good number of items to be codified.

Motion by Fuller, seconded by Beckwith to declare Ordinance 3025 an emergency measure. Roll call, 7 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 3025 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Ordinance 3025 duly passed.

Ordinance 3026 was read, first reading. (AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE FUND "257-911 EMERGENCY SERVICE FUND", AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY).

Bill Buskirk explained that the County sent rebates for a portion of 911 funds back to Municipalities. This is the creation of the fund to receive those dollars.

Jim Pearson added that this is money collected through cellular 911 and a formula developed to send money back to the communities. Administration felt it would be prudent to put that money in a fund to accumulate until such time that the Dispatch Center would need to upgrade software or something.

Motion by Beckwith, seconded by Latimer to declare Ordinance 3026 an emergency measure. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion by Fuller, seconded by Miller that the rule of law requiring certain Ordinances be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Ordinance 3026 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 7 yeas. Roll call on passage, 7 yeas. Ordinance 3026 duly passed.

City Manager's Report – Jim Pearson

- A 534 Corridor Study Meeting was held last week. Mr. Pearson is very excited about the progress and the company that is doing the work for the City. There will be a presentation Thursday, March 25th, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Mr. Pearson encouraged the public to attend and participate. Members of the Steering Committee will be there to answer questions.
- There have been requests from the school for sidewalks on Austin Rd. from Millwood to the new school. Tim Bittner measured 700 ft. Mr. Pearson stated that the City can do the work themselves through spring and summer if Council so desires. The cost will be approximately \$6,000.00 in materials.
- Mr. Pearson was happy to announce that he received a call from Arnold Pete with Ben-Fast, Inc. in Geneva to donate the metal roof for the covered bridge. A monetary donation was also received from Mr. Kroner who lives on South Broadway.

Bill Buskirk stated that the sidewalk project is important since they are anticipating moving into the new school on Austin Rd. this fall and there is no place to walk.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business

Jim Pearson stated that Mr. Greco was a long time Civil Service Commissioner who passed away leaving an open seat. This opening was advertised in the paper a couple of times. Mr. Frank Hocevar recently expressed interest in that position. Mr. Pearson explained that Mr. Hocevar worked for the Police Department during the 60's and 70's and was Chief of Police from 1980 to 1983. In the past the Service Committee has interviewed for this position when there are multiple candidates. Mr. Pearson asked Council how they would like to handle this. Council had no objections to Mr. Hocevar filling the open seat.

Motion by Beckwith, seconded by Piotrowski to appoint Frank Hocevar to fill the open Civil Service Commission seat. Roll call, 7 yeas. Motion: Carried.

Payment of Bills – No questions

Committee Reports

Tim Miller stated that a Utilities Committee Meeting was held this evening to discuss updates on Automatic Meter Reading, the Elm Street Project, Master Meters and an opportunity to receive grant money for solar panels.

Mr. Pearson explained that there are sizeable grants available from Ohio and Federal Tax Credits for programs to reduce energy costs. The City Municipal Building's energy cost would be reduced by 25%. The project is \$400,000.00. With a \$200,000.00 grant and Federal Tax Credits, Carbon Vision would make up the balance. There would be no capital cost to the City. The City would pay energy costs as they are today with an escalator for five years, purchase the system for \$15,000.00 and then the balance life of the solar panels would have a direct 25% reduction in kilowatts. Mr. Pearson stated that a number of Universities in Ohio have taken advantage of this and they are now going to Municipalities. Mr. Pearson would like to review this opportunity further, have Lauren Gardner look at it and then maybe come back to Council with a recommendation. Mr. Pearson added the fear is that money will dry up at some point and the City won't have this opportunity again.

Bill Buskirk stated that Council will be looking forward to hearing more about this opportunity.

Tim Miller stated that Dave Gilbert presented an update on Automatic Meter Reading and Mr. Pearson would like Council's approval to continue to look into this system. Bill Buskirk replied that this has been discussed for quite awhile and affirmed that Automatic Meter Reading offers a great deal of efficiency. Jim Pearson added that the systems are coming down in cost and the technology is getting much better. Mr. Pearson feels it's important to continue to look into this. The return on investment study shows this would almost pay for itself. The benefit to the resident is that they will get actual reads every month and leaks would be flagged and found immediately. Council had no objections to Mr. Pearson continuing to look into Automatic Meter Reading.

Citizens – None

Motion by Beckwith, seconded by Cordova for Council to adjourn to executive session to discuss property acquisition. Roll Call, 7 yeas. Council adjourned to executive session at 7:37 p.m.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Piotrowski to re-convene the March 22nd, 2010 Council Meeting. Roll call, 7 yeas. The meeting re-convened at 8:02 p.m.

Council meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Recorded by: Laurie Donatone
Clerk of Council

President of Council

Clerk of Council