

**MINUTES**  
**City of Geneva**  
**Council Meeting**  
**March 13, 2023**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Mr. Cordova opened the Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call – Philip Cordova, Robert Rosebrugh, Jeffrey Griffiths, James Baehr, and William Baker

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was said and prayer was offered by Pastor Harry Pishcura, New Life Assembly of God.

Mr. Griffiths noted that the minutes of February 27, 2023 should reflect a reference that he had made to a suggestion to have the ARPA funds pay for the Comprehensive Storm water Study.

Motion was made by James Baehr to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2023 council meeting, seconded by William Baker. Roll call, 6 yeas, (Cordova, Rosebrugh, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker, Barbo). Motion duly passed.

**Presentation** – Recreation Department – Myke Dowd Presenting.

There are eight Bitty Ball teams.

Summer events including Concerts in the Park, and Community Days are being planned and put together. A sponsor letter has gone out. July 27<sup>th</sup> will be Geneva Day at the Captains Game. The Water Battle is scheduled for July 9<sup>th</sup> at the Football Field. Pickleball is scheduled for Thursdays and Sundays from 1 to 4:00 p.m. There are 10 or 11 people participating in pickleball.

The City is promoting the call for sponsors on social meeting and is working on getting it on the website.

**Citizens** – None.

Mr. Butera arrived at 6:07 p.m.

**City Manager Report:**

The bid opening on the West Main Street project has been postponed for one week. The bid opening is scheduled for Friday at noon. The project is estimated at \$6 million. The City is awaiting word on the funding application submitted to the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant for \$3 million and the Transportation Budget request for \$500,000.

Weather permitting the Pleasant Ave. / SR 534 intersection widening project will begin on Monday March 20<sup>th</sup>. Pleasant Ave will closed to through traffic through approximately April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Harpersfield Water Tower project is still going through the preliminary EPA review. The hope is to have the project out to bid by April with construction starting in July or August. The project is expected to take 18 to 24 months. The project is currently estimated at \$2.75 million.

Discussion regarding the City's obligation under the contract. The project will move forward. The City's obligation is yet to be determined. The City does not need to budget for the project until the obligation is known. The contract has been in place since 2006. Mr. Cordova noted that Jim Pearson and Tom Sartini would have knowledge as to how the contract was meant to be interpreted; unplanned versus planned.

The City will begin meeting with the Township to discuss the Fire Protection Service Agreement set to expire in December of 2023.

Mr. Varckette and Ms. Welch met with C & P to discuss the GAAP conversion process. As a result of that meeting, C & P is revising the scope of services. The City anticipates having a recommendation at the next council meeting.

The Planning Commission continues to review our consultant's recommendations for the zoning code updates.

Ms. Noell Sivertsen, Zoning Inspector, presented requested changes to the codified ordinances regarding weeds and vacant property. Ms. Sivertsen stated that both requests were agreed to by the Planning Commission.

Changes to the codified ordinances regarding weeds would remove section 661 and create a separate section for weeds and tall grass under 676 which was repealed August 26, 1991. Ms. Sivertsen proposes to reduce the height limit of grass from the current 8 to 10 inches to 6 inches. Undeveloped property would not have to be cut.

Mr. Griffiths inquired about the use of native grasses. Ms. Sivertsen stated that native grasses would have to be lower than 6 inches.

Ms. Sivertsen proposed an Ordinance with regard to vacant properties. Vacant properties will be required to pay a fee to keep the property vacant. The City will be able to regulate the ordinance by water consumption. The vacant property fee will apply to commercial, industrial and residential. The fee would double each year up to five years. The fee would apply to each store front within a building. This will incentivize property owners to get their properties sold or occupied. To be exempted, the owner would need to have an active building permit or a listing agreement. The City Manager will have the right to waive the fee. There will be a review process as well.

Ms. Sivertsen noted that the information has been forwarded to Gary Pasqualone to put it into legislative form.

#### **Items for Consideration of Council:**

**Ordinance No. 3326 – Second Reading.** An Ordinance to Amend the Language of Section 1610.01 of the City of Geneva Fire Prevention Code.

**Ordinance No. 3328.** An Ordinance to Amend the 2023 Budget through Appropriations and Fund Transfers, attached hereto and marked Exhibit "A", and declaring an emergency.

Motion by James Baehr, seconded by Philip Cordova that the rule of law requiring certain Ordinances be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Ordinance No. 3328 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Rosebrugh, Griffiths, Baehr,

Baker). Motion by William Baker to declare and pass Ordinance No. 3328 as an emergency measure, seconded by Philip Cordova. Roll call, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Rosebrugh, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker). Roll call on passage, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Rosebrugh, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker). Ordinance No. 3328 duly passed.

**Resolution No. 3571.** A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of “Then and Now” Certificates by the Director of Finance for Purchases, and declaring an emergency.

Motion by James Baehr, seconded by Philip Cordova that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution No. 3571 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Rosebrugh, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker). Motion by Philip Cordova to declare and pass Resolution No. 3571 as an emergency measure, seconded by James Baehr. Roll call, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Rosebrugh, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker). Roll call on passage, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Rosebrugh, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker). Resolution No. 3571 duly passed.

**Unfinished Business:**

Mr. Pasqualone reported that there is an agreement between the City and Geneva Schools on the SRO contract.

**New Business** – None.

Council re-appointed Scott Carley, Brent Carrick, Phil Anderson, James Restad, and Wes Burns to the Soccer Board.

Council appointed Andy Netzel, Terri Carrick and Mike Palinkas to the Soccer Board.

**Payment of Bills** – None.

**Committee Reports** – None.

**Citizen** – None.

James Baehr made a motion to adjourn.

Philip Cordova seconded.

Council meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Recorded by: Phyllis Dunlap  
Clerk of Council

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President of Council

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Clerk of Council