

MINUTES
City of Geneva
Council Meeting
July 11, 2022
6:00 p.m.

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

Roll Call – Mario Butera, Philip Cordova, Jeffrey Griffiths, James Baehr, John Barbo, and William Baker

Absent – Robert Rosebrugh

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was said and prayer was offered by Phyllis Dunlap, Clerk of Council.

Motion was made by William Baker to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2022 council meeting, seconded by Philip Cordova. Roll call, 6 yeas, (Butera, Cordova, Griffiths, Baehr, Barbo, Baker). Motion duly passed.

Motion was made by James Baehr to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2022 special council meeting, seconded by John Barbo. Roll call, 5 yeas, (Butera, Griffiths, Baehr, Barbo, Baker), 1 abstention (Cordova). Motion duly passed.

Presentation – Growth Partnership - Greg Myers, Executive Director, Presenting.

Economic Development in the County is strong in manufacturing and travel tourism. However, the County faces some challenges like labor.

Investment is occurring in the Geneva area around Spire, the building of the new hotel, and the expansion of the Green Bay Packaging facility. Growth Partnership will continue to look at additional opportunities. Parcels available in the area are not that big.

County-wide interest is in manufacturing and healthcare. Ashtabula County is unique as it has two deep water ports, an airport and rail access.

The County is not heavy on utilities.

The scope of the projects is getting much larger, the footprint bigger; 500 to 2,000 acres. The County does not have a lot of larger scale development ready sites. The County is looking at reinvestment opportunities through the clean-up of brownfield sites and has received a \$1 million Brownfield Clean-up grant for a project in Conneaut and will seek available funds for county-wide brownfield opportunities.

Large investments have ripple effects; creating smaller investments.

Growth Partnership does not get into Community and Downtown Redevelopment. However, bringing investment in is tied to those types of investments. Second floor housing, Airbnb,

revitalization within historic downtown. These are strategies in terms of attracting talent. Housing is a big challenge. The County needs to attract talent, entry level, and those with BA degrees. In order to expand manufacturing you have to have employees. Housing and amenities in the downtown help attract talent.

Investment in the community needs certain skill sets. Growth Partnership is working with the local school districts on training that ties the training to the skills that companies need.

The County is seeing the most interest from sustainable industries, solar, and EV. There is a company coming into the County that makes components that go into solar.

Brownfields are limited as what can go on those properties. Brownfield properties are not suitable for housing or parks. There are restrictions on these properties. Solar fields can go on these properties.

Mr. Myers noted that the Governor has signed a bill authorizing \$500 million dollars in funding for the Appalachian Counties which includes Ashtabula County. Eligible activities include workforce development and restoring downtowns. This is a huge opportunity for the County. The application will be due in the fall. It will be a competitive process. Growth Partnership would like to facilitate a county-wide strategy bringing together the City Managers from the three big cities and open it up to the Townships and other community organizations. The County will be more competitive if communities partner together.

Mr. Griffiths and Mr. Baker would like to participate.

Citizens – None.

Items for Consideration of Council:

Resolution No. 3542. Adopting the Tax Budget of the City of Geneva for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2023 and submitting the same to the County Auditor and declaring an emergency.

The submission deadline for the tax budget is July 20, 2022.

Motion by John Barbo, seconded by Jeffrey Griffiths that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution No. 3542 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker, Barbo). Motion by James Baehr to declare and pass Resolution No. 3542 as an emergency measure, seconded by John Barbo. Roll call, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker, Barbo). Roll call on passage, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker, Barbo). Resolution No. 3542 duly passed.

Resolution No. 3543. A Resolution Declaring it Necessary to Improve the Streets in the City of Geneva by Supplying Electric Lighting, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Caya went over the process to levy the street lighting.

Potential projects that could utilize the Street Lighting Fund is the upgrading of the street lights to LED lighting in partnership with CEI which is included in the Gardner Plan.

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. 3543 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker, Barbo). Motion by Philip Cordova to declare and pass Resolution No. 3543 as an emergency measure, seconded by John Barbo. Roll call, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker, Barbo). Roll call on passage, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker, Barbo). Resolution No. 3543 duly passed.

Resolution No. 3544. A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contractual Agreement with the Ohio Patrolman's Benevolent Association Sergeants and Patrolmen, and declaring an emergency.

Key aspects include the police department going to 12 hour shifts beginning next year. Wage increases of 3% in 2022, 3% in 2023 and 2.5% in 2024. These terms are consistent with all four bargaining contracts. Employees will also contribute towards their health care 2.5% and 5% (years 2023 and 2024) with a cap. ARPA funds in the amount of \$28,000 annually are being utilized.

Motion by William Baker, seconded by James Baehr that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution No. 3544 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker, Barbo). Motion by William Baker to declare and pass Resolution No. 3544 as an emergency measure, seconded by Philip Cordova. Roll call, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker, Barbo). Roll call on passage, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker, Barbo). Resolution No. 3544 duly passed.

Resolution No. 3545. A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contractual Agreement with the Ohio Patrolman's Benevolent Association Dispatchers, and declaring an emergency.

Motion by Jeffrey Griffiths, seconded by John Barbo that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution No. 3545 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker, Barbo). Motion by William Baker to declare and pass Resolution No. 3545 as an emergency measure, seconded by Philip Cordova. Roll call, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker, Barbo). Roll call on passage, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker, Barbo). Resolution No. 3545 duly passed.

Resolution No. 3546. A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Apply for an Ohio Department of Natural Resources NatureWorks Grant Program, and declaring an emergency.

Motion by William Baker, seconded by John Barbo that the rule of law requiring certain Resolutions be read at three separate meetings be waived and suspended and Resolution No. 3546 be placed on the final roll for passage. Roll call, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker, Barbo). Motion by John Barbo to declare and pass Resolution No. 3546 as an emergency

measure, seconded by William Baker. Roll call, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker, Barbo). Roll call on passage, 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Griffiths, Baehr, Baker, Barbo). Resolution No. 3546 duly passed.

City Manager Report:

The second allocation of ARPA Funds should be received this week. The City will receive a little over \$622,000 in total. All ARPA funds must be encumbered by 2024 and expended by 2026. The City intends to use \$84,000 for personnel and \$94,000 towards the Gardiner project; \$450,000 is left. The remaining funds will be valuable in plugging any gaps for the West Main Street project which is being funded by multiple funding sources which are specific to what they will fund.

The City would like to obtain updates on the Gardiner project presented last fall. An issue has arisen with the HVAC unit at the courthouse which is one of the targeted improvements in the plan. The plan included upgrades in each of the facilities as well as the street lighting. The total project was estimated at \$500,000. Improvements estimated at \$94,000 are eligible for ARPA funds. Improvements estimated \$45,000 are eligible for NOPEC funds. As such, the amount needed to be financed is \$350,000 to \$370,000. With Council's approval the City will request the estimates be updated. The structure of this funding allows the first payment to be deferred into the next budget year, first payment would be due in mid-2023. The City can save a significant amount of money. Gardiner guarantees the estimated savings. Retrofitting the street lighting is estimated at \$300,000. Savings gained will pay the debt service. The City would like to extend the financing out ten years. The County has utilized this program and it works. Council is in favor of getting updated numbers and presenting them to Council.

There are two open seats on the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission meets on the first Monday of the month.

The City's new Zoning and Community Development employee will start at the City on August 1st.

Unfinished Business:

The City has not received an official award letter for the State Capital Budget project. Mr. Varquette has been informed that there is an error in wording on the award.

KeyBank property is looking better.

New Business:

Fireworks legislation was passed at the Special Council meeting on June 27th. Although it was noisy the last couple of weeks, it was relatively quiet. Mr. Butera noted that having both options is more favorable.

Mr. Barbo inquired about the Warner building. Mr. Barbo was approached by someone with interest in the building. It was noted that others have looked at and have passed. The building is currently included in the funded Building Demolition program.

Payment of Bills – None.

Committee Reports – None.

Citizen:

Lowell Beaudoin
160 Raymond Ave., Geneva

Mr. Beaudoin noted that a City vehicle had been parked in the area near his home. The employee did not initially acknowledge Mr. Beaudoin's attempts to talk with him and was short when responding.

Jeffrey Griffiths made a motion to adjourn to executive session at 7:28 p.m. to discuss personnel, appointment of a public employee. Phil Cordova seconded the motion. Roll call on passage. 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Griffiths, Baehr, Barbo, Baker).

Jeffrey Griffiths made a motion to reconvene at 8:35 p.m. James Baehr seconded the motion. Roll call on passage. 6 yeas (Butera, Cordova, Griffiths, Baehr, Barbo, Baker).

James Baehr made a motion to adjourn.

Council meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Recorded by: Phyllis Dunlap
Clerk of Council

President of Council

Clerk of Council