

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of GENOA VILLAGE COUNCIL Meeting

May 16, 2016

Regular meeting

Mayor Ken Harsanje, Sr. called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Harsanje Sr. stated a gentleman had been in and looked at the sound system. He asked all council members to please make sure microphones were shut off after meeting.

Roll call:

Council members in attendance included Mr. Reed, Mr. Bittner, Mr. St. Marie, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Diebert, and Mr. Huston.

Also in attendance was Village Administrator Kevin Gladden and Village Solicitor Brian Ballenger

The minutes of the regular council meeting from May 2, 2016 were presented.

Mr. Lewis made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on May 2, 2016; seconded by Mr. Bittner.

Roll call:

Yea: Mr. Lewis, Mr. Bittner, Mr. St. Marie, Mr. Diebert, Mr. Huston and Mr. Reed

Nay: 0

Motion passed

ENGINEER'S REPORT- No report. Mr. Hertzfeld was not in attendance.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT- No written report.

Mr. Gladden reported that the Public Works crew has been working at the south substation on a regulator that was damaged by a squirrel that climbed in and had a flash over. It will be reviewed for repairs.

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You may have noticed at the old school house, the Village crews completed a set of steps. The old school house will be available and safe for homecoming.

Starting Tuesday, May 17, 2016 the Village will be getting the electric boxes back from the Village of Woodville so they can start planning set up for homecoming.

Applied to the Ottawa Sandusky Seneca County Solid Waste district again. Village will receive a \$3,000.00 grant for recycling and salvageable materials program which includes leaf pick up, brush pick up and grinding at the brush area. This is a yearly grant as long as it is being kept track of.

FISCAL OFFICER- No report. Ms. Van Nest was not in attendance.

MAYOR'S REPORT –

Mayor Harsanje Sr. reminded Council of the Homecoming June 3rd and 4th. Asked councilmen to please make themselves visible each day just for a few hours to get out and see the public.

Mayor Harsanje Sr. would like to get the Website updated by the next council meeting June 6, 2016. If anyone needs a picture taken for the website, please see him. Also if a biography has not been turned in yet, please get one in. It can be dropped off to one of the ladies in the Administration office.

Mr. Gladden stated when the computer is brought back to Council Chambers, he and the Mayor will make sure council members have their own email addresses and password. How to get into the computer and remote access will be written out for each member. With all the changes Mr. Gladden did not want to piece meal so it will all be done at once.

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Mayor Harsanje Sr. stated on May 10, 2016 there was a meeting for the Round Two of the Jurisdiction Meeting to discuss the risks and vulnerability that exist with all storms. Those in attendance were Mr. Bittner, Mr. Gladden, Chief Weis, Chief Denny Hartman from the Fire District, along with Fred Peterson and Sandy Hovis. Those two are putting together all the information from all communities and townships across Northwest Ohio and will write up a lot of the verbiage of what is seen and questions. What will happen is the Village will receive a report and the Mayor and Council will discuss and it will be returned with solutions. It will then be forwarded to the State EMA and FLMA. The Village will then become part of it, then when something happens example flooding, we will know what is going to happen. Mr. Gladden stated the last flooding was 1913 with 13 inches of rain. This program will help with the cleaning of Packer Creek. Mayor stated there will more to follow.

Mayor Harsanje Sr. reminded everyone on May 30, 2016 there will be a Memorial Day ceremony at Clay Township Cemetery.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development -

Mr. St. Marie reported a meeting was held May 9, 2016. At this meeting the committee mapped out State route 163 and State route 51, got names of land owners. Letters were sent to the owners asking if they would be willing to sell the land to a business. The committee plans on doing a survey of residents to see what type of business to bring into the Village and what they would support. The committee does not want to hurt any existing business, but good competition doesn't hurt. The committee plans to do some market analysis and do some legit research that may be available to other businesses, the county or the state.

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Streets & Sidewalks –

Mr. Reed reported there was a Tree Committee meeting Tuesday, May 10, 2016 to discuss items through the Village. The map was approved and will be going to Poggemeyer for price quote to be turned into a finished project.

Utilities –

Mr. Diebert reported there was a meeting before Council meeting to review the email that Mr. Diebert sent to Mr. Ballenger with regards to the changes he will be making to the utility ordinances. After review by Mr. Ballenger we can move forward with the other plans of collecting.

Finance/Insurance –

Mr. Huston reported there was a meeting before Council meeting. Committee is looking at ways for the Village to reduce some spending. He encouraged council members to look at the report the fiscal officer passes out and if any questions or concerns to please ask or comment. He will continue his monthly meetings with the fiscal officer.

Safety –

Mr. Bittner reported the minutes from the Fire District Trustee meeting were given to all Council members. Trustees have decided to forego two trucks and only go with one. Then next year looking into getting the second. Mayor Harsanje Sr. asked what station will be getting the new truck. Mr. Bittner stated at this time he did not know.

AD-HOC –

Mr. Lewis stated he knows several Council members will be helping with the set up and tear down for the homecoming. He asked council to please support the homecoming committee and do whatever possible to help.

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Personnel – No report

Mr. Reed scheduled a meeting for June 6, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

GUESTS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL –

Rick Tapia 75 N. Ashery St. asked about the status of the bike path.

Mr. Gladden stated the simplest answer is the Village is not sure. As of right now the Village budget precludes any money being set aside, since the Village of Genoa long ago took on the responsibility of tasking over the bike path all the way from Elmore without participation of another political ad entity. The Village does not have the money in the budget to cover cost because of the type of grants needed. Village will need to certify there is access money on hand. The Village is not able to that as of right now. However meeting with the Ottawa County Improvement Corporation, it is in an exploratory stage of possibly bringing back the Ottawa County Park District and putting some emphasis on that. They will be the lead agency to go out and look for grants. The Ottawa County Park District was founded in 1973 for the sole purpose of supporting the Rails to Trails or North Coast Inland Trail. When it came down to it, Elmore and the Village of Genoa got involved, but County Commissioners at the time refused to take responsibility. The park district at that time didn't exist because it was not funded. It is being looked at to be brought back. If they would bring back the Ottawa County Park District, the Village could work through that entity to get what Elmore, Clay Township and The Village of Genoa need done and possibly go towards Millbury. When we thought there wasn't much hope we got a little glimmer back. This is something Mr. Lewis, other Council members and people in the community are very much in favor of. The Village will continue to work on this but trying to find alternative funding sources.

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Mr. Gladden stated even in maintenance there have been cuts. There used to be three employees doing mowing now down to one. He stated residents may see higher paid Public Works employees cutting grass but with the way the grass is growing and the properties owned by the Village this is the best way to get it done. Again employees are working as a team.

Suzanna Trejo 302 Second St. asked about a tax credit. She stated Genoa citizens were hit really hard with a tax when the school levy passed. She stated on her street there are eight homes for sale, she feels these families cannot keep up with their homes anymore because of the taxes. She asked on this tax repeal if the Village has looked into not cutting the ¾% at one time and dividing it up.

Mayor Harsanje Sr. Stated Council has looked at a lot of different avenues and what was coming was to repeal the ¾% and just move on and get this done and get the money. The Village will not realize any of the money until after January 2017 and it will be slower than that coming in. Please believe Council has looked at every avenue that could be done without doing this, there was no other choice. The Village and Council are to run and maintain what the town and the residents are used to and what they deserve, especially a police force. Council does not want to slight the people at all, we have a nice safe community and the Police Department would be one of the first to be cut. The Village would have to go and ask someone else to do the policing, which would be all good and well because we do have the Township and Sheriff Department but they have a big area to cover and unfortunately the Village would possibly come second or third priorities. The Village needs to maintain where it is at and this is why Council has made this decision. As Mr. Gladden stated earlier please talk to your congressman or your legislators at the state level. Mayor Harsanje Sr. stated he has read articles where small towns are shutting down because they can no longer go.

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Mr. Gladden stated that dividing the $\frac{3}{4}\%$ repeal would only make accountants upset with the Village. That would make complicated issues all across the board.

Suzanna Trejo stated she was looking at it as not all the projects are going to happen at the same time. She asked why not phase it out to the project which has the most priority, which sounds like it would be the Police Department. They are the most necessary so why couldn't the January 2017 money be allocated toward the Police Department. Then do a third a third and a third so three years from now it is completely done and the Village will know exactly how much money is coming in and will know what projects are already behind them and don't need vast amounts of money.

Mr. Gladden stated he can tell as of right now, Town Hall needs \$175,000.00 and that is part of the equation. A boiler at \$28,000.00, \$100,000.00 for the elevator and if that breaks down one more time the obvious thing would be to shut it down, there would be no more Civic Theater, no use of the upstairs and Council has already been told that is not going to happen. If a benefactor came forward where the Village would not have to replace the elevator it would be great, but no one is volunteering to give \$100,000.00 for the repairs or replacement. The bell tower in the front of the building is falling apart and that is over \$50,000.00 to take it off and repair it. Council has looked at what projects could be held back. Three days this winter Town Hall went without heat, almost freezing up again. Thanks to the help from Tom Wojo from Wojo's Heating and Air and sending his employees with heaters and placing them where the water lines are, upstairs for the theater and in the boiler room it did not freeze up and saved the Village from it becoming more costly. The boiler is from back in the 1930's, it was a good one back then but is outdated now.

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Jennifer Widmer asked what the Annual Deficit is for the Village.

Mr. Huston replied as of right now there is no deficit, but the Village is very close. Predictions are the Village is going to hopefully keep increasing revenue.

Suzanna Trejo asked how does Council phase in eight families that are moving out of her block alone. That is a loss of income to Genoa, because those families with maybe the exception of one, they are all working families, both husband and wife. How does the Village make up for the loss of taxable income?

Mayor Harsanje Sr. stated he knows it's going to be unpopular but all avenues have been looked at and the Council decided this is the only decision at this time that they can make.

Mr. Gladden stated Ms. Trejo's point is a good point and Council is upset too, but this Council had nothing to do with Medicaid, the school funding, and nothing to do with cutting small governments. However your state representative is who should be hearing the same things from all of us. The state has an eight million dollar surplus and most villages in this area are in the same situation.

Mr. Bittner stated the money the Village received from the schools is no longer available because the schools moved out. That was about \$40-\$60,000.

Mr. Gladden stated the schools were the Village's largest employer. The second largest employer was Superior Wire and they also have moved. The Village has gotten BCA trucking and that has helped a little, and they will be expanding. Maybe in the future the Village will get some back. With the economic situation the Mayor has been talking to other Mayors and Administrators and if economic conditions improve maybe some of that tax break can be reinstated.

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around this area has a small chance of being passed. All Council is looking for is ¾%, it doesn't affect everybody it affects the people who work out of town but live in the Village and have all the Village services.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS –

At this time Mr. Huston presented the following Ordinance to the Council for third reading:

Ordinance #14-2016

An ordinance to amend Section 181.08, titled credit for tax paid to another municipality, of the Village of Genoa Codified Ordinance which repeals the tax credit for income taxes paid to another Municipality.

Mr. Huston made a motion to adopt Ordinance #14-2016. Seconded by Mr. Reed

Roll Call:

Yea: Mr. Huston, Mr. Reed, Mr. St. Marie, Mr. Bittner, Mr. Lewis

Nay: Mr. Diebert

Motion passed.

At this time Mr. Reed presented the following Ordinance to the Council for first reading:

Ordinance #16-2016

An ordinance to vacate a portion of alley between Ninth, Eighth and Wilson St.

With no further business of the Village, Mr. Diebert made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Bittner. Roll call:

Yea: Mr. Diebert, Mr. Bittner, Mr. Huston, Mr. Lewis, Mr. St. Marie, and Mr. Reed

Nay: 0

Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

An audio CD of this meeting is available.

ATTEST: Jenna Van Ness
Fiscal Officer

SIGNED: Kenneth H. Hunsinger
Mayor

Approved: 6-6-16