

RESOLUTION NO. 54-21

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION TO THOSE WHO ENVISIONED A LODGE AT GENEVA ON THE LAKE AND MADE IT HAPPEN, AND TO ENCOURAGE THE ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND ELECTED LEADERS TO PUBLICLY ENGAGE AND COLLABORATE WITH THE PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LODGE AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GENERATED BY THE LODGE.

WHEREAS, the Lodge at Geneva-on-the-Lake has been under the ownership of Ashtabula County and operated by Delaware North since its creation within the Village of Geneva-on-the-Lake in 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Lodge was envisioned and created by the hard work and foresight of various Ashtabula County Commissioners and elected representatives, including Robert and Ross Boggs, Duane Feher, Jeanne Bento, George Distel and Deborah Newcomb, and has continued to thrive despite unwarranted negativism.

WHEREAS, various Ashtabula County Commissioners have worked closely with Delaware North, the Convention and Facilities Authority (CFA), the Ashtabula County Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACCVB), Kent State, local wine producers and various municipal governments and townships and others: committed to open meetings, transparency, trust and an unprecedented level of public and private sector cooperation and collaboration which has transformed, and is still transforming Ashtabula County.

WHEREAS, this unprecedented private/public partnership has been enormously successful and exceeded expectations by creating the most successful publicly funded lodge in the State of Ohio, helping generate more than \$500 million in tourism revenue at an average annual revenue growth of 11%, and has helped enhance land values, economic development, jobs and needed tax revenue to local governments, and spawned even more development across Ashtabula County.

WHEREAS, the State Legislature quietly passed Sub HB 110 including a provision to allow ODNR to take ownership of the Lodge, without public notice, comment or input and disrupting nearly twenty years of coordinated efforts and relationships among stakeholders.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Conneaut, County of Ashtabula and State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That the City of Conneaut wishes first to thank all those in the private and public sector who envisioned, funded, created and maintained the Lodge at Geneva on the Lake when nobody else would take the risk, and to further express gratitude for the unique and novel private/public partner-ships that have made the Lodge a success, and for the openness, transparency, cooperation and collaboration that has transformed and continues to transform Ashtabula County in ways never thought possible.

SECTION 2. That the City of Conneaut encourages the Ashtabula County Commissioners to publicly and earnestly engage and utilize the people, private businesses and other organizations which have created the most successful publicly funded lodge in the State of Ohio, and to do so in such a manner as to continue to grow Ashtabula County tourism and serve the best interests of Ashtabula County.

SECTION 3. That the Clerk of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to Senator Sandra O'Brien, Governor Mike DeWine and the Ashtabula County Commissioners.

SECTION 4. That it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council or any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Passed this 21st day of July, 2021.

Don A. Casar
President of Council

ATTEST:

Pamela O'Connell
Clerk of Council

I, Pamela O'Connell, Clerk of the Council of the City of Conneaut, Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of Res. No. 54-21 passed on the 21st day of July, 2021, by said Council.
Pamela O'Connell
Clerk of Council 7-26-21