

AGENDA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF GENEVA, NEW YORK

MAY 7, 2025

**City Hall
2nd Floor Council Chambers
47 Castle Street
Geneva NY 14456**

EXECUTIVE SESSION STARTS AT 6:30PM

To discuss the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property

COUNCIL MEETING STARTS AT 7:00PM

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- I. CALL TO ORDER – Deputy Mayor, William Pealer
- II. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. ROLL CALL
- V. PROCLAMATIONS
 - A. Mt. Olive Church
 - B. American Legion Auxiliary
- VI. DISCUSSION
 - A. MAP Grant Selection Committee – Councilor Pealer
- VII. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

This portion of the meeting is dedicated to correction of meeting minutes for the following Council session.

 - A. March 24, 2025 (Special Council Meeting) (p. 3)
 - B. March 25, 2025 (Special Council Meeting) (p. 5)
 - C. April 2, 2025 (Regular Council Meeting) (p. 7)
 - D. April 5, 2025 (Special Council Meeting) (p. 24)
 - E. April 17, 2025 (Special Council Meeting) (p. 25)
 - F. April 21, 2025 (Special Council Meeting) (p. 27)
 - G. April 28, 2025 (Special Council Meeting) (p. 35)

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

This portion of the meeting is dedicated to receiving comments on any topics. The standard time limit for public comment is three (3) minutes.

IX. CITY MANAGER REPORT –*This portion of the meeting is dedicated to presentation of a report by the City Comptroller on non-action matters that have not been addressed elsewhere on the agenda.*

X. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

XI. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

This portion of the meeting is dedicated to presentation of reports by the Mayor and City Councilors on non-action matters that have not been addressed elsewhere on the agenda

XII. ADJOURNMENT

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

March 24, 2025 – 5:30 PM
City Hall – 2nd Floor Council Room
47 Castle Street
Geneva, NY 14456

Presiding – Steve Valentino, Mayor

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Moracco, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Pealer (arrived at 5:54),
Clr. Lavin, Clr. Brennan

Absent:

2. PRESENTATION – 2026 Budget Workshop

City Manager Hendrix opened the presentation noting that Council requested beginning budget discussions earlier this year.

Comptroller Blowers reviewed the General Fund Budget to include revenues and expenditures. He then went on to review the Water Fund and Sewer Fund, including both funds revenues and expenditures. Discussion occurred around Town commercial water and sewer billing. City Manager Hendrix shared that she expects preliminary information from the rate study in July. Mayor Valentino stressed that there would be no windfall here to lower taxes. Comptroller Blowers explained water plant and water maintenance budget delineations. Future water safety was discussed.

Comptroller Blowers reviewed Capital Budgeting next, explaining that planning helps manage assets and prioritize projects. He shared that funding strategies include bonds and grants.

Fund Balance was explained next, by Comptroller Blowers, as a measure of financial health for the City. He explained that the City's bond rating is pretty high, meaning there is a positive outlook, the City has good credit.

Fund balance classifications were reviewed next, to include restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned.

Councilor Brennan wondered if an occupancy tax was levied on short term rentals, if that revenue would have to be allocated for a specific purpose. City Manager Hendrix explained that it would have to go into a tourism funding stream. Mayor Valentino explained that it may be challenging to get a state rep to carry that type of legislation forward, as any tax increase legislation is taboo.

Comptroller Blowers then explained PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) agreements, then tax caps. Councilor Pealer wondered when the resolution allowing the City to exceed the property tax cap would be rescinded.

Discussion followed around the why's and why not's of rescinding. Taxable assessed value was then reviewed along with the tax levy and tax rate.

The discussion then turned to forecasting the 2026 budget, taking into consideration anticipated revenue and expense changes, fixed costs, and collective bargaining agreements. Councilor Gillotte wondered if Council would meet with managers early on in the budget process. Meetings with department heads are scheduled on April 21 and April 28.

Councilor Lavin committed to more direction this year to avoid a budget coming in too high. City Manager Hendrix explained that in April departments will give Council fiscal drivers, council will then provide direction, and the City Manager will provide departments direction. Councilor Pealer shared that he'd like to see realistic budgeting for realistic budgets, noting increasing labor costs. Discussion followed around keeping a vision of what councilors want the City to look like in the future and budget towards that goal.

3. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Moracco
MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:57pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nicole Tillotson

City Clerk

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

March 25, 2025 – 5:30 PM
City Hall – 2nd Floor Council Room
47 Castle Street
Geneva, NY 14456

Presiding – Steve Valentino, Mayor

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Whitfield (arrived at 5:34), Clr. Moracco, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Lavin,
Clr. Brennan
Absent: Clr. Pealer

2. DISCUSSION – Comprehensive Plan

Mayor Valentino posed a few questions about the Comprehensive Plan to Council: Why are we meeting, what do we want out of this meeting, and reminded everyone of the shared goal of giving direction to staff.

Councilor Petropoulos emphasized the need to update the Comprehensive plan post-Covid, as the current plan is in many ways no longer relevant. City Manager Hendrix reminded Council that the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning corollate, and are needed for projects. Councilor Brennan observed that a lot of the current plan is obsolete, and will require a professional consultant. He recommended updates for certain economic indicators, and to shrink parts of the Comprehensive Plan the City doesn't really need anymore. Director West explained that some parts of the plan are tied to grant funding requirements. Councilor Brennan added that economic development guides ways to grow Geneva, not just shrink the budget. He also expressed the importance of architecture, how it can accentuate the positive, and a focus on the lake and tourism. DRI components were discussed, as well as Zoning that will need to be updated in the Comp Plan. Councilor Brennan noted that form based and hybrid scenarios should be addressed. Mayor Valentino reminded Council that zoning is a living document, that will continually be updated, and needs to tie in with the comp plan. Councilor Lavin wondered if the plan is used for attracting and explaining opportunities for people coming to the City, discussion followed. Director West explained that the Comp Plan is important, but zoning is more important. He explained that the Comp Plan should be changed first, then zoning changes can be made to support the Comp Plan. Councilor Petropoulos wondered if TUD is mandatory for consistent quality design. Director West explained that that part of the plan is related to old zoning.

Councilor Gillotte would like to see a focus on increasing revenue, tourism, upgrade neighborhoods, and addressing housing issues. He recommends prioritizing direction rather than playing the whole field, utilizing a consultant to help stay focused. Director West suggested looking at what the City has done that the Comp Plan directs (5 Priorities), noting that some things aren't accomplished because staff don't currently have capacity. He also recommended going through the plan, and where it says "you should do this," did we? And do we still want to? Councilor Petropoulos explained that he'd like to see downtown property owners motivated to fix their upstairs units. Mayor Valentino applauded the conversation with good staff direction, and hears the need for a consultant and community input. Councilor Gillotte explained how important it is to get people involved. The involvement will help increase enthusiasm over all and get better ideas, noting that there's lots of talent in Geneva

to tap. Councilor Whitfield agreed that community input is important, and wants to listen to the voices that haven't been heard. He stressed the importance of including areas that surround downtown. He reminded Council that visitors will see the whole City, neighborhoods that aren't downtown, and these areas need to be attractive as well. Discussion followed around zoning, and how to survey the community for their input. Town Halls and the Neighbors Together group were suggested as good platforms. Discussion followed around neighborhood grocers. Councilor Lavin noted that there is a need for more than public input, and suggested that the City has assets poised to fuel the future of the City. He suggested a consultant can look at assets with clear eyes.

Director West commented that the scope of the plan should not be too specific, and built to last 10 years, showing what Council wants staff to address with limited resources. He suggested considering how programs are run, City Hall hours, strategies to reduce flooding, and job pathways. He further explained that the plan isn't what projects should we do, it's community defining most important problems to work on. Councilor Grimaldi advises keeping the plan general, vague, and broad, something that says "this is what we want to do, this is where we are going." Director West provided examples of Comp Plan items vs. Master Plan items, for clarification. Comp Plan items include layers of planning; for example, walkable, allow shops in neighborhoods; or data of why we need housing density. He also explained that Master Plan examples are more specific pointing to certain lots, nodes of retail, and changing zoning. City Manager Hendrix explained that if Council wants to look at another phase of DRI, it would be wise to tie in the County's strategic plan into the City's Comp Plan, as it will open up funding opportunities. Director West recommended incorporating a housing needs/demands analysis into the plan as well. City Manager Hendrix reviewed the Economic Strategy document with Council, noting that it will give ideas of what has been done, and what we want to do, and what to focus on. Councilor Whitfield noted that he'd like to see a focus on people already living in Geneva as well. Mayor Valentino reminded Council to familiarize themselves with the current plan and be prepared for the community to potentially disagree with what Council sees as priorities for the Comprehensive Plan. Councilor Lavin noted the benefit from allowing more density downtown, more height, which gained the interest of Developers. He also expressed an interest in working on items such as taxes and density questions.

While discussing timeframe Mayor Valentino explained that he'd like to move forward with the plan this year. He noted that Council has agreed on engaging a consultant, gathering community input, focus on tourism and lake access, and an unbiased look at assets. He applauded this good direction.

Councilor Petropoulos wondered about public safety, corridors, and how to enhance the border areas of the City. Safety was discussed, and Director West noted that safety can be an issue raised, as a useful question. He cautioned against asking questions about things that we can't do anything about. He noted that urban planning, daycare and jobs are all connected to safety.

City Manager Hendrix reviewed Council's consensus to include: engaging a consultant, developing a system for Comprehensive Plan, noting that the first zoning update started housing conversations with developers, start basis with RFP, community involvement and consultant are key, town halls and groups the consultant doesn't have can enhance the process, and a way to find some of the voices that are hard to hear.

To begin, Mayor Valentino would like to develop an RFP, and cautioned Council to be prepared to hear community ideas that may differ from theirs. He also recommended that Councilors talk with members of the previous Comprehensive Plan Committee. The RFP timeframe will drive the next meeting.

3. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Moracco

MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:39pm

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nicole Tillotson

City Clerk

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

April 2, 2025 – 7:00 PM
City Hall – 2nd Floor Council Room
47 Castle Street
Geneva, NY 14456

Presiding – Steve Valentino, Mayor

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Moracco

MOVED THAT council move to executive session at 6:00 to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of the civil service law, and the employment history of a particular person or corporation.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6-2 absent)

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Whitfield

MOVED THAT council exit executive session at 6:58pm

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Moracco, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Pealer, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Brennan

Absent:

3. PUBLIC HEARING - Amending City Code Section 327-2 Appointment of Members of the Shade Tree Committee

Mayor Valentino opened the public hearing at 7:01pm. With no comment offered at this time, he closed the public hearing at 7:01pm.

4. PUBLIC HEARING - CDBG Application Supporting Heglovich LLC DBA For Bitter For Worse

Mayor Valentino opened the public hearing at 7:01pm. With no comment offered at this time, he closed the public hearing at 7:01pm.

5. PROCLAMATIONS

A. Fair Housing Month

B. Arbor Day

6. PRESENTATION - Police Budget Advisory Board

Amaris Elliott-Engel, Secretary of the Police Budget Advisory Board opened the presentation by reviewing board members to include Chair Anthony Noone, Secretary Amaris Elliot-Engel, Elyse, Nepa, and Rick Hoyt. The

board currently has one vacancy. Secretary Elliott-Engel then reviewed the PBAB's mission to provide greater transparency in the budgeting process, examining expenditures and policy priorities, generate recommendations for the Geneva Police Department budget development process, review and share information with City Council, and understand the amount of discretionary spending allotted to the budget.

Secretary Elliott-Engel reported that the PBAB passed a resolution in January to restore two police officer positions in alignment with DCJS staffing recommendations, and the addition of a mental health professional to the police department. The DCJS study was reviewed, as well as the benefits the department would experience with the restoration of two officer and one mental health professional positions. She reviewed the vision for the mental health professional role to include crisis intervention, assessment and referral, education and training, and assisting with policy development. She explained that a Case Management Model is recommended for this position, and explored funding sources. The PBAB envisions this role increasing community trust, creating opportunities for community engagement, freeing officers up to focus on investigations and enforcement, an opportunity to treat underlying issues, and help with officer retention and recruitment. Mayor Valentino thanked Secretary Elliott-Engel and the entire Police Budget Advisory Board for their collaboration and work.

7. PRESENTATION - Overview of City Grant Awards

City Manager Hendrix provided a grant update, as of March 25, 2025. The City has received three grant award notifications this year, and is awaiting notification on four other grant applications. She shared that the City was recently awarded the Ontario County Infrastructure Grant which will help fund the ATAD project increasing waste water treatment capacity for additional housing planned in the City. Ongoing awards were reviewed to include Opioid Abatement, a noncompetitive ongoing funding source, and the Rural and Tribal Assistance Program (RTAP). 2024 grant awards were reviewed. The City has been awarded just over \$3 million from 2024 grant applications, while waiting to hear on a few applications from last year that haven't been awarded yet.

8. AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

ACTION TAKEN by Mayor Valentino; seconded by Ctr. Petropoulos

MOVED THAT the agenda be amended to add a Resolution SEQRA Determination of Significance relating to Ordinance Amending Chapter 300 to Establish a Transfer Station at the City's Resource Recovery Park and Authorizing an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Geneva, A Resolution Authorizing an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Geneva for the Operation of a Resource Recovery Facility, Enacting an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 300 to Establish a Transfer Station, and Creating User Fees for the Resource Recovery Park, a Resolution Amending the 2025 General Fund Budget, and Reconsideration of Resolution 16-2025 Supporting a Sale of Surplus Real Estate Parcel Number 104.8-1-34

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. DISCUSSION - Panhandling

Councilor Petropoulos opened the discussion by defining aggressive panhandling. He suggested legislation, noting that some cities in New York State have had aggressive panhandling ordinances hold up in court. Lt. Bielowicz explained that upon arrest, an aggressive panhandling suspect would be released immediately, and noted that all aggressive behavior is already against the law. Councilor Petropoulos explained that he'd still like to see legislation and enforcement downtown.

Councilor Whitfield wondered how many incidents of aggressive panhandling have occurred, to make it on this agenda. He also noted that not all panhandlers are looking for cash to buy drugs or alcohol; recently a panhandler approached him because he needed money to do his laundry. Lt. Bielowicz noted that there have been at least 50 complaints in the last month. Discussion followed around defining homelessness, to include couch surfing and sleeping outdoors. Councilor Gillotte wondered how the police department would recommend

people react when approached by a panhandler. Lt. Bielowicz recommended that if you're not going to give the panhandler money to politely say no and walk away. If after declining to give money, someone is followed and harassed, the panhandler could be arrested. Councilor Pealer raised concerns about panhandling not being good for business downtown. He also expressed frustration that incarceration isn't a deterrent. Councilor Whitfield raised concerns about wanting to control panhandling rather than help people. Mayor Valentino wrapped up the discussion suggesting a look at code and next steps.

10. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Pealer; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos

MOVED THAT the minutes of the February 25, February 27, March 4, March 5, and March 10, 2025

Council Meeting be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Gregory Peck addressed Council, explaining that reducing the number of Councilmembers would reduce voices, if council was to be reduced to seven or five members. He recalled residents of Ward 6 experiencing two deaths of Councilors while in office, leaving them unrepresented for some time on two occasions in recent memory. He then recalled an experience he had while living in Connecticut, where a council was reduced from five to three by unexpectedly vacant seats. This led to too much work for the three remaining representatives to manage, and summer months going by with no meetings or business being handled by the body. Mr. Peck observed less and less civic engagement, and concerns of there being too much work for a body of 5 in the City of Geneva, also noting that even the current council isn't very diverse.

Anne Hoyt, of the Geneva Green Committee shared the Climate Smart Committee in the City of Canandaigua, and all they have accomplished for that City. She shared that the Green Committee is already doing all of the things the Canandaigua Climate Smart Committee is doing, and noted that the City of Geneva isn't getting any credit for the work without the Climate Smart designation. She recommended moving the Green Committee to official committee status pretty quickly, to move the City towards the Climate Smart designation. She explained that several Green Committee activities can earn points towards Climate Smart status including giving away composting bins, rain barrel workshops, pollinator days, DPW education, and community education.

Antonio Aguilera of Jackson Street shared his concerns about agitating and moving soil during construction at the Foundry site, with the proposed Home Leasing development. He explained that he is opposed to the development, and voiced concerns about traffic and back yard flooding.

Cruz Aguilera, a Jackson Street resident explained that the neighborhood is already crowded, and a good community. He has concerns that construction at the Foundry site may also affect the lake's health, and that neighbors are scared and unsure what to do.

Nancy Velez-Anderson, an Exchange Street resident shared that her backyard backs up to the Foundry site. She explained her opposition to developers disturbing soil on the site, and raised concerns about remediation only moving out 24" of soil while mercury can seep 3 feet into the ground, which will be disturbed with development of the property. She encouraged the developer and City to find another location for the project, which she believes belongs among businesses, not in a residential area. She further explained that neighbors don't want 60 units and their noises since its' subsidized housing.

Mark Gramling, of Jackson Street explained that he is disturbed by the rushed process developing the Foundry site, and encouraged the City to invest in its residents. He raised concerns about isolating poverty in a single

location, and for a project that mirrors the income of the neighborhood, which will increase crime, and violence. He suggested that the City should prioritize integration, not segregation. He also raised concerns about how this development violates the Comprehensive Plan, and expressed concern that the City is wasting money on a Comprehensive Plan update to justify the development of the Foundry site. He suggested that marginalized communities are forced into contaminated places, noting that a similar project proposed for Slosson Lane was rejected because it could lower home values, and didn't fit with the neighborhood, asking why Jackson Street is different. He went on to explain that dismissing crime concerns doesn't make Geneva safer. He explained the purpose of mixed income neighborhoods is to reduce crime. Mr. Gramling shared that he's not opposed to affordable housing, he's opposed to poor planning. He suggested that this plan is reckless, and perpetuating systemic pollution racism, and will force current home owners to relocate.

Maira Aguila, shared that she lives on Jackson Street with her husband and children ages 5, 8, 8, 3, and 3. They have lived on Jackson Street for fourteen years, and have asked the City on multiple occasions to purchase the property next to their house. She expressed her concerns about the proposed Foundry site development, raising traffic congestion concerns with evening and weekend services at the Parrish being made worse by adding a 60 unit building to the neighborhood. She encouraged Council to reverse their decision and consider Jackson Street residents.

Catherine Price – Statement read by Clerk Tillotson:

Dear members of Council,

As I am not able to attend this evening's meeting, I am submitting this letter as public comment.

I would like to share my thoughts as a resident in Historic North, Ward 4, regarding the sale of the City property known as the Foundry site. The Director of Planning and Economic development, in collaboration with regional economic development entities, worked very hard to bring new development to Geneva. Ontario County, State of NY, regional & national developers have been watching Geneva change policy to encourage development and sell surplus land that has been stagnant for many years. They are watching this change with positivity and are excited to help us develop as a well-placed hub for intentional growth in the Finger Lakes.

Planning and Economic development was able to court a wonderful developer, Home Leasing, to create affordable housing in Geneva. Please remember, affordable housing means income consistent with this neighborhood. Employees of our downtown businesses NEED housing for people making \$18 to \$26 an hour (or \$32,000 to \$50,000 annually). This location behind Ashley Furniture and D&R Flooring is within walking distance of public transportation and downtown shopping. I have visited a property developed and managed by Home Leasing - Heritage Gardens in Henrietta and I drive by Huntington Apartments in Seneca Falls regularly. These are beautiful places to call home; places where I would live without hesitation.

If we reverse the sale of this property to a proven, collaborative developer simply because a few individuals oppose change, we risk far more than just one project. We will send a clear message that Geneva is not serious about growth. Developers will stop submitting proposals, state funding for development will dry up, and Ontario County Economic Development will once again view Geneva as an unreliable partner. City Council has expressed interest in lowering taxes, yet rejecting this opportunity directly undermines that goal. And despite talk about lowering taxes, rejecting this sale proves the opposite—that City Council is choosing to keep taxes high by turning down a real opportunity to grow the tax base.

Megan Houppert of Home Leasing introduced herself, and explained that she's heard fear and misinformation in the proposed workforce housing project on Jackson Street's next steps. She explained that community involvement is important to Home Leasing. She explained that the former Foundry is a great site for the proposed development, especially given its walkability. She shared that there will be community meetings, and understands what the public is worried about. She explained that there will be a site suitability analysis, required by NYS, as well as geothermal and environmental studies. She further explained that Home Leasing has built on many brownfield sites, and would never build on un-remediated soil, noting that some additional remediation may be required at the site. She also explained that these projects require mitigation or depressurization, to stop

vapors from coming into buildings. Ms. Houppert also explained that the project will be respectful to the existing neighborhood, and will go through a rigorous planning process where the public can express their concerns. Home Leasing's mission is to improve the life of residents and be a part of the community.

12. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Hendrix provided the following report:

Goal 1: Ensure Fiscal and Organizational Stewardship of City Resources

City Staff Vacancies

The two cost savings vacancies that are currently in place as part of the 2025 budget process are a police officer and sergeant vacancy. To assist in reducing the total 2025 budget a rolling vacancy of at least two positions must be kept until ~\$200,000 of cost savings is achieved.

Recruitment for a police officer will soon begin with a plan to hire for participation at the June Academy.

Hiring for Seasonal Labor

We are hiring seasonal laborers and recreation attendants. Please spread the word about these temporary positions at the Department of Public Works and Recreation Center. Applications are now open: <https://ontario-portal.mycivilservice.com/>

Exemption Reminder for Homeowners

The deadline to file exemptions, either new or renewal for Low-income senior is May 1st. New STAR Enhanced applications must be filed by May 1st. If you have been receiving the STAR Enhanced exemption there is no need to reapply. If you have questions on any exemptions, please reach out to the Assessor prior to May 1st by calling 315-484-0313 or 315-828-6552. The assessment office public hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-4pm. Other times are available by appointment, please call ahead.

City Window and Cornice Work

City Hall is currently under construction. Be advised that available parking spaces and traffic flow around city hall will be impacted and there will be inconveniences.

Normal business hour ingress and egress will be maintained during the project. Access to the ground floor elevator will also continue to be open.

Water and Sewer Rate Study Request for Proposals

We have received five proposals from consultants for the Water and Sewer Rate Study. Staff will be reviewing these documents to select a vendor to begin work on this important study. As mentioned in our budget meetings we have asked the selected consultant to have initial information prepared by the end of summer so that it may be incorporated into our budget discussions.

CDBG Housing Program Administrator Request for Proposals

We have received three proposals from firms able to administer the CDBG Housing Program. The selected firm will work with the homeowners to assist them with the construction process and ensure programmatic compliance. The firm is paid for by grant funds.

Bridge NY Middle Street Bridge Project Request for Proposals

We have received four proposals from firms to replace and install our Middle St Bridge. The selected firm will work DPW to install the bridge upgrades detailed in our Bridge-NY grant. The firm is paid for by grant funds.

Goal 2: Promote Economic Development within the City

Property Sales Process

The 2025 Second Quarter review is scheduled for the beginning of April and any offers not received by April 4, 2025 will be reviewed in the 3rd quarter with a due date of July 6, 2025. The City reserves the right to decline an offer for any reason if it is deemed to not be in the best interest of the future of the City.

Goal 3: Increase and Sustain Intergovernmental Relations with City Partners

YMCA Use of Washington Street Park

City staff members from DPW and Recreation met with the Director of the YMCA to discuss the use of Washington Street Park during the summer as a location during the construction at the Y. The teams will meet again at the park to review the needs of the YMCA to hold summer camp and where they can locate a large tent, portable toilets, and any other camp related items. If we can logistically support the YMCA use of the park, an agreement will be drawn up to outline the mutual responsibilities and will be further discussed at the May council meeting.

Fire Services Shared Services Meeting

Chief Parrotta is continuing to collect data from the other jurisdictions. Our next meeting is April 15, and the parties will further discuss areas of collaboration, including community engagement, financial/cost savings strategies, OSHA and training requirements, and ISO ratings systems.

Goal 4: Develop and Implement Strategies to Create and Continue Dynamic Communications Regarding City Actions

Community Conversations

Community Conversations kicked off on March 12 with just over a dozen community members, plus Councilmembers Brennan and Petropoulos. Our next community conversation will be held on April 18 from 11am – 1pm, with Special Guest Recreation Director David Sharman at the Bozzuto Center.

Radio

Starting on April 3, 2025 we will have an ongoing 7:50am radio presence highlighting the City of Geneva. This will allow time for myself and other City department leaders to provide updates on current projects, programs, and services as part of the morning radio program.

CGI Video Production

City staff will be working with CGI Video Production to create four videos about Geneva. These videos will be placed on our main page and allow us to highlight the City. We will be producing four videos – a welcome video and three themed videos. Categories are still being honed but a few thoughts are: Working & Investing in Geneva; Living & Staying in Geneva; Arts, Culture, & Community; Visting Geneva. Business members will also be provided sponsorship opportunities by CGI to compliment the City videos.

Goal 5: Enhance the Quality of Life for City Residents

Avian Influenza

Since January, Buildings and Grounds team members have worked 23 hours to collect, report, and dispose of 112 deceased waterfowl within the City, since January 2025.

Street Light Outages

50 new drivers have been received, and 21 outages have been repaired in last two weeks. We have hired a temporary employee to assist with additional electric work in the coming weeks.

Buildings and Grounds

Staff members are repairing mowers and fixing damages from winter operations. Playground equipment safety inspections have been completed, and deficiencies are being addressed.

Highway

Potholes and Utility Pavement Repairs are occurring throughout the City. Crews began saw-cutting utility break areas and repaired a sewer blockage under the Main Street median.

Water Treatment Plant Transformer Project

Switchgear equipment has been delivered to WTP and staff are coordinating an install with contractors. Staff began distribution flushing and chlorine residual testing. Water quality reports are included in this quarters water bills.

Lake Tunnel

The benches have been completed, and concrete sidewalk work is started. We look forward to the completion of this area by this summer. This is a DRI project.

Gazebo Replacement

We are coordinating Geneva Community Projects on the final concept for the replacement Gazebo at Lakefront. Funding was allocated by both GCP and the City to replace the current gazebo which is in disrepair.

13. ORDINANCE – Second Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 327-2, Appointment of Members of the Shade Tree Committee

City Manager Hendrix presented the following Ordinance:

BE IT ENACTED, by the City Council of the City of Geneva, Ontario County, State of New York, as follows:

WHEREAS, City of Geneva City Code Chapter 327 established a Shade Tree Committee in order to advise City Council regarding the care, preservation, planting and removal of trees in city parks and other public areas; and

WHEREAS, City Code Section 327-2 provides that members of the Shade Tree Committee are appointed by the City Manager and approved by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to amend Section 327-2 to provide for members of the Shade Tree Committee to be nominated by the City Manager and appointed by City Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Geneva, that:

Section 1. Amendment.

City Code Section 327-2, entitled "Creation and establishment of Shade Tree Committee" is hereby amended as follows:

The second sentence of Section 327-2 shall be replaced in its entirety and shall henceforth read:

The Committee shall consist of six to nine members, nominated by the City Manager and appointed by the City Council.

The remainder of Section 327-2 not amended as provided herein shall remain in effect.

Section 2. Validity and Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, word, section or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, word, section, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

Section 3. Inconsistency.

All other local laws and ordinances of the City of Geneva that are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed provided, however, that such repeal shall only be to the extent of such inconsistency. In all other respects, this ordinance shall be in addition to such other local laws or ordinances regulating and governing the subject matter covered herein.

Section 3. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days following its enactment.

**ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Pealer; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos
MOVED THAT this ordinance be approved
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

14. RESOLUTION – Supporting the CDBG Application for Heglovich LLC DBA For Bitter For Worse

Director West presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Geneva City Council supports programs and projects that align with the 2016 City of Geneva Comprehensive Plan, and

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva, New York, is committed to promoting economic vitality within the community; and

WHEREAS, New York State offers funding under the Community Development Block Grant Program which supports economic development projects; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with Heglovich LLC (DBA For Bitter For Worse), the City has identified a project that aligns with the objectives of the CDBG Economic Development Grant, including establishing a facility for the production of nonalcoholic cocktails at the Cornell Agriculture Technology Park (Tech Farm) in the City of Geneva; and

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva believes that securing the CDBG Economic Development Grant would provide necessary financial resources to further this project and positively impact the City's economic development goals;

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva acknowledges the importance of collaboration with local, regional, and federal partners, including Heglovich LLC, to maximize the impact and success of economic development initiatives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Geneva, as follows:

1. **Support for the Application:** The City of Geneva fully supports the submittal of an application for the CDBG Economic Development Grant to provide funding for Heglovich LLC's establishment of a nonalcoholic beverages production facility at the Cornell Agriculture Technology Park in the City of Geneva.

2. **Authorization to Apply:** The City of Geneva hereby authorizes the City Manager and appropriate City staff to submit and manage the application for the CDBG Economic Development Grant, including any necessary documents, reports, and follow-up actions required.

3. **Authorization to Accept:** The City of Geneva hereby authorizes the City Manager or Mayor to accept the grant, if awarded, and sign any grant-related contracts.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Lavin; seconded by Clr. Grimaldi

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. RESOLUTION – Authorizing the Implementation of Funding and Costs of a Transportation Project Which may be Eligible for Reimbursement from Bridge NY Funds

Director Venuti presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, a project for the Middle Street over Marsh Creek Superstructure Replacement, P.I.N. 4BNY80 (the Project") is eligible for funding under Title 23 U.S. Code, as amended, 23CFR as amended and PUB. L. 117-58 also known as the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law" (BIL); and

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva will design, let, and construct the Project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva desires to advance the Project by making a commitment of 100% of the local costs for the Preliminary Engineering and Right-of-Way Incidental phases

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council, duly convened does hereby

RESOLVE, that the City Council hereby approves the above-subject Project; and it is hereby further

RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby authorizes the City of Geneva to pay 100% of the cost of Preliminary Engineering and Right-of-Way Incidental, work for the Project or portions thereof, with the understanding that qualified costs may be eligible for federal-aid, state-aid, or reimbursement from Bridge NY funds; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the sum of \$205,000 is hereby appropriated from the General Fund and made available to cover the cost of participation in the above phase(s) of the Project; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby agrees that the City of Geneva shall be responsible for all costs of the Project which exceed the amount of federal-aid, state-aid, or NY Bridge funding awarded to the City of Geneva; and it is further

RESOLVED, that in the event the Project costs not covered by federal-aid, state-aid, or NY Bridge funding exceed the amount appropriated above, the City of Geneva shall convene as soon as possible to appropriate said excess amount immediately upon the notification by the Director of Public Works thereof; and it is further

RESOLVED, that City of Geneva hereby agrees that construction of the Project shall begin no later than twenty-four (24) months after award and the construction phase of the Project shall be completed within thirty (30) months; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the City Manager of the City of Geneva be and is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the City of Geneva all necessary agreements, certifications or reimbursement requests for federal-aid and/or state-aid with the New York State Department of Transportation in connection with the advancement or approval of the Project and providing for the administration of the Project and the City of Geneva's funding of Project costs and permanent funding of the local share of federal-aid and state-aid eligible Project costs and all Project costs within appropriations therefore that are not so eligible; and it is further

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the New York State Commissioner of Transportation by attaching it to any necessary Agreement in connection with the Project; and it is further

RESOLVED, this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Pealer; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos
MOVED THAT this resolution be approved
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. RESOLUTION – Authorizing an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Geneva for the Operation of a Resource Recovery Facility; Enacting an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 300 of the City Code to Establish a Transfer Station at the City's Resource Recovery Park; and Creating User Fees for the Resource Recovery Park

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City Council of Geneva, NY seeks to explore intermunicipal cooperation to better serve the waste management needs of the residents of the City and the Town of Geneva; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has identified an opportunity to operate a resource recovery facility for both municipalities, and believes this collaboration can enhance environmental sustainability and waste diversion efforts; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager has recommended entering an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Geneva to operate the resource recovery facility for a nine-month trial period; and

WHEREAS, in order to accommodate the facility operations, the City Council recognizes the need to amend Chapter 300 of the City Code to establish a transfer station at the City's Resource Recovery Park; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes it is in the best interest of the City to establish user fees for the use of the Resource Recovery Park to ensure the long-term sustainability of the facility and cover the operational costs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

1. Authorization of the City Manager to Enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement:

The City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to engage in an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Geneva for the operation of a resource recovery facility during a nine-month trial period. The City Manager shall have the authority to negotiate and finalize the terms of the agreement, ensuring it aligns with the goals of the City and protects the City's interests.

2. Enactment of Ordinance to Amend Chapter 300 of the City Code:

The City Council directs that an ordinance be drafted to amend Chapter 300 of the City Code to establish a transfer station at the City's Resource Recovery Park. The ordinance shall include appropriate provisions for the operation, maintenance, and oversight of the transfer station, in accordance with applicable regulations.

3. Creation of User Fees for the Resource Recovery Park:

The City Council hereby authorizes the creation of user fees for the Resource Recovery Park, to align with the current fees at the Town facility. City residents will obtain facility permits from the City Clerk and the fees for said permits shall be \$20 for a recycling sticker per vehicle for the calendar year and \$75 for a punch card that allows the disposal of 2 30-gallon bags of trash per punch, with the card containing 52 punches. There is not a limit on how many punches can be used at one time.

4. Trial Period Review:

After the nine-month trial period, the City Manager shall provide a report to the City Council on the effectiveness of the Intermunicipal Agreement and the operation of the transfer station. The report will include recommendations for continuation, modification, or termination of the agreement, and will assist in determining the long-term strategy for the Resource Recovery Park.

5. Effective Date:

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

City Manager Hendrix explained that this will be a nine-month long pilot program. Councilor Pealer wondered if the fee structure allows for Town residents to access the City's transfer station. City Manager Hendrix explained that it will be available for City and Town residents to use, and will follow the Town's fee structure, \$20 for an annual recycling tag, and \$75 for a 52-punch card, with each punch being good for two bags of trash. She also explained that the transfer station will be open on one weekday, and Saturday. Councilor Pealer wondered which Town employee would be staffing the City site, that is unknown at this time. Councilor Pealer then wondered what is operating on that site at this time. Director Venuti explained that currently yard debris and food scraps are collected there at no cost. Councilor Pealer wondered what the grant is offsetting, Director Venuti explained that it offsets labor, equipment, hauling and disposal costs. City Manager Hendrix added that the grant provides start up money, to gauge if current fees will cover costs of the transfer station.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Pealer; seconded by Clr. Lavin

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye - Clr. Moracco, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Pealer, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Brennan, Mayor Valentino

Nay - Clr. Whitfield

MOTION CARRIED (8-1)

17. RESOLUTION – SEQRA Determination of Significance Relating to Ordinance Amending Chapter 300 to Establish a Transfer Station at the City’s Resource Recovery Park and Authorizing an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Geneva

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City Council is considering an ordinance to amend City Code Chapter 300 to establish a transfer station to accept residential solid waste and recycling on a limited basis at the City's Resource Recovery Park on Doran Avenue, and also considering an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Geneva for the operation of the same (collectively as the "Action"); and

WHEREAS, the above referenced Action is an Unlisted action pursuant to Part 617 of the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) regulations; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is the only approving agency and is therefore the designated lead agency for SEQR review; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the Short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF); and

WHEREAS, the City Council has given consideration to the criteria for determining significance as set forth in Section 617.7 (c) of the SEQR Regulations and the information contained in Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the Short EAF.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council does hereby accept the findings contained in Parts 2 and 3 of the Short EAF and directs the City Manager to sign and date the Short EAF Part 3; and be it further .

RESOLVED, that the City Council has reasonably concluded that said Action **WILL NOT** result in any significant adverse environmental impacts based on the review of the Short Environmental Assessment Form; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the City Council does hereby make a Determination of Non-Significance on said Action, and the City Manager is hereby directed to issue the Negative Declaration as evidence of the City Council's determination of environmental non-significance.

**ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Lavin; seconded by Clr. Pealer
MOVED THAT this resolution be approved
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

18. RESOLUTION – Amending the 2025 General Fund Budget

Mayor Valentino presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva has a General Fund budget for 2025; and

WHEREAS, the approved 2025 Budget document does not include funding for shade structures at the lakefront or the summer concert series;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Geneva City Council hereby and in due form does amend the 2025 General Fund budget as follows:

2025 General Fund Balance	\$40,000
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Events - 8689.4112	\$10,000
Grounds Maintenance - 7110.4044	\$30,000

Mayor Valentino explained that this budget amendment allows for funding of the Lakefront Summer Concert Series which is well attended by residents and tourists, as well as repairs to the lakefront shade structures. Councilor Brennan wondered if the fabric is being replaced in its entirety. Director Venuti explained that the fabric, wiring and harnessing will all be replaced. Councilor Pealer wondered if the shade structure repair was

reduced from the budget, City Manager Hendrix confirmed that it was. Councilor Petropoulos wondered if the replacement fabric will last longer than the original structure. Director Venuti explained that the design lifespan is 8-10 years.

ACTION TAKEN by Mayor Valentino; seconded by Clr. Lavin

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye - Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Moracco, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Brennan, Mayor Valentino

 Nay - Clr. Pealer

MOTION CARRIED (8-1)

19. RECONSIDER RESOLUTION – 16-2025 Supporting a Sale of Surplus Real Estate Parcel Number 104.8-1-34

Councilor Pealer presented the following motion for reconsideration:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva has identified surplus real estate that is not serving a city goal, and

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva's adopted policy for Purchasing Geneva City-Owned Real Property calls for quarterly review of offers for city property by the Property Acquisition and Disposition Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Property Acquisition and Disposition Committee did meet on Feb. 3, 2025 to review offers received; and

WHEREAS, the Property Acquisition and Disposition Committee recommended proceeding with offers on Parcel Number 104.8-1-34 from Home Leasing, Middle & Hallenbeck from Cook Properties, and Crystal St. from Habitat for humanity of Greater Rochester; and

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva did hold a public hearing on the sale of Parcel Number 104.8-1-34 to Home Leasing on March 5, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Home Leasing did propose a sale price of \$70,000 due at closing with a non-refundable \$2,500 deposit due at the start of the due-diligence period good for one year with the option to extend that due-diligence period for an additional year with additional non-refundable \$2,500 deposits for each year up to 3 years; and

WHEREAS, entering into this contract and due-diligence period is a Type II (27) action under SEQR and further environmental review will be required once a design is proposed; and

WHEREAS, this project is consistent with all existing local plans, the project facilitates effective and efficient use of existing and future public resources so as to promote both economic development and preservation of community resources, and the project supports local businesses in a manner that will attract, create, and sustain employment opportunities in Geneva; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the City Manager to take all necessary action to enter into a contract for the sale of Parcel Number 104.8-1-34 to the Home Leasing team in accordance with the offer presented by Home Leasing. The City Manager is authorized to negotiate in the best interest of the City all details of sale not specified in the offer letter. Final closing on the sale will be subject to coordinated SEQR with the City of Geneva Planning Board once project details are complete and on approval of the proposed housing project and all necessary financing. Sale will be contingent on that project moving forward within a reasonable time frame and ownership will revert to the City if construction is not completed within 3 years of closing.

City Attorney Hou reviewed the process for bringing a resolution back for reconsideration, to include that the resolution can only be brought back by a councilmember who voted affirmatively the first time, and a 2/3 majority vote is required to rescind the approval of the resolution.

Councilor Pealer shared that he brought this motion to reconsider because he has more questions about the PILOT package, wondering what the value of the agreement will be per unit. Director West explained that there is no PILOT in place, as it will be negotiated later with the IDA. He noted that the developer has

proposed \$500 per year per unit. Councilor Pealer then wondered about the value of the property per unit. Director West explained that the value of affordable housing property is calculated differently, and that the value of the property to the City, once the project is completed will be around \$26 million. Councilor Pealer raised concerns about the tax burden being shifted to the remainder of tax payers, especially related to school taxes.

Councilor Petropoulos stated that he was against the project from the start, has a petition signed by area residents, and didn't like the developer's original presentation or design. He shared that the DEC says a park can go on that parcel, and suggested that instead of housing.

Councilor Moracco raised concerns about the proposed 60-70 unit building having only one parking spot per unit. He suggested that subsidized housing might be a better fit on Clark Street. He also wondered what jobs there are for new residents to fill, wondered how many people in Geneva are unemployed currently, and raised concerns about property value in the neighborhood.

Councilor Lavin apologized for describing the neighborhood as decrepit, explaining that he's been in homes in the City to deliver food, clothing, and care. He's familiar with cut up rental homes and the poor condition he finds many to be in. He recalled substandard housing during COVID leading to children going to the Boys & Girls' Club to do their work, which they simply couldn't do in their homes. Councilor Lavin recalled Council wanting more density to improve the quality of housing in the City when reviewing zoning. He explained that the tax base won't grow if we don't have places for people to live. He also explored the benefit of current residents in the older cut up rentals moving into new apartments, as this would lift current residents up. He also noted that the planning and zoning process will also occur. Councilor Lavin noted the benefits, as he sees them, to getting 200 people out of substandard housing, or new college grads into their first apartments and staying in Geneva.

Councilor Gillotte agreed that the original presentation was vague. He reminded council that the developer will reach out to the community and involve them before decisions are made, and that the City will have control over the planning and zoning board process. Director West confirmed that the developer is excited to engage with concerned neighbors, and wants the project to benefit the neighborhood. He explained that the developers have up to two years to get through the funding process, and explained that they are essentially working in the City, for the City for free for the first year until they secure funding, which could take up to two years. He shared that they will be going to the Planning Board for a special use permit, and noted that multi family housing is allowed on the parcel. He explained that the City will have control over how the building sits on the parcel, and its architecture. Councilor Gillotte explained that Home Leasing is a professional company, with a good history of keeping the community involved, and recalled that they still need to secure funding and environmental reviews. He explained that the more the City turns a shoulder and pushes away this project, the less interest there will be for developers to come to Geneva.

Councilor Brennan sympathized with neighbors who spoke during public comment, and voiced his support for the project, as the City needs to grow and signal that it's ready to take on projects. He stressed that it's important to be consistent as a City, recalling economic development talk being backtracked in the past.

Councilor Grimaldi shared that he has worked with Home Leasing, reporting that they can put up a good building, but voiced concerns about moving too quickly. He is in favor of rescinding and using the preferred developer model instead for this project, giving the City more control. City Manager Hendrix explained that the initial discussion occurred one month prior to presentation, and reminded Council that there will be neighborhood meetings, as this developer is committed to working with neighbors. She reminded Council that there is no proposed building design or layout for this project yet, an example of another project's building was used during the presentation to Council.

Councilor Whitfield commended neighbors for coming to the meeting and speaking, noting that this is the first meeting he's seen where minorities are the majority in attendance. He encouraged them to keep up the energy and raised concerns about some voices only being concerned because this proposed development is on their street.

Mayor Valentino shared that he's honored to have had the opportunity to sit on council in three different seats over the years, acknowledging that he can't please everyone. He complimented previous Councils for their efforts to clean up the Market Basket and Foundry.

Councilor Pealer explained that he sees home ownership as making people upwardly mobile, and wondered what jobs people in workforce housing will fill. He expressed concerns that renters don't care for the community like home owners do. He wondered why the developer doesn't get the project approved by the City before Council approves the sale, suggesting taking control back and using the preferred developer model. He wondered why the project will need a special use permit. Director West explained that a lot of projects require them, as the system gives the Planning Board more control over the process. Councilor Pealer wondered if the power is in the Planning Board, not Council with special use. Director West explained that the sale won't be finalized until the project has planning board approval.

Councilor Petropoulos thanked neighbors for coming out, promising to continue to represent them, noting that code is the next target, going after bad landlords.

Councilor Moracco recalled other projects coming up in the City, concerns about short term rentals taking away single-family homes, and expressed frustration at another project proposed to have 60-75 units, mostly one bedroom, which is not what he sees the City needing.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Pealer; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos

MOVED THAT this resolution be reconsidered

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye - Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Moracco, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Pealer
 Nay - Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Brennan, Mayor Valentino

MOTION CARRIED (5-4)

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Pealer; seconded by Clr. Gillotte

MOVED THAT this resolution be rescinded

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye - Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Moracco, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Pealer
 Nay - Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Brennan, Mayor Valentino

MOTION DEFEATED (4-5)

20. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Gillotte; seconded by Clr. Pealer

MOVED THAT Jessie Felde be appointed to the LDC

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Valentino appointed Councilors Petropoulos, Gillotte, and Brennan to the OEO Project team

Mayor Valentino appointed Councilor Brennan to the CDBG Housing RFP Program

21. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Brennan shared that Tom Burrall donated \$200 in firewood sales this month, bringing him past the \$1,500 mark in donations. 16 saplings were planted at HWS in City right of ways last week. The Historic Districts Commission had no applications, and no meeting.

Councilor Lavin commented on traffic between downtown and HWS campus, and shared that in reaction to resident's concerns about trash he's been walking with a garbage bag picking up 10 or so cans early in the

mornings, and will do so through graduation. He continues to hear about parking concerns from residents, and suggested exploring parking passes for residents in the area.

Councilor Pealer shared that Planning Board did not meet in March, but will meet in April. He wondered when the lake tunnel will open. Director Venuti shared that it's on track to open in before the Seneca Seven Race. Councilor Pealer wondered about getting a donation of infield clay for Jefferson Park. Director Venuti reminded him that the City can't ask for donations. Discussion followed.

Councilor Grimaldi shared that the Geneva Housing Authority is doing fine. They're finishing up some remodels, and have a couple of evictions in court. He wondered about the Media's lot, and if the owners are going to tear it down. Councilor Grimaldi commented that if the City is taking a stance on the school district curb cut, they should do it now.

Councilor Gillotte also wondered where Media's stands. Director West explained that the City could pay for demolition, which costs more than the property is worth and explained challenges around taking down a building built over a stream, that will require state involvement. BID is holding a hanging basket fundraiser, at \$45 per basket to fund a planter at Lake St. and 5&20. BID continues to expand transparency by adding minutes and the Directors Report to their website. Hometown Heros banners will go up next week, and the BID annual dinner was a success, thanks to all who attended. The Police Budget Advisory Board continues to do a great job, with good knowledge and collaboration.

Councilor Petropoulos shared that the LDC met earlier today. Upcoming events include Mission Zero on April 26, the last Indoor Market on April 12, and the Rink Plan open house on April 16. Home Leasing will be scheduling it's first neighborhood meeting at the library. Town Hall will be held at the Library on Saturday from 9:30-12:30 with special guest City Manager Amie Hendrix. The LDC is looking to fill two board seats for city residents working in banking.

Councilor Moracco is looking forward to the Town Hall on Saturday.

Councilor Whitfield shared that Recreation is preparing for Mission Zero, Spring Break Camp will be held April 14-18, the Easter Egg Hunt is on April 12 at the Rec Complex, signups are live for Soccer Tots and Youth Soccer, and congrats to the Geneva Generals and Hobart Hockey teams for their championship wins.

22. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Moracco

MOVED THAT council move to executive session at 9:58 to discuss the financial history of a particular person or corporation

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Brennan; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos

MOVED THAT council exit executive session at 10:28pm

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-2 absent)

23. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Brennan; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos

MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:28pm

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-2 absent)

Nicole Tillotson
City Clerk

DRAFT

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

April 5, 2025 – 9:30am
Geneva Public Library – Reading Room
244 Main Street
Geneva, NY 14456

Presiding – Councilor Petropoulos – Ward 5

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Moracco, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Brennan
Absent: Clr Whitfield, Clr. Pealer, Clr. Lavin, Mayor Valentino

2. DISCUSSION

Councilors took comments and concerns from residents with discussion occurring around aggressive panhandling, Code Enforcement, family friendly activities in the City, the Dunkin' project's progress, the former Media's property, improvements to Long Pier, housing investment in the City including several new housing projects, and senior housing needs.

City Manager Hendrix was in attendance and responded to inquiries on many of the subjects discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

With less than a quorum of City Councilmembers remaining at 12:30pm, the meeting was adjourned.

Nicole Tillotson
City Clerk

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

April 17, 2025 – 5:30 PM
City Hall – 2nd Floor Conference Room
47 Castle Street
Geneva, NY 14456

Presiding – Steve Valentino, Mayor

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Brennan
Absent: Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Moracco, Clr. Pealer

2. DISCUSSION – Comprehensive Plan

City Manager Hendrix opened the Comprehensive Plan discussion by explaining the RFP timeframe, which would be at least three weeks. Then four to six weeks to review and bring a consultant on board. Councilor Lavin wondered if this item should be held for next Council. It was suggested by City Manager Hendrix that a time frame could be set with the consultant for a final product delivered in one year, or whatever term council decides on. Councilor Brennan shared that the Town of Geneva is upgrading their Comp Plan as well, and wondered if there would be some benefit to tie in, if there would be a benefit for each party to do so. Councilor Petropoulos said he'd prefer to keep the Comp Plan, and eliminate anything that makes it a Master Plan. He then wondered if the City has a Master Plan. Director West explained that there are area plans. City Manager Hendrix added that a Comp Plan is required, while other plans are not. Mayor Valentino reminded Council that the current Comprehensive Plan points to other documents. Discussion followed around the state and courts allowing all plans to be treated as Comp Plans. Mayor Valentino shifted focus to the draft RFP, explaining that he likes what he sees including the general nature, timelines, deadlines, and reference to past projects. Councilor Lavin also approved of the draft RFP. Director West wondered if Council would like an interview process. All Councilmembers present affirmed that they would like an interview process, which will be added to the RFP. Councilor Petropoulos added that he'd like to collaborate with stakeholders for the plan, and wondered how the County was or wasn't involved in development of the current Comp Plan eight years ago. Councilor Gillotte suggested exploring stakeholder involvement during the interview process, while the Mayor agreed that a general RFP will allow applicants to be more creative in their response. City Manager Hendrix then reviewed some metrics in the draft RFP.

3. DISCUSSION – Boards and Commissions

Mayor Valentino reviewed boards and commissions abolished, and what's left. The Human Rights Commission was discussed. It was decided that the Commission would remain, so it's available should the City need it again. The Mayor then shared that he and the Clerk have met with the Board of Ethics Chair, and that board is reviewing tenants, etc. which may be refreshed in the near future.

Councilor Brennan shared that he is not in favor of any more side roads like the MAP grant selection process and boards and commissions inquiry. He'd prefer to focus efforts on the budget and Comp Plan, as there is a lot of work ahead of council. Mayor Valentino suggested that when requests for information are made, the majority of council should give direction. Discussion followed, to include helping new Councilmembers when they come on board in January, work projects, council size, and a charter update. Councilmembers present agreed that the Boards and Commissions are working well now, and no changes are requested.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Lavin; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos

MOVED THAT Council move to executive session at 6:00pm to discuss the employment history of a particular person.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Gillotte

MOVED THAT Council exit executive session at 6:18pm.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Lavin; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos

MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:19pm

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nicole Tillotson
City Clerk

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

April 21, 2025 – 5:30 PM
City Hall – 2nd Floor Conference Room
47 Castle Street
Geneva, NY 14456

Presiding – Steve Valentino, Mayor

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Brennan
Absent: Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Moracco, Clr. Pealer

2. AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

ACTION TAKEN by Mayor Valentino; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos

MOVED THAT the agenda be amended to include a resolution establishing a Public Hearing for the CDBG Program.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. ORDINANCE – Second reading of an Ordinance to Establish a Transfer Station

City Manager Hendrix presented the following ordinance:

Article I. General Provisions

Section 1. Authorization

The adoption of this Ordinance is in accordance with Section 10 of New York's Municipal Home Rule Law.

Section 2. Title and Purpose

This Ordinance shall be known as Ordinance No. 4 of 2025 to amend Chapter 300 of the City Code, to establish a transfer station at the City's Resource Recovery Park. The purpose of this Ordinance is to add a new Chapter 300-10.1, entitled "Disposal of Residential Solid Waste at the Resource Recovery Park".

Section 3. Legislative Finding

The City Council hereby acknowledges that Ontario County is intending to close the Ontario County Landfill, which is the designated disposal site for all solid waste generated in the City. The City maintains a Resource Recovery Park, which is a transfer station that currently receives residential yard waste and composting, and which the City Council believes would be an appropriate location to also serve as a transfer station for residential solid waste on a limited basis. The City Council finds that permitting the limited disposal of residential solid waste would serve the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Section 4. Validity and Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, word, section or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, word, section, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

Section 5. Inconsistency.

All other local laws and ordinances of the City of Geneva that are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed provided, however, that such repeal shall only be to the extent of such inconsistency. In all other respects, this ordinance shall be in addition to such other local laws or ordinances regulating and governing the subject matter covered herein.

Section 6. Effective Date

This Ordinance will take immediate effect upon approval by resolution by the City Council for the City of Geneva.

Article II. Amendments to the City Code of the City of Geneva

A new Chapter 300-10.1, entitled "Disposal of Residential Solid Waste at the Resource Recovery Park" shall be added as follows:

300-10.1 Disposal of Residential Solid Waste at the Resource Recovery Park

- A. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter, the Resource Recovery Park ("RRP") is authorized to receive residential solid waste for disposal and/or recycling, subject to the following limitations:
 - (1) The volume of waste and recyclables received shall be limited such that the RRP is an "exempt facility" as defined by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation regulations, that is exempt from NYS permitting requirements for solid waste and recycling transfer stations.
- B. Restrictions on residency and use.
 - (1) The RRP shall only be used for the disposal of residential solid waste and residential recyclables, in addition to residential yard waste and composting.
 - (2) No person shall deposit, dump or leave thereon or cause to be deposited, dumped or left thereon any garbage, rubbish or abandoned vehicles or parts thereof or any material or substance of any kind whatsoever unless he or she shall be a resident of the City, an owner of residential real property in the City, or a resident of a municipality with which the City has entered into an intermunicipal agreement with which permits the use of the RRP.
 - (3) No access or use of the RRP shall be permitted without having first obtained an annual permit for waste disposal and/or recycling from the City Clerk's office, and a fee paid as determined by City Council in accordance with the City's fee schedule. A person seeking a permit shall provide to the City Clerk proper proof of residency or property ownership within the City (or within any municipality under agreement with the City).
 - (4) The RRP not be used for the disposal of commercial solid waste, or construction and demolition debris.
 - (5) All licenses are nontransferable and nonrefundable.
- C. RRP rules and regulations.
 - (1) Use of the RRP shall be subject to rules and regulations promulgated by the City Department of Public Works, which may be revised from time to time by the DPW as deemed necessary.
 - (2) The City reserves the right to revoke any license at any time, without reimbursement, for misuse or a violation of any rules or regulations of the RRP.

INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT

Between the City of Geneva and the Town of Geneva

for the Operation of a Resource Recovery Pilot Program at the Doran Avenue Site

This **Intermunicipal Agreement** ("Agreement") is entered into on this ____ day of _____, 2025, by and between the **City of Geneva**, located in Ontario County, State of New York ("City"), and the **Town of Geneva**, located in Ontario County, State of New York ("Town").

WHEREAS, the Town of Geneva successfully and safely operates a resource recovery program for waste disposal, and the Town and City recognize the importance of expanding such programs to improve waste management practices in the region;

WHEREAS, both the City and the Town wish to collaborate on a pilot program that will accept recycling, metals, and trash at the Doran Avenue site in the City of Geneva;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises set forth herein, the parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE I: PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish the terms and conditions for the operation of a pilot program for resource recovery at the Doran Avenue site. This site will accept recycling, metals, and trash from both City and Town residents, who will be required to obtain permits for use.

ARTICLE II: OPERATIONAL DETAILS

Section 1. Pilot Program Operation

The Town and City will jointly operate a resource recovery program at the Doran Avenue site, which will be open during the following hours:

- **Thursdays:** 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- **Saturdays:** 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Section 2. Eligibility for Use

Both City and Town residents may utilize the site for the disposal of waste, subject to obtaining a permit as outlined in this Agreement.

Section 3. Permits

The City will be responsible for issuing permits to City residents at City Hall. Town residents will obtain permits from the Town Hall. Permits will allow access to the site for recycling, metals, and trash disposal.

Section 4. Fees

The following fees will apply to users of the program:

- **Recycling:** \$20 per vehicle, per calendar year
- **Waste Disposal:** \$75 per punch card. Each punch card will consist of 52 punches, with each punch allowing for two bags of garbage. More than one punch can be utilized per week.

ARTICLE III: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1. Town Responsibilities

The Town will:

- Provide on-site staffing for the operation of the resource recovery program.
- Assist in the development of the program.
- Utilize funds from grants to support the operation of the program.

Section 2. City Responsibilities

The City will:

- Provide the site at Doran Avenue for the operation of the pilot program.
- Procure the necessary equipment for maintaining the site, including waste bins, recycling containers, and other necessary materials.
- Assist in the coordination and management of the permitting process for City residents.
- Ensure waste removal is coordinated in an efficient manner.

ARTICLE IV: FUNDING AND COSTS

Section 1. Funding

The operation of this pilot program will be funded through current grants received by both the City and Town, aimed at reducing waste, as well as the fees collected from users of the program.

Section 2. Allocation of Funds

The parties agree to jointly oversee the use of any funds collected, ensuring that they are applied to the operation of the pilot program, including staffing, site maintenance, and equipment procurement.

ARTICLE V: TERM AND TERMINATION

Section 1. Term of Agreement

This Agreement will be effective from the date of execution and shall remain in effect until the conclusion of the pilot program, which is anticipated to be no later than one year from the effective date, unless extended by mutual agreement.

Section 2. Termination

Either party may terminate this Agreement with 30 days written notice, provided that such termination shall not affect any rights or obligations that accrued prior to termination.

ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS

Any amendments or modifications to this Agreement must be made in writing and executed by both the City and Town.

ARTICLE VII: MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. Indemnification

Each party agrees to indemnify and hold the other harmless from any claims, damages, or liabilities arising out of the operation of the pilot program, except where such claims arise from the negligence or willful misconduct of the other party.

Section 2. Dispute Resolution

In the event of a dispute under this Agreement, the parties will work in good faith to resolve the matter. If the dispute cannot be resolved through informal discussions, the parties agree to submit the dispute to non-binding mediation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed this Agreement as of the date first above written.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Gillotte; seconded by Clr. Grimaldi

MOVED THAT this ordinance be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. RESOLUTION – Establishing a Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant Program for the Housing Rehabilitation Grant

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Geneva City Council supports programs and projects that align with the 2016 City of Geneva Comprehensive Plan, and

WHEREAS, the City intends to apply to New York State for funding under the federal Community Development Block Grant Program in 2025; and

WHEREAS, applications include submission to the CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program; and

WHEREAS, the City may apply for funding for the following programs and activities: Infrastructure, Community Planning, Microenterprise, Housing, Small Business and Economic Development activities; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing has been held as part of the process to discuss community needs and seek support for the City's application to this program, and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that this project is a priority activity that contributes to the quality of life and safety for residents; and

WHEREAS, this project is consistent with all existing local plans, the project facilitates effective and efficient use of existing and future public resources so as to promote both community development and preservation of community resources; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Geneva, as follows:

1. **Support for the Application:** The City of Geneva fully supports the submittal of an application to New York State for funding under the federal Community Development Block Grant Program in 2025 for a Housing Rehabilitation Program and additional program activities.
2. **Authorization to Apply:** The City of Geneva hereby authorizes the City Manager and appropriate City staff to submit and manage the application for the CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Grant, including any necessary documents, reports, and follow-up actions required.
3. **Authorization to Accept:** The City of Geneva hereby authorizes the City Manager or Mayor to accept the grant, if awarded, and sign any grant-related contracts.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Lavin; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos
MOVED THAT this resolution be approved
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. PRESENTATION – 2026 Department Fiscal Drivers

City Manager Hendrix began the presentation by reviewing the City's Mission, Vision, and Values, and reviewing the 2026 Budget meeting schedule. City Council will receive their budget books on September 9, and will work through the budget at weekly meetings beginning on September 23, with final adoption of the 2026 budget by October 31, 2025.

City Manager Hendrix presented the City Manager's Office 2026 Budget Planning. She reviewed the department's role to include assist and direct department leadership to develop strategies and implement programs and services that align to the direction set forth by the Geneva City Council, while providing direct oversight to all City Departments. The City Manager's budget and staffing were reviewed, as well as items that were requested but not funded in 2025. 2026 Work Programs and Activities were reviewed to include a City wide building review, DRI Round 2 preparation, Professional Development Opportunities for staff, continued community communications enhancement, and shared service and advocacy for the City of Geneva. It was noted that staff are at communications capacity. The City Manager's future Capital Project, Equipment, and Resource needs include City buildings general maintenance, litigation, collective bargaining agreements, additional staffing in the City Manager's Office for admin support, Community Benchmarking (getting community input), and professional development for staff.

City Clerk Tillotson presented the City Clerk's Office 2026 Budget Planning. This department's role includes Chief Records Officer, Records Access Officer, and is responsible for accurately recording and reporting all proceedings of the Geneva City Council, as well as the keeping of vital statistics. The City Clerk supports City Council's efforts to enhance customer service, ensures appropriate staffing levels, as well as the appropriate mix of knowledgeable staff with the goal of meeting customer's needs on their first trip to City Hall. The City Clerk's budget and staffing were reviewed. There were no budget requests made in 2025 that were not funded. The City Clerk's Work Programs and Activities for 2026 include records restoration, FOIL services, Charter Review, and a Records Inventory Project. The Clerk's future capital projects, equipment, and resource needs include file storage space, historic document restoration and storage, FOIL management software, and agenda management software.

Chief Eveland presented the Police Department 2026 Budget Planning. The Geneva Police Department is an accredited law enforcement agency charged with protecting life and property within the City of Geneva. The Department is staffed across multiple divisions including administration, patrol operations, and special operations. The Police Department's 2025 budget and staffing were reviewed. 2025 budget request that weren't funded include one patrol officer, one social worker, one police car, and repaving of the range. 2026 work programs and activities include a Citizen Academy, Officer Wellness Program, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, Mental Health partnership, and a Motor Officer. Future capital projects, equipment, and resource needs include vehicle upgrades, staffing and position requests. Chief Eveland shared that DCJS recommends staffing at 34-38 Officers, while the department currently has 34 officers when fully staffed. He explained that the department is applying for a grant to fund a social worker position, and described maintenance challenges being experienced with the fleet. Chief Eveland also explained that the department is operating at DCJS minimum staffing when fully staffed, leading to overtime costs, and officer burnout and safety concerns. He shared that two retirements are anticipated in 2026. Councilor Brennan wondered if the city is required to have an SRO. Chief Eveland explained that the SRO's are funded through a contract with the school district, which covers eight months of their salaries. These officers do count towards the DCJS minimum staffing requirements. Chief Eveland also explained that if SRO's weren't at the schools, a daytime road officer would be spending a lot of time tied up at the schools, and the district would likely turn to armed security. SRO's also are present at school events. Councilor Petropoulos voiced his support for funding additional Police Officer positions, and Director Slywka explained the civil service process of creating new positions. Chief Eveland rounded out the staffing conversation by sharing that the department is looking at piloting a 12 hour shift model, with a goal of added coverage during peak hours without increasing staffing numbers.

IT Director Premyslovsky presented IT's 2026 Budget Planning. The IT department provides information infrastructure development, maintenance, and user support to all City departments and functions. The department has operated under a shared services agreement with the City of Canandaigua since 2015, with department staff providing services to both cities. IT's 2025 budget and staff were reviewed. In 2025 one

budget request was not funded, additional staff. 2026 work programs and activities include cybersecurity awareness, reviewing IT policies, support network and end users, and Welcome Center management. Future capital projects, equipment, and resources needs include replacing current virtual server management (VMWare) with a different option, improving network and cyber security, public WiFi update, additional staff for IT, and additional security cameras. Director Premyslovsky explained that the staffing request is for one staff member to be shared 50/50 with the City of Canandaigua, noting that at current staffing levels IT is struggling with time to support the network and end users. He also explained that there will be an upfront one-time cost to switch the VMWare, then lower annual costs moving forward with a better vendor. Public WiFi was briefly discussed.

Human Resources Director Slywka presented HR's 2026 Budget Planning. Human Resources is responsible for human resource management, including civil service administration, recruiting and onboarding new employees, benefits administration, Workers Compensation, policies and procedures and participating in collective bargaining negotiations. The HR Office maintains a focus on best practices streamlining human resource and streamlining processes to help cultivate and maintain an informed, engaged and diverse professional workforce. The Human Resources 2025 budget and staffing was reviewed. 2026 work programs and activities include continuation of digitization and organization of human resource/personnel documents, shared software program with finance and human resources for electronic timekeeping, onboarding and benefit administration, utilizing ESI and NYMIR for on-going employee training and development, and continuation of review and updates for City Employee Policy and Procedure manual. HR's future capital projects, equipment, and resource needs include succession planning, shared software program for electronic time keeping, onboarding and benefit administration, and wellness funding. Councilor Petropoulos wondered what the relationship between City HR and Ontario County HR is. Director Slywka explained that the entire process goes through the county, and all city employees are in their system.

Fire Chief Parrotta presented the Fire Department's 2026 Budget Planning. The Fire Department serves the City with a team comprised of paid career firefighters and hundreds of dedicated volunteer firefighters and officers. The department is made up of three fire companies: Hydrant Hose Company, Nester Hose Company, and CJ Folger Hook and Ladder Company. The department is charged with a range of activity including fire safety and prevention education, development process review, enforcement of NYS and local fire and construction codes, and firefighting. Department 2025 budget and staffing were reviewed. 2025 budget requests that weren't funded include three sets of turnout gear, fire simulator, jaws of life, deputy chief vehicle, two thermal imaging cameras, smoke injection fan, three firefighter positions, water suppression and fire rescue boat, new fire apparatus, and active shooter protection. Fire Department work programs and activities for 2026 include shared services collaborations for mutual aid and cost sharing, developing technical and specialized teams, and strengthening community engagement and education. Capital projects, equipment, and resource needs include a command vehicle, fire engine, water suppression and fire rescue boat or jet ski, three fire fighters, creating training for technical teams, training for mental health and peer support personnel, five additional certified live fire instructors, replacement of bay doors at Station 2, inspect and upgrade exhaust system, and build a fire safety training facility. Fire Department capital projects, equipment, and resource needs include a replacement plan for personal protective equipment, portable radio replacement, breathing apparatus replacement, gas meters, fire simulator, jaws of life, thermal imaging camera, smoke injection fan, active shooter protection, air lifting bag replacement, confined space rescue equipment, gear dryer and LUCAS Device. Chief Parrotta explained that GFD currently has no specialized rescue teams, Engine 11 is due for replacement, and the air bag lifting system is completely out of service and in need of replacement. Councilor Lavin wondered about the rent structure of the three fire houses. Chief Parrotta explained that Hydrant Hose is privately owned and maintained, while the other building is owned by the Geneva Housing Authority, and the City pays rent. All three companies are 501c3's. Each company supplies the City with an annual report, outlining their expenditures. Sometimes the private companies contribute to equipment purchases via fundraisers, while the City provides necessary items like gear and equipment. City Manager Hendrix added that building maintenance is in the DPW budget.

6. ADJOURNMENT

**ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Gillotte
MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:48pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Nicole Tillotson
City Clerk

DRAFT

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

April 28, 2025 – 5:30 PM
City Hall – 2nd Floor Conference Room
47 Castle Street
Geneva, NY 14456

Presiding – John Brennan, City Councilor at Large

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Moracco, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Lavin
Absent: Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Pealer, Mayor Valentino

2. PRESENTATION – 2026 Department Fiscal Drivers

City Manager Hendrix opened the second portion of 2026 Department Fiscal Drivers with a brief recap explaining the overview each department will provide. Department budget projection and revenue were briefly reviewed, as well.

Comptroller Blowers presented the Finance Department's 2026 Budget Planning. The Comptroller's Office is responsible for accurately forecasting and tracking all financial transactions occurring in City operations. The Department consists of multiple functional areas, including real property tax, accounts payable and receivable, purchasing, general ledger management, and budget management. The Department is also responsible for facilitation of the annual external financial audit, which provides a snapshot of the City's financial performance over the previous operating year. Staffing, 2025 budget and 2025 budget items not funded were reviewed to include electronic time keeping and benefit administration services as part of electronic timekeeping. Proposed 2026 work programs and activities include creating and maintaining a City-owned vehicle inventory and replacement plan, create and maintain a City-owned property inventory with a plan for each property, capital projects management, payroll change implementation, and contract negotiations. Future capital projects, equipment and resource needs include electronic timekeeping, training on financial software, and tax foreclosure process improvements.

Councilor Brennan wondered if fringe employee benefits are in the department budget. Fringe benefits do not appear in departmental budget lines, only salary does. Councilor Lavin wondered if the IDA reimburses the City for staff time, which it does. Discussion followed.

Assessor Rados presented the Assessment Department's 2026 Budget Planning. The Assessor's Department reports directly to the City Comptroller and is responsible for the development of the annual property valuation roll, which provides a basis for property and sales tax collections. The Assessor position and tax clerk are shared employees with the City of Canandaigua. Staffing and the 2025 budget were reviewed. The Assessor's work programs and activity for 2026 includes a reassessment project for the 2026 roll year. Future capital projects, equipment, and resources needs include an increase in mailing costs due to the planned 2026 reassessment. Assessor Rados shared that home sale trends are analyzed by New York State, and if they're selling higher than assessed values equalization drops. The City is at 92% equalization now, which drives the need for a reassessment in 2026. This reassessment will be a maintenance reassessment, and won't generate the higher

increases in assessed value the last reassessment did. She further explained that the only additional cost the reassessment will generate is postage.

Executive Director Price presented the Business Improvement District's 2026 Budget Planning. The Geneva Business Improvement District was formed to promote an attractive and economically viable 18.5 acre in downtown Geneva. The BID office works to ensure that the district maintains its high standards in appearance, quality and design, while remaining safe and attractive to property owners, tenants, patrons, and visitors. The Geneva Business Improvement District was formed to promote an attractive and economically viable 18.5 acre in downtown Geneva. The BID office works to ensure that the district maintains its high standards in appearance, quality and design, while remaining safe and attractive to property owners, tenants, patrons, and visitors. The BID's 2025 budget was reviewed, noting that additional maintenance and economic development support were not funded by the City. City contracted work programs and activities for 2026 include maintenance of landscaping bed maintenance downtown and at the lakefront, replacement plants, flowers, planters, hanging baskets, loose trash, downtown garbage bin collection, maintenance of table, chairs, and bench seating, banners, and holiday decorations. Economic development activities include downtown Geneva image building campaign, nurturing and strengthening relationships with Hobard and William Smith Colleges, prepare downtown vacancy reduction plan, prepare and manage downtown building renovating and rehabilitation incentive packaging initiative, and annual BID dashboard of success metrics in the short term. Long term programs and activities include working with the City and other partners to create a Geneva tourism attraction plan, commit to implementing a downtown vacancy reduction program, supporting continued and expanded downtown residential development, research traffic generating projects, create an action plan for further improving downtown/waterfront connections, form community partnerships with selecte4d destination business in Geneva, improve the State's Geneva Visitor's Center information on both downtown Geneva and the immediate community, and prepare and maintain an up to date Geneva inventory compilation of available spaces. BID's future capitol projects, equipment, and resource needs include a new truck and a UTV to assist with landscaping tasks, watering, and plowing.

Director Price explained that the BID is a special assessment district, where businesses and multifamily residences pay an additional amount on taxes to fund the BID, which helps take care of downtown, above and beyond what the City can do. She also explained that the BID used to have a working board that took on capital projects. LDC and IDA have helped support the DRI project infrastructure support.

Ms. Price shared that the BID would like to add dog waste bags downtown, and at the lakefront.

Clr. Lavin wondered if BID has any earned or generated income. Ms. Price explained that the goal is to generate income from events, but not all events make money. Funds go to staff time, music, etc. She explained that the BID, is limited in the amount of funds it can hold in reserves. Events that make money typically fund events that don't generate income.

Director West presented the Planning and Economic Development 2026 Budget Planning. With a focus on community development, the Department of Planning and Economic Development promotes and plans for the economic growth of the City of Geneva, through business growth, regional cooperation, housing, and neighborhood support. Staffing, 2025 budget, and items not funded were reviewed. PED's work programs and activities for 2026 are proposed to include Middle and Exchange Streets or Hamilton Street DRI Prep, development support for City Owned parcels and sales, CDBG Housing Program delivery and administration, CDBG Microenterprise and Economic Development Program delivery and administration, events permitting & management, managing grants for PED and DPW, Farmers Market and Summer Concert Series, Winter and Jingle Markets, Comprehensive Plan update, Subdivision code update, grant preparation and grant writing, management of IDA (including GEDC) and LDC with support from Finance & Clerk's Offices, and Revolving Loan Fund. Planning and Economic Development's future capital projects, equipment, and resource needs include a full-time grant writer supporting all City departments, Castle Creek daylighting design & capital improvements purchase fund, Greenway Trail completion, GEDC investments in the City maintained/leased spaces including

demolition of the 3-story structure, and support for NY Main Streets Program through PED or in partnership with the BID.

Clr. Brennan wondered about the subdivision code. Director West explained that the goal is to create an administrative path for simple splitting and combining parcels, without involving the Planning Board.

Clr. Lavin wondered what is the argument for combining planning and economic development? Director West explained that somebody needs to think about longer term issues for the city, for example neighborhoods, development, and infrastructure. He noted that it's common for Economic Development to be under planning, using Ontario County as an example.

Director Sharman presented the Recreation Department's 2026 Budget Planning. The Geneva Recreation Department provides recreational programming to residents across the region throughout our 13 neighborhood parks, partner facilities, and the Geneva Recreation Complex. The Department is staffed with programming and support professionals who plan, develop, and execute recreational programs, as well as maintenance staffers who perform specialized maintenance activities on critical facilities. Recreation staff work with area youth and high school athletic teams to support hockey and other ice programming. The Department provides critical technical support to area not-for-profits to advance youth and senior health needs. Recreation's 2025 budget and staffing were reviewed, as well as items requested but not funded in the 2025 budget including a van, the Senior Gold Program, equipment and office supplies, outside facility rental, sports league expansion funds, bench upgrades at the rink, and a dog park gate. Recreation's work programs and activities for 2026 include operating the complex over 320 days per year, bring back adult co-ed softball, disc golf tournaments, continue the successful summer recreation program, expanding offerings for seniors, and explore bringing back youth kickball and start an adult kickball tournament. Recreation's future capital projects, equipment, and resource needs include Dasher Board refurbishment, Complex refrigeration upgrades/replacement, Complex spectator seating upgrades and accessibility, Dog Park upgrades and possible relocation, general Complex upgrades from findings of the Complex study, pickup truck for Recreation maintenance, events, and programming, park equipment study, and hire a working supervisor.

Clr. Lavin said that it's not clear that Rec can make ice next year. Director Sharman reassured him that the department will be able to, and reiterated the need to act on aging equipment sooner than later.

Revenue was discussed, which nearly offsets the department's budget. CM explained municipal budgeting and true profit and loss. Discussion followed. Councilor Petropoulos wondered what the time table looks like to upgrade the Recreation Complex. Director Sharman expects that a project would take about 24 months.

Discussion followed around the recreation study. Councilor Gillotte recalled previous Council looking to get rid of the Recreation Department. There were cuts to budget, and as a result the City now faces a huge investment in equipment. He encouraged everyone to think about how decisions made now affect everyone down the road. Councilor Moracco wondered who's using the facility, city residents and nonresidents? Director Sharman explained that information can be tracked as there is a city resident rate and nonresident rate for everything at the Complex, which is considered a regional facility. He also shared that about 60% of youth programming participants are city residents.

Director Venuti presented the Department of Public Works' 2026 Budget Planning. The value of your Public Works Dept. lies in our crucial role in providing and maintaining essential infrastructure and services that support the wellbeing of our citizens.

Public Health and Safety - Handle domestic water and waste water treatment facilities, street lighting, and emergency street and utility repairs. Community Well Being - Contribute to overall quality of life to all residents and visitors. Economic Impact – Public Works Projects create jobs, stimulate fiscal growth, with investments that lead to increased fiscal activity and growth.

The Department of Public Works provides management oversight to the operation of the City's transportation network, buildings and parks, and water and wastewater services. The Department is responsible for the management of the City's multimillion-dollar annual capital improvement program, and provides direct oversight to construction projects. In addition, the Department supports private development activity through the planning

and zoning functions of City government, and through permitting. Engineering, Code Enforcement, Highway, and Buildings & Grounds 2025 budgets and staff were reviewed, as well as items requested but not funded in the 2025 budget including a vegetation management contract, Code Enforcement software, DPW relocation study, additional Administrative Assistant, a reduction to the tree removal budget, DPW director vehicle, CIP design work, Code vehicle, conference line reduction, second Highway Supervisor, plow truck, mileage reduction, pole barn at Glenwood, pick up plow truck, and an open deck equipment trailer.

DPW programs and activities for Engineering include Cherry St, Elmwood Ave, and Clinton St phase 1 reconstruction, John St, Rose St, and Folger Ave phase 1 reconstruction, Pulteney St. Recon from Hamilton to Castle St (survey and design), Castle St. Recon from Main to Brook Circle. Code Enforcement programs and activities include integrating and training on Fire Department software, and short-term rental enforcements. DPW Highway programs and activities for 2026 include pavement utility patching, street improvement resurfacing mill and pave, tree removal and prune, spring/gall debris and cleanup, and sewer clean and structure repair. Buildings and Grounds activities include Glenwood shop addition and restroom renovation, Fire Station overhead doors, PSB HVAC cleaning, and City Hall roof.

DPW Engineering future capital projects, equipment and resource needs include digitizing records management staff support, GIS sewer data with seasonal staff support, staying ahead of CIP project design, shade tree assessment, and additional staffing. Code Enforcement future needs include retirement succession for Superintendent of Building, Codes and Zoning, staffing increase if 1-2 family inspections return, and a vehicle allowance.

DPW's Highway future capital projects, equipment, and resource needs include building relocation, purchase of a wing plow, F250 with plow, and 12' snow pusher, improvement to boat launch docks, wash bay heater, replace hi flow skid steer, replace F250 plow, DRI marina dredging and pier maintenance, demo/rebuild of salt storage barn, replacement of salt truck, replacement of wing plow, and loader. Buildings & Grounds future needs include replacement of an F250 pickup truck, F150 pickup truck, zero turn mower, and toro workmen UTV, lakefront park concrete step feature stabilization, Glenwood road reconstruction and drainage, PSB courtroom renovation and expansion project, lakefront boat launch curbing and trailer parking, lakefront park PIP rubber safety surfacing, lakefront park public market grading, Jefferson Park parking lot resurface, and Washington Park PIP rubber safety surfacing.

Director Venuti presented the Water 2026 Budget Planning. The City of Geneva's fresh water is treated and distributed through the efforts of the Water Treatment Plant and the Water Maintenance Division. The Water Treatment Plant is located on NY 14 south of the City and draws water from Seneca Lake. The plant utilizes microfiber technology to filter the water, then treats it with chlorine as a disinfectant and phosphorous to stem pipe corrosion. Fluoride is added to support dental health. The 2025 Water maintenance and water treatment budgets and staffing were reviewed, as well as a dump truck that was requested and not funded in the 2025 budget. Water Department programs and activities for 2026 include water maintenance 8" cross connection Lewis St. to Goodelle Terr., water maintenance cellular meter replacement, water maintenance record management integration and training on Fire software, water treatment plant granular activated carbon filtration, water treatment plant high and low lift pump rebuilds, water treatment plant structural assessment, reservoir inspection and maintenance, lead service line material site monitoring, hydrant flushing, and valve exercising. Water future capital projects, equipment and resource needs include water treatment plant succession to include one additional FTE, water treatment plant roof replacement, water treatment plant out buildings roof replacement, water treatment plant fire suppression and monitoring, water maintenance F150 with plow, water maintenance 10 wheel dump truck, water treatment plant F250 with plow, F150, and front end mower, water treatment plant boiler replacement, high and low lift pump rebuild, three micro filtration staging pump rebuilds, pall micro filter reverse filtration pump and motor, replacement of micro filtration chemical heater elements, replace micro filtration tank, replace 4 MF chemical tanks, three MF chemical transfer pump replacement, two MF circulation pump replacements, replace MF air compressor, replace two chemical pit pumps and motors, replace two raw water intake chlorine lines, replace water treatment plant generator, replace two internal water treatment plant

transformers, replace two programmable logic controller a/c units, install water treatment plant safety perimeter fencing, booster station pump rebuild, and replace booster station transformer.

Director Venuti presented the Sewer Department's 2026 Budget Planning. An extensive collection system and two 21st Century treatment plants support the City of Geneva's wastewater treatment program. The collection system consists of 82 miles of piping infrastructure for sanitary sewer collection and many additional miles of lines and structures dedicated to the collection and transfer of area storm water. The wastewater treatment system consists of two treatment plants, utilizing cutting edge technology to support the stewardship of the Seneca Lake watershed. The 2025 Sewer and Waste Water Treatment Budgets and staffing were reviewed, as well as items requested and not funded in 2025 including a sewer truck camera, plow truck and ABS pump. Sewer Department programs and activities for 2026 include perimeter security gate, mechanical piping upgrades, rebuilding gravity belt thickener, replacement of Actiflo Sludge Scraper, upgrade Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), clean and televise 4-6 miles of sewer system, clean and televise 3-4 miles of closed drainage system, and design/build Castle Creek large woody debris catch. Future capital projects, equipment, and resource needs include waste water treatment plant bar screen motor replacement, purchase 8inch dri prime pump, replace two variable frequency drives, replace aeration tank blower, replace VFD final clarifier, replace Moyno Sludge pump, clean and seal sanitary manholes in Glenwood section, install VFD's, replace south plant generator, and rebuild primary clarifier.

City Manager Hendrix explained that on May 28 targets will be discussed, there will be some surveys sent to Council before that meeting to gauge targets.

Clr. Lavin complemented the amount of work DPW is doing, noting the costs associated with it. He wondered if there are alternative business models that could be explored, as he sees a very traditional municipal model now in the City. Director Venuti explained that he works closely with the County and other municipalities, everyone pitches in to help each other. He also explained that the State and DEC will begin pushing for regional sanitary systems. Privatization of highway was discussed. It was noted that using contractors does drive up prices. Additionally, the Headworks analysis occurring, and rate study will kick off soon. Results will help with water and waste water decision making. Councilor Brennan recalled that Recreation and DPW need a lot of equipment, calling it an economic problem, noting that assessments alone can't raise enough money to run a city. City Manager Hendrix shared that a lot of models being looked at. What should be municipal, what should be private or pay to play, it's all being explored. Assessments and raising tax revenue were discussed as well. Director Sharman reiterated the benefit a full-time grant writer would be to have on staff, creating more opportunities for funding. Discussion followed.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Gillotte

MOVED THAT Council move to executive session at 7:30pm to discuss the employment of a particular person.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Gillotte; seconded by Clr. Grimaldi

MOVED THAT Council exit executive session at 7:39pm.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Gillotte

MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:39pm

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nicole Tillotson
City Clerk

DRAFT