

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

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

Presiding – John Brennan, Councilor at Large

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Gillotte; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos
MOVED THAT council move to executive session at 6:27 to discuss
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6-3 absent)

ACTION TAKEN by; Clr. Petropoulos, seconded by Clr. Moracco
MOVED THAT council exit executive session at 7:02pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. PROCLAMATIONS

- A. Mt. Olive Church
- B. American Legion Auxiliary
- C. Public Service Recognition Week

4. DISCUSSION

- A. MAP Grant Selection Committee

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Gillotte; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos
MOVED THAT this agenda item be tabled
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6-3 absent)

5. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Lavin; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos
MOVED THAT the minutes of the March 24, March 25, April 2, April 5, April 17, April 21,
and April 28, 2025 Council Meetings be approved
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6-3 absent)

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jonathan Taylor shared his concerns about Councilmembers slouching and appearing inattentive at regular and special Council meetings. He also expressed frustration at a member of Council that “blew him off” because he wasn’t living in the ward this Councilor represented. Mr. Taylor also called for transparency in the Board of Ethics. He encouraged Councilmembers to pay attention to presenters at special meetings.

Steven Kelly spoke about panhandling concerns that have been raised by some councilmembers. Mr. Kelly, a Certified Behavior Analyst, explained that restrictions on behavior in certain locations without offering solutions won’t change behavior. He further explained that punishment can’t teach behavior, the revolving door of justice will continue. He recalled that current laws do address aggression, and fines don’t help people who are already needy. He recommended a person-centered approach to address panhandler’s needs.

7. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Hendrix provided the following report:

Goal 1: Ensure Fiscal and Organizational Stewardship of City Resources

City Staff Vacancies

The police department is in the process of offering a contingent offer to a candidate. If all background information goes well, the candidate will begin service at the end of May and attend the June Academy.

The two cost savings vacancies that are currently in place as part of the 2025 budget process are a sergeant and MEO to Laborer vacancy. An additional vacancy is being created with the departure of the Director of Planning and Economic Development on May 22 and Recreation Director on July 11.

To assist in reducing the total 2025 budget a rolling vacancy of at least two positions must be kept until at least ~\$200,000 of cost savings is achieved. As of May 1, \$87,000 of cost savings has been achieved.

Hiring for Seasonal Labor

We are still 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>

City Staff Appreciation Week: May 5–10

This week, we recognize and celebrate the dedicated service of our City staff, who work tirelessly every day to support the community. Rain or shine, day or night, these individuals ensure the essential functions of city life continue smoothly.

City workers are the backbone of our daily lives — they provide clean water, maintain our roads, keep the sewer systems functioning, ensure public safety, fight fires, support education, and so much more. Their commitment doesn’t waver, even in times of crisis. In challenging moments, City leadership at every level, be it through title or personal leadership, rises to the occasion to safeguard our residents and maintain stability.

Please join us in thanking our City staff for their unwavering service and dedication to making our community a better place to live!

City Building Repairs

City Hall: The glass blocks have been installed throughout the basement of City Hall. Carpets were replaced throughout the building.

Fountains: Bicentennial Park's Fountain has been repaired and is running. NYSEG is working on a service upgrade for the fountain at Pultney Park.

Fire Department: A new roof will be installed this summer.

Long Pier Bathrooms: The bathrooms at Long Pier are being prepared to kick off the summer season.

Public Safety Building: The doors on the sally port will be replaced in the coming weeks as well as the gutters.

Trainings Attended by Staff

Fire Trainings:

Our firefighter is currently enrolled at the Fire Academy. Graduation is May 30th.

One firefighter successfully completed Code Enforcement Officer School.

Eight firefighters obtained certification as Respirator Technicians.

Internal training hours logged (YTD): 2,400

NYSCMA: The City Manager attended the New York State City/County Manager Association Conference. Conference sessions included areas targeted towards economic development, use of AI, and community engagement.

Supervisor Communications and Leadership Training: Judith Rowe met with the City Department Leaders, Supervisors, Deputies, and Lieutenants to develop practices to create better communications among our team members. This ½ day training was created for the City of Geneva Leadership staff and focused on building trust within the teams, communications preferences, and accountability in communicating.

nVeris Virtual Reality Training - 19 officers participated in this training. The training provides an immersive and realistic environment to help officers sharpen their skills in critical areas, including de-escalation techniques, crisis intervention, use of force decision making, and tactical scenario training.

NYS certified Master Instructor Training - Detective Dobies has begun the course work to become a NYS certified Master Instructor. Currently, there are only 2-3 Master Instructors at the Finger Lakes Law Enforcement Academy.

Taser Instructor Re-Certification - Sgt Gentile and Officer Baskin completed their Taser Instructor re-certification.

Radio Antennas

The City will be placing Symmetrical Horn Antennas throughout the city. These antennas are utilized for wireless communication due to their ability to offer high gain, uniform coverage, and low interference, making them ideal for urban environments and high-density network deployments. They will assist our camera operations.

IDA Meeting on the GEDC

The Comptroller and City Manager met with the executive committee of the IDA to discuss the GEDC. The IDA just completed a study on the GEDC and based on the recommendations in the study are looking at what the plans may be for the future of the GEDC, including the potential of selling the building. This is

important to the City as we house DPW, a community kitchen, and storage within the building. As the IDA considers the future operations there are two main areas that will impact the City.

1. *Storage Facility.* We have been using a space at the GEDC for storage that will need to be demolished due to safety concerns our code department has regarding this building. The contract with the GEDC states that we will maintain the areas that we utilize and this could mean that we will need to pay for the cost of demolition. The cost is estimated at \$500,000.
2. *DPW Space.* We occupy 32,000 sq/feet for our DPW Department. The DPW space is rented at \$.38/square foot. While this is a great rate for the City, the IDA is reviewing their rental agreements and would like to move towards a more equitable rent. In our meeting the IDA discussed that the lack of this revenue from the City has made the management of the building difficult. They would like to change the contract to be closer to \$2-\$3 a square foot. The current cost is \$12,160 per year to \$64,000 to \$96,000. Market rate is \$4-\$12/square foot.

Operational Statistics for the Fire Department (Year to Date thru April 15, 2025):

- Total Calls: 773
- Code Inspections: 232
- Mutual Aid Responses: 16

Police Department March 2025 Statistics

- Calls for Service: 2,883
- Mental Health Calls: 22
- Domestic Incidents: 36
- Overdoses: 9
- Property Checks: 1,320
- Parking Tickets Issued: 87
- Traffic Tickets Issued: 158
- Overtime Hours: 206.25 hours

Fire Department Apparatus Maintenance/Updates

Fire Prevention/Special Operations Truck is now in service and operational. This truck will be utilized for the storm response trailer as well as code enforcement.

Annual Preventive maintenance has begun on all fire apparatus.

The Ladder Truck will be out of service for three days next week for warranty work.

Goal 2: Promote Economic Development within the City

Long Pier Extension (Formerly the Marina)

The re-bid for the long pier extension has been posted. The bids are due on May 15, 2025.

Future Focus on Planning and Economic Development and Recreation

The City Manager met with members of the departments of Planning and Economic Development and Recreation to review the 2025 Work Programs and align programmatic areas among the remaining staff as well as with those staff in departments peripheral to the departments, such as the Department of Public

Works. There is a lot of overlap between the two groups when it comes to community development work and areas for continued progress and growth. While there will be a transition with new staff members in both departments, I appreciate communities' patience as the staff work through the next phase of these important community services.

2025 ICMA Economic Mobility Cohort

The City of Geneva has been selected as one of fifteen cities in the United State to participate in the 2025 EMO Cohort. This opportunity will allow City staff to learn from evidence-based frameworks to help identify barriers unique to their communities, receive training from the creators of data tools and knowledgeable practitioners, and gain opportunities for peer learning. The grant includes \$20,000 to launch our initiative which will focus on aligning local resources with community-identified needs and developing supported, actionable pathways to economic opportunity for all. Our focus areas will be post-secondary education and workforce development, Housing and community development, and financial security. For information on the 2024 Cohort Cities visit [here](#).

Goal 3: Increase and Sustain Intergovernmental Relations with City Partners

Fire Department Shared Services

Held a quarterly coordination meeting with neighboring departments and town supervisors

Actively exploring expanded collaboration, including cost and resource sharing.

Developing a regional training calendar to share educational opportunities across all local departments.

Sewer and Water Fee and Rate Review

We have contracted with GHD Engineering, Architecture & Construction Services to study the water and sewer rates and fees. Additionally, the Comptroller is working on modeling the Town of Geneva Sewer rates within the City. This draft information may be helpful for GHD and City Council to consider as part of the larger rate study. The Town of Geneva has committed to financially supporting a portion of the costs associated with GHD completing the study.

School District Capital Projects

The City team is currently reviewing the West Street School project and working with our school partners to better understand the goal as approved by the School District vote. Together we hope to find solutions that continue to protect all involved entities. The concerns expressed by City Council and community members regarding the curve cuts are being evaluated by City staff as well as the safety changes this new configuration would impact. Staff met with the school district late last his month and requested additional information which was recieved this week. Staff will provding a briefing to council at an upcoming meeting.

NYS Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services (DHSES)

On Wednesday, April 16th the NYS DHSES conducted outreach in the City of Geneva. DHSES and members from the Police and Fire Department visited with downtown businesses, interacting with shop owners/managers, and building connections. DHSES has materials to hand out such as pens, posters, stickers, etc. regarding the work that DHSES does in the community. This is not a federal agency.

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

Community Conversations

The May conversation will occur on May 15th at 8am at Monaco's Coffee with Special Guest Comptroller Blowers.

Fire Department Community Outreach and Education

- Senior citizen fire safety classes are underway. These classes are focused on prevention, home hazards, and emergency preparedness.
- 25 smoke detectors have been installed so far in 2025 through community assistance efforts.
- The Fire Department participated in the high school career fair to promote fire service careers.

Goal 5: Enhance the Quality of Life for City Residents

Department of Public Works

We have been in the process of sweeping the City streets as well as removing damaged trees from Castle Creek. The Water Treatment team posted the Water Quality report. Crews are in Pultney Park upgrading the electric service. The Castle Street Reconstruction – Main St to Brook St- NYSEG gas main utility work continues.

Resource Recovery Park Expansion

The Resource Recovery Park expansion pilot with the Town of Geneva began on May 1. Punch cards and recycling tickets are available at the City Clerk's office. This is a pilot program and we are contracting with the town via grant funding to

expand the services at 45 Doran Avenue. If the pilot proves successful we will continue to operate the program beyond grant funding and hope to also be able to utilize the Town Resource Recovery park for City residents.

Shade Tree Committee Tree Distribution

The committee provided 100 trees to community members at the Mission Zero Event – a collaboration between Geneva's Green and Shade Tree Committees.

Kayak Vendor

A request for proposals has been issued for a vendor to provide kayak services at the lakefront. The RFP closes on May 14, 2025.

Soccer Tots

Soccer tots has officially kicked off with nearly 50 participants. Soccer tots is for children ages 3-4 and held at the Recreation Complex on Monday evenings in May. Registration is available on the Recreation Website.

Recreation Summer Camp

Summer camp registration is now open for children ages 5-12. Camp runs July 7th – August 15th in ½ day or full day sessions. Information on summer camp can be found here:

<https://www.cityofgenevany.gov/259/Recreation-Department> and scholarships are available!

Youth Soccer

Youth soccer kicks off on June 9th and is for kids ages 5-8. Registration is now available.

8. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

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

MOVED THAT Josh Kayn be appointed to the IDA, Michael Salotto be appointed to the Board of Ethics, and Maddie D'Amico be appointed to the LDC.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6-3 absent)

9. AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

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

MOVED THAT the agenda be amended to add a resolution to schedule a public hearing on the sale of city owned property
ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye - Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Gillotte, Clr Lavin, Clr. Brennan
Nay - Clr. Moracco, Clr. Petropoulos
MOTION CARRIED (4-2, 3 absent)

10. RESOLUTION – Scheduling a Public Hearing on the Sale of Conover St.

Director West presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Geneva City Council has identified land known as Conover Street, and identified on the attached survey as Parcel A and Parcel B, as surplus real estate that is not serving a city goal, and

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva's adopted procedure 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 review offers received for Q2 of 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Property Acquisition and Disposition Committee recommended that the City accept the offer that was submitted by Daniel McGowan to purchase the identified land for \$50,000 with the following stipulations and considerations:

1. Mr. McGowan should submit the standard property offer form
2. The sale should follow the City's policy of using a quit-claim deed and will be sold "AS IS" with no guarantees and full indemnification of the City
3. The City should carefully consider and identify all necessary the easements on the property for the NYSEG pump house, City infrastructure, and any additional infrastructure on the site; and

WHEREAS, the Daniel McGowan did subsequently submit the property offer form and agreed to the City's terms of sale, but lowered the offered sale price from \$50,000 to \$40,000; and

WHEREAS, City Council finds that 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 schedules a public hearing for June 4, 2025 at 7pm in the City Hall Council Chamber for the purpose of hearing public comments on the sale of city property as described above and in the purchase offer form submitted to the City and attached to this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Geneva City Council intends to act as the Lead Agency for SEQR in connection with the sale of this property and instructs the City Manager to take all action necessary to notify potentially interested or involved agencies of the intent to act as lead agency and to seek comments on the potential environmental impacts of the sale of this City owned property.

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

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6-3 absent)

11. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Lavin shared that he continues garbage watch on South Main Street, as the HWS school year winds down. A resident raised concerns about visibility of a stop sign at the Jay Street / Main Street intersection, perhaps being too far back. He reminded everyone that Hobart William Smith graduation is on May 18.

Councilor Whitfield offered thanks to Director West for his commitment to Geneva, and will be sorry to see him go. He thanked Director West for everything he's done for Geneva. Councilor Whitfield also thanked Director Sharman for his contributions to the City, and although he doesn't depart until July, he will also be missed.

Councilor Moracco shared details of the Town Hall meeting held at the library on April 5th. He thanked City Manager Hendrix for attending and answering numerous resident questions. He reminded everyone that the City Manager and Comptroller will meet with residents at Monaco's on May 15th at 8:00am.

Councilor Petropoulos thanked Councilors Grimaldi, Moracco, and Gillotte, as well as City Manager Hendrix for attending the April 5th Town Hall, and encouraged residents to visit the City Manager and Comptroller at Monaco's on May 15th at 8:00am. Councilor Petropoulos wished Director West fair winds and following seas. He then offered an update on proposed panhandling legislation, explaining that current legislation is sufficient, reminding people to press charges if they experience aggressive panhandling. The LDC met earlier in the day, and since Councilor Petropoulos was unable to attend, Director West provided an update to include that Liz Toner has been appointed as the new Executive Director, a new member was welcomed, and advisory seats were established. The LDC is looking for bankers who live in the City to join the board, and working with Drumstock on meeting fundraising goals, as well as lending some upfront financial support. Councilor Petropoulos shared that the OEO Site Meeting was cancelled last week, and the ZBA met about a variance requested for development at 218 Genessee Street. He noted that he's heard nothing on the Jackson Street development. On Sunday, June 8 the reenactment of Lafayette's visit and speech will take place at Pultney Park. Councilor Petropoulos offered moral support to Chief Eveland and the entire Police Department during this difficult time.

Councilor Gillotte wished Director West good luck, and thanked him for his positive projects and impact on the City. He thanked Director Sharman as well. The Police Budget Advisory Board didn't meet in April, but plans on presenting to Council in May. The BID Hometown Heros banners will go up next week, with flowers and flags to follow the week after next. First Fridays

are underway, with the first one on May 2nd being a success, call the BID to be a sponsor. Music Mondays will be held from 5-8pm in Bicentennial Park on June 16, July 14, and August 11. The BID's hanging basket sale fundraiser was a success. There are a few baskets left, contact BID if you'd like to purchase one for \$45.

Councilor Brennan shared that Tom Burrall donated \$675 in firewood sales for last month, and is closing in on \$16,000 in total donations to the City. The Historical Districts Commission had no meeting in April, but will meet in May.

12. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Moracco
MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:43pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6-3 absent)

Nicole Tillotson

City Clerk