

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

March 17, 2026 – 6:00 PM
City Hall – 2nd Floor Conference Room
47 Castle Street
Geneva, NY 14456

Presiding – Jim Cecere, Mayor

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Brennan, Clr. Kaim, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Gummoie
Absent: Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Whitfield

2. RESOLUTION – Setting A Public Hearing for the City of Geneva’s 2026 Strategic Plan

Mayor Cecere presented the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, The City of Geneva intends to adopt the 2026 Strategic Plan, and;

WEREAS, for maximum public participation and input on this matter, Council desires to schedule a public hearing that will take place on two separate dates; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Geneva, New York that a Public Hearing shall be held by the Geneva City Council on the following dates and times:

- Hearing Date 1: March 28, 2026 at 10:00am
- Hearing Date 2: April 1, 2026 at 7:00pm

and further

RESOLVED, that the March 28, 2026 Public Hearing will be held at the Geneva YMCA, 399 W. William St., Geneva, New York and the April 1, 2026 Public Hearing will be held at City Hall, 47 Castle Street, Geneva, New York, to hear all interested parties regarding the proposed 2026 Strategic Plan; and

RESOLVED, that the public hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary to ensure all interested parties have an opportunity to be heard; and further

RESOLVED, that notice of said public hearing shall be posted in accordance with the law.

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

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6-3 absent)

3. PRESENTATION – City Manager’s Office Briefing

City Manager Hendrix provided an overview of staffing in the City Manager’s Office to include the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and 2-3 hours per week of administrative support. This office provides leadership and oversight for all operational divisions across the organization. The Assistant City Manager directly supervises functions related to Recreation, Economic Development, Planning and Zoning, Code Enforcement and Facilities. She then reviewed the 2026 reorganization of the City Manager’s Office to bring together economic and community development functions along with recreation, facilities, planning, zoning and code enforcement into one space, reconfiguring leadership roles to improve coordination and efficiency.

The City Manager works with staff to translate Council priorities into action, with much of this work happening behind the scenes. City Manager Hendrix shared her office's 2026 goals including 2027 budget and financial planning, shared services and regional planning, organizational excellence and communications, sustainability, economic vitality initiatives, infrastructure and capital planning, staff development and organizational alignment, and grant administration and management. Goals on the Recreation, Community and Economic Development side include Farmer's Market enhancement, Comprehensive Plan and DRI 2027 preparation, Economic Development administration, Recreation Advisory Board establishment, Recreation Complex Financial Sustainability, equitable access to recreation services, strengthening recreation programming and developing a Recreation fund.

Councilor Lavin wondered who writes grants. Discussion followed around staff and outside grant writer efforts, grant coordination, and capacity with current staffing.

4. DISCUSSION – Comprehensive Plan Overview

Assistant City Manager Youngs explained that a Comprehensive plan is a long-term policy guide for city growth setting community vision and goals. The Comprehensive Plan guides land use, housing, transportation, and economic development as well as serving as a framework for future decision-making. She further explained that a Comprehensive Plan is not a zoning law, building code, strategic plan, capital project list, or a short-term action plan. Rather, a Comprehensive Plan will coordinate development, protect natural and historic resources, plan infrastructure and services, encourage economic development, and improve quality of life in the city. She reviewed the 2016 Comprehensive Plan, its structure, how it was created, and a typical Comprehensive Plan process. The Assistant City Manager then shared steps involved in developing the new plan.

Councilor Kaim raised concerns about grant funding for the Comprehensive Plan requiring a substantial change to Geneva. City Manager Hendrix explained that the framework for the new plan is the current plan, which was adopted by a council and has been the city's vision for the past 10 years. Discussion followed around the Comprehensive Plan aligning with the new Strategic Plan, and that council and the community develop the plan as a community. Assistant City Manager Youngs added that the grant requirements are around focusing on outreach to the community, not what is written into the plan. City Manager Hendrix in closing shared that the agreement is expected in June or July, and work can begin on the plan at that time.

5. DISCUSSION – City Council Meeting Structure

Mayor Cecere shared a proposal for a new Council meeting model, featuring two monthly meetings. One meeting would focus on Governance, while the other would focus on City operations and oversight. Councilor Gummoie voiced support for the proposed new structure, allowing Council a narrower focus to prepare for each meeting. Councilor Brennan agreed, noting late adjournments and staff time required at meetings. Discussion followed around discussion items, presentations, and council reports. Councilor Petropoulos agreed to work with Mayor Cecere to finalize the new meeting structure.

6. ADJOURNMENT

**ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Gummoie
MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:56pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6-3 absent)**

Nicole Tillotson
City Clerk