

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

March 6, 2024 - 7:00 PM

Public Safety Building
255 Exchange St.
Geneva, NY 14456

Presiding - Steve Valentino, Mayor

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Brennan, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Pealer, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Petropoulos, and
Clr. Whitfield (arrived at 7:26pm)

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos ; seconded by Clr. Pealer
MOVED THAT council move to executive session at 6:01pm to discuss
sale of real property and contract negotiations
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-1 Absent)**

**ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Pealer ; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos
MOVED THAT council exit executive session at 6:45pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-1 Absent)**

3. PROCLAMATIONS - Mark Jones

4. PRESENTATION ON REVALUATION - Assessor Tina Rados

Assessor Rados began her presentation by explaining that a reassessment is a systematic analysis of parcels to ensure that all assessments are at a uniform percent of value as of the date on the roll which they appear. She said the assessments are based on market value, as determined by the assessor, while the taxing jurisdictions set the levies and tax rates. She said her job includes providing fair assessments based on market value, helping taxpayers understand assessments, process exemptions, and maintaining the roll and related data.

Tina explained that the amount of the tax levy is the controlling factor in the amount of taxes we pay and the reassessments are done to maintain equity in the roll. This is to ensure the tax burden is distributed equally and fairly among all taxpayers. She said these are her key points but reminded everyone that this information can be found on the website. Tina noted that if a reassessment isn't done after 4 years a survey will be done which will likely drop the rate so it's optimal to avoid that.

She showed an example of two houses, property A that was assessed at \$120,000 and B at \$80,000 and explained that over time A may have fallen into disrepair while the market may have still gone up, bringing the \$80,000 property up to \$100,000 and property A down to \$100,000 thus making them equal and fair. She asked people to keep in mind that the market is constantly changing, at a record high in the 11 years she has done this, and that not all properties will change in value at the same rate.

Tina reiterated that the loss of assessment equity, if not done frequently, will result in some people paying more than their fair share of taxes and others paying less. She stated she does not create the market, so while she does follow it, it is determined by the interaction of buyers and sellers. She said she'll have all of the sales used for the reassessment listed on the website by category. Assessor Rados continued to explain that, since this is only done every few years, if they use sales from prior years, they need to bring it up to the current market value with the use of state trending.

Tina listed numerous things that drive market value such as location, interest rates, community age and the style of home, and much more. She said the reassessment produces equity by eliminating unfair assessments, distributes the tax burden fairly, increases taxpayer confidence, but it does not prevent tax shifts, compensate taxpayers for prior inequities, or generate additional revenue. The property tax is calculated by the amount of the tax levy divided by the taxable assessed value. When they do a reassessment process, they begin by collecting data and verifying with neighborhood analyses and sales. She said this year they're sending assessment disclosure notices, which show you the impact on your taxes, and what you can expect to see. These are only mailed to people who will have a change while the assessment change notices are mailed to everyone.

Assessor Rados said she often hears misconceptions so she included some myths, such as that the taxing jurisdictions are just trying to get more money, which she explained isn't true as reassessments don't generate additional revenue. Another myth she hears is that because their home hasn't been updated their assessment shouldn't be increased. She explained that they are basing it on market changes, not physical changes. If there are physical changes done then they are based on the year of completion. She also hears people say since their house was increased it means their taxes are going up too. She said that is partially why they send the assessment disclosure notices, to show what the taxes may be, but it is not necessarily the case that your taxes will go up.

After people receive their notices, she explained the next step can be an informal meeting to meet with her and share information. She admitted that she isn't always right but she can share where the numbers come from and how she came to her conclusion. They will verify exemptions and data to potentially correct mistakes or determine if she needs to do more research. She said to avoid focusing on the percentage of change, amount of taxes, irrelevant issues such as when it was purchased, or solely using your neighbor's house as your argument because it isn't necessarily relevant to your assessment.

She explained the formal review process is the board of assessment review and while she said they're great she doesn't want to overload them unnecessarily. She said if they can't come to an agreement, you're welcome to go to them but she recommends beginning with her since she came to the determination. After the board of assessment review, it can also be brought to small claims assessment review (SCAR) or the supreme court. She suggested, ultimately asking if the assessment would be a reasonable representation of what you would expect to review for your property if it were offered for sale on the open market.

Clr. Pealer asked if the assessment increases, you may not pay more, but when has the city last lowered its tax rate? Assessor Rados said the tax rate should lower, so while she isn't sure the last time the city has, she has seen it other places recently. Mayor Valentino said during his time on council he has seen the tax rate lower but to recognize that there are also increases in expenses. Tina said it depends on the percentage of increase and Clr. Pealer said he just wants it to be clear rather than confusing amount versus percent.

Clr Brennan asked how long the reevaluation has been being worked on. She said it's been since she started in May and the notices should be going out around April 1st. She said this will not affect taxes until the school ones in September.

Clr. Lavin thanked her for her work, acknowledging it isn't easy, and it isn't her fault for the levy but up to council to know what their decisions are affecting. He said they make the discretion for what is being spent and they should say as soon as they can whether or not they want to stick with last year's levy. Tina said increases to the tax base at such a large amount, even with expenses increasing a little bit, you should still see a drop. Clr. Lavin agreed, saying it happened in the town with their school taxes due to having a larger tax base to spread it over.

5. PRESENTATION ON 2023 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES - Comptroller Newcomb

Comptroller Newcomb provided council a draft copy, explaining that auditors are coming the first week of April, so final numbers will be provided when it is complete in May or June. She detailed the funds, starting with the general fund, which was an estimated breakeven. Theoretically, any funds would carry over into the city's savings account but historically they don't create a physical transaction in the system to bring it over. As for the water fund there is a projected deficit of just over \$178,000 which is due to businesses reducing production and therefore using less water than they had anticipated. The sewer account is also showing a potential deficit of roughly \$107,000 due to multiple factors. She explained that there was an increase in revenue that they budgeted for however additional expenses that they knew were increasing were higher than they anticipated. She said if they had any questions they could reach out and she can provide a breakdown.

Clr. Pealer asked her to reiterate the deficits by the 3 separate funds. Comptroller Newcomb said the general fund has a \$24,900 surplus, which is essentially a breakeven, the water fund has a projected deficit of roughly \$178,000 deficit, and the sewer fund has a projected \$107,000 deficit.

Clr. Lavin felt it would be beneficial to get a monthly report showing the deviations from plan vs actual so they can understand the budget before they see the final budget book. The comptroller said she can provide certain funding but there are some they only receive on a quarterly basis and some come in within two payments so some may not be visible as often. Clr. Lavin agreed but said a dashboard showing things such as overtime monthly could be very valuable at keeping them up to date rather than trying to decipher everything at once. She said she is working on one for a quarterly basis, so she isn't sure if she could provide it monthly, but she could work on the quarterly one which would come the month after the end of that quarter.

City Manager Hendrix added that another reason this is being presented this evening is because next month they will be considering the 2025 budget as they start to prepare direction for staff. She said as a council they are responsible for setting the tax

rate and levy and they will take that direction to move forward with planning for next year.

Clr. Pealer said he was initially concerned that the deficits are from decreased production and asked if there is a ballpark of who the businesses are and if this is projected to be a temporary bump or a permanent change? City Manager Hendrix said this is one company that stopped production of a certain product within the city. She said they were a high-water user, and notified the city of that change, but they continue to operate despite shifting their operations. The city manager and comptroller weren't certain whether they could share their name publicly so they were cautious answering until they had confirmed they could disclose that. They said it is a permanent change on the production of that particular comment, but they have other products they're producing instead, they just don't use as much water.

6. FOUNDRY UPDATE

The city clerk read the following update provided by Michael Murphy:

Remedial Design

- NYSDEC's engineering contractor continues to work on the remedial design for the State Street staging area based on the results of soil samples collected in late November, in anticipation of remedial construction during spring 2024.
- An annual community update fact sheet was distributed by NYSDEC electronically via DEC Delivers on February 14, 2024 and was also direct mailed to property owners and local community stakeholders.

Remedial Construction

- Remedial construction activities remain on winter hiatus. Active work is anticipated to resume in late March 2024. Remediation of the State Street staging area and two residential parcels located on Tillman Street and Clinton Street will be completed during spring 2024. Demobilization from the project staging areas on Lehigh Street, Geneva Street, and State Street will also be completed in 2024.
- The remedial contractor will return in March 2024 to mobilize equipment and materials and resume remedial construction activities.

7. SUPERVISOR UPDATE

Mayor Valentino shared that Supervisor Kennedy will be attending the April meeting to give his next report and thanked him for continually attending.

8. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Pealer; seconded by Clr. Brennan
MOVED THAT the minutes of the February 7th Council Meeting be
approved
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Valentino opened the floor for public comment at 7:47.

Charles Rouse said he came to promote the idea of seeing Geneva as a destination. He explained many people say they want this to be a destination but if that truly is our goal then it should be advertised as such. He said, in his opinion, Geneva lacks a catchphrase since it will catch people's attention and set us apart from other places in the region. He has heard the city called "uniquely urban" and "sensational by nature" most commonly, but he wants something that is more of a statement or proclamation. Recently, on his trip to Thailand they stopped in Istanbul, and when they landed it was introduced as "the meeting point of the world." This made him think of a potential promotional catchphrase for Geneva which he shared: "Welcome to Geneva; The Meeting Point of the Finger Lakes." He felt this was both grassroots but also attention grabbing and can see it being used for everything from recreation, tourism, hospitality, and commercially. He thanked them for their time and asked that the community consider this welcoming catchphrase and elevate our aspiring potential.

Anne Harvey-Hoyt, with the Green Committee, stepped up to speak next to update council about their transition from using synthetic pesticides at the lakefront park and provide their 2024 initiatives. She explained that in 2020 council passed a resolution banning use of synthetic pesticides on city-owned property. In 2021, the Green Committee began supporting the city in this transition after recognizing their struggle after this change. They expressed gratitude for the volunteers they've worked with including civic and church groups, friends, families, HWS students, Ameri-Corp volunteers, interns and Blueprint Summer Youth Camp kids. However, she says their yearly weeding has not been sufficient at keeping the park up to shape, and they're aware of the numerous complaints. She said they appreciate council's patience along with the help and support from DPW, specifically Joe Venuti, Tim Higgins, and Steve Horton. She wanted to let them know things have improved and they've met their goal. Anne explained that the BID has stepped up to hire a master gardener with decades of experience managing both private and public areas. They've developed a management plan, in the form of a poster, which can be found on the city and BID websites.

Additionally, the plants in the downtown beds were documented, many of which were lost due to over-mulching and amounted to approximately \$10,000 in plants. They ask that the city, as it did last year, allocate \$1,000 for plants. She reiterated that there is the ban for pesticides but explained that it has a clause which allows synthetic chemicals in extreme cases. They've identified about half a dozen, non-native and highly invasive, plant species that they recommend spraying. She added that these can be a threat to grapes and hops as well as other local plants. They propose having DPW hire a specialist in eradicating invasive, non-native species. Jim Engle is a Town of Geneva resident, who BID is in the process of working with, since he routinely is hired by state parks, municipalities, and land trusts for this kind of work. They hope along with the plan for the park he will make suggestions for the 5&20 median and along the lakeshore.

She expressed again, on behalf of the Green Committee, their gratitude for BIDs assistance and for DPW being open to collaboration. They are also working with BID and Cornell for pollinator day, in August, which typically is held on the Ag-Tech Cornell grounds but they want to include downtown plantings and lakefront park. BID has developed maps for each plant species to support this event and these signs will have links to provide more information about those species. In addition to this event, she said they hope to help DPW reduce the stormwater flow due to aging infrastructure but promoting use of rain barrels and rain gardens on private properties. They arraigned for Ontario County to provide a workshop on April 29th and they're asking the city to change

the chose which prohibits the plantings within a certain distance of the city streets. She pointed out that many properties aren't in compliance with this part of code and they would have to violate the code if encouraged to create a rain garden.

Next, she addressed their attempt to restore the resource recovery park, located on Doran Avenue, in anticipation for the landfill closing. This would allow for composting, biodegradables, yard and food waste, and hopefully establishing a full waste-transfer station similar to the towns. Their goal is to reduce the waste stream so less than 20% of the city's waste has to go to the landfill as fees for waste haulers will be bound to rise once the local landfills close. She invited everyone to their Mission Zero event April 29th from 10-2 at the ice rink where there will be presenters. Lastly, she asked if the city could consider putting up signs addressing the \$250 fine for not cleaning up after their dogs, and possibly installing more bag dispensers, specifically at the lake.

Geoffrey Hellauer-Geiger stepped up to speak next to talk about parks and playgrounds. He hopes to explore private and public partnerships to improve the playgrounds by taking new measures. He recommended initially developing a city sponsor-a-park program after a needs assessment audit is done. He explained that, as a father, he visits many parks/ playgrounds with his child and is looking for ways to help the city get these places some of the extra care they need. He has an organization who is willing to provide supplemental labor, financing, maintenance and equipment in partnership with the city to improve and identify new spots that recreation could be expanded. These would include parks, public fitness options, and public pools. Another goal of his is to direct and empower pending and future economic development loans/ incentives to make tangible commitments to beautification, parks, and essentially neighborhood enhancement. He said essentially big development companies are also encouraged to help give back to the area and assist with those investments. He concluded by saying he looks forward to working with the city to supplement and keep these ideas fresh in their minds as budget season comes around.

With no one else appearing to speak, Mayor Valentino closed public comment at 8:07pm.

10. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Hendrix reported:

Thank you to our DPW teams and Fire teams for assistance during the recent storms.

Thank you to Clerk Wright for her current service to the community and her future service as a firefighter.

Solar Eclipse - The City is participating on several task forces related to the Eclipse on April 8, 2024. The City goal is the health and safety of our residents and visitors for this event. To this end we are expending resources related to health and wellness including staffing traffic control, providing bathroom and garbage facilities, designating parking spaces, preparing for emergencies, shuttling and supporting businesses/residents/visitors. There will be events the weekend prior to the event including restaurant sales, art installations, campus events for HWS community, a 5k run, park activations, and much more.

OEO Community Survey - This City property is located on Exchange Street and prior to releasing a RFP a community survey will be available in a variety of formats to help hone the vision for this property. The survey will gather information on what our community would see in this site.

Storm Task Force - members will include a wide representation of community stakeholders exploring challenges faced by storms in the City. First convening will be March 12 at 5:00pm. Location will be announced soon.

Current Vacancies

Safety Coordinator: This is a 3-year position to establish a Citywide Safety and Compliance program. Currently these items are dispersed among the various departments with departmental only oversight. This position will streamline safety and compliance and begin to redevelop systems to ensure not only compliance but also cross functional relationships and accountability. Please get applications in ASAP.

Clerk: The position is posted on our website with a first review of applications on March 15. This is a council appointed position and has a city residency requirement.

Laborers : We are in the process of hiring of laborers to begin the Laborer to CDL to MEO program. This program will allow us to hire laborers with the expectation that after 12 months they will have a CDL and become a Motor Equipment Operator (MEO). This pipeline training program will be a new program in the City. More details will be on our website soon for those who want to apply.

Department of State Meeting on Revitalization Initiatives : I have been asked by the Department of State and Empire State Development to attend and present at this April 25 meeting for municipal leaders regarding our Downtown Revitalization Initiative at Monroe Community College. This invite only forum will bring together municipalities to discuss the successes and lessons learned through 7 years of DRI awards.

Short Term Rental Information

We have been able to utilize our services through RentalScape to better understand STR in the

City of Geneva. This software allows us to pull all STR property owners contact information, rental listings, and much more. This will be the permit portal for the STR ordinances.

Here are a few items that I thought Council may be interested in.

- Currently there are 136 unique properties that have been listed/rented within the last six months.
- Of the 136 listed properties, 86 were active in January 2024.
- There was a 10% occupancy rate in January 2024 for STRs in Geneva.
- The revenue generated for the hosts during from February 2023 to January 2024 is \$2.3 M
- From February 2023 to January 2024, 73% of the rentals are occurring in the main structure of a home, 21% are in multi-family homes.
- For this same time period, the most sought rental during the same time period is a four-bedroom unit with over 30% of rentals occurring within those spaces. Just

over 15% of rentals are for 1 bedroom. The amount of people seeking 2 and 3 bedrooms is nearly the same at 22% each.

2023 Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping (NPG) program Grant Award

The City was awarded \$50,000 for this planning grant to assist in engineering design for our storm water system. Council approved this grant application in August of 2023. We will need to supply a 10% match to receive these funds.

Special Election

The Special Election is on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. The election is being held at Courtyard Apartments Community Room and residents can vote this week Thursday & Friday 10am -6pm, and Saturday and Sunday 9am- 5pm. Tuesday is the final day to vote from 6am - 9pm. For those preferring to vote by mail, the Board of Elections has made the process straightforward with available online applications and detailed instructions for ballot return. It's important to note that voters who choose an Early Mail or Absentee ballot are advised to consider postal service timing to ensure their vote counts.

11. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO CREATE AND IMPLEMENT PADDLECRAFT STORAGE PROGRAM AT SENECA LAKEFRONT

David West presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva wishes to improve affordable access to Seneca Lake by kayak, canoe, and paddleboard (together referred to as paddlecraft); and

WHEREAS, City staff has developed a program outline and cost proposal to allow storage of personally owned paddlecraft at the lakefront park, and

WHEREAS, the fees proposed fully cover the small cost of this investment, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this City Council hereby approves the creation of a paddlecraft storage program commencing with the installation of 2 boat racks, holding 24 boats on City property at the Seneca Lake waterfront, and authorized the City Manager and/or her designee to proceed with all contracts, policies, and preparations reasonable and necessary for the program for the 2024 year.

David explained he is proposing two different ways to cheaply and quickly increase access to the waterfront. This first resolution, in partnership with DPW and recreation, is for storage racks that would be rented out by the lake. He projects it would be revenue neutral, covering all costs in year one, and having them for 5-10 years. He has seen it been well received in other places since it allows for people to store their kayaks and canoes there and efficiently have access during a lunch break or whenever they wish to take it out. He feels it benefits the individuals using it to save time and energy, while also benefiting the community, because the lake becomes attractive and appealing when people are out using it.

Clr. Petropoulos asked where they intend to set it up and if it would be moveable? David said they suggested it should be near the boat ramp for ease but the whole point is it's a test and can be easily taken down if people don't like it. However, the risk is low because the cost is minimal, it's fast to put up, but it is also reversible.

Clr. Pealer said he asked many residents, who would be the target audience, and they have some questions. He pointed out that the north end of the lake can be wavy, especially with boats going in and out of the launch. He asked what will be done when the area becomes congested if it is put next to the boat launch? David replied that there will be 24 spots, comparing it to a marina, saying only a few go out at a particular time on any given day. He doesn't see a significant amount of impact and pointed out if it is congested, they could walk it elsewhere along the lake to launch but this gives them an easy spot for storage. He added that this is also happening in Lansing, Taughannock State Park and numerous parks in Ithaca. Clr. Pealer clarified, asking if the paddleboards/ canoes were competing with motorboats, and David confirmed that they were using the same body of water. Clr. Pealer then asked if vandalism and security were a concern to their property or the structure the city will be paying for? David explained that the structure costs a total of \$500 and doesn't see much damage being done as they're only 4x4's and 2x8's which are pretty durable. As far as personal property he said it's no difference than parking their car at the lake, which is a more expensive asset, and the city wouldn't be liable if that was scratched, dented, or otherwise damaged. He stated they would sign a release of liability and make it clear that the city isn't saying it is protected but that they may use this asset if they wish. He also suggested locking them, but said the decision for storage is one that the individual will need to decide on. Clr. Pealer added that they could also simply use it for storage and bring it somewhere else to use it if they wish.

Clr. Lavin felt it was a great idea and agreed the waterfront isn't used as much as it should be. He related it to a similar idea of adding rentable bicycles which he also felt would make the lakefront more accessible and usable.

Mayor Valentino thanked David for his work, pointing out that there is also one at the state park, and agrees it is used at their discretion and not as often as one may think. Additionally, he expressed that he was happy it was categorized as paddlecraft to allow for paddleboards as they've become popular. He stated that he'd love to see it painted and think about the location to the right of the docks where the beach is level since it is calmer. David replied to his suggestions, saying first his concern with the paint is the lumber will be pressure treated which would mean they'd need to wait a season before painting and it would need more paint over time. He said that's why it wasn't initially recommended but it can be done if it's what they'd like. As for the other location he explained that they are looking at that area for the next proposal as well as a secondary location for this proposal if it is successful. He feels the spots will sell out quickly and there will be pressure to provide more spots, but acknowledged that this is a test.

Clr. Gillotte said he supports this resolution but asked that the 'alternatives' section be removed as he doesn't feel it needs to be stated. Mayor Valentino explained what he is referring to is the memo, not the actual resolution. City Manager Hendrix added that the briefing memo is from staff and that format requires staff to provide alternatives but if they don't find that helpful, they can opt to exclude that. Clr. Gillotte said he doesn't mind the section being there but didn't like the wording.

Clr. Grimaldi asked if there should be a maximum cost included to be spent on this? Mayor Valentino said it sounded like they only intend to spend \$500 to build it. David replied that the cost to run the program for a year with rec staff, to build it with

DPW, and purchase the materials will cost around \$2,400 dollars. He added that this is equal to the expected revenue from renting out the spaces. Clr. Grimaldi asked if that meant they'd be doing an adjustment to their existing budget and the city manager explained it's expected to break-even but if a budget adjustment needs to be made that will be brought to council in the future. She clarified that is why there were no financials included in the resolution, but an adjustment will include revenue and expenditure lines.

Clr. Pealer asked the cost per spot? David proposed \$100 per slot for residents or \$150 per slot for non-residents. Clr. Pealer then asked what months this would include and David answered May-October. Clr. Pealer questioned what the plan is for abandoned property? David stated they will make phone calls at the end of the season to ensure property is picked up but if something is abandoned it would become ours and likely go to auction.

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

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye - Mayor Valentino, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Gillotte,

Clr. Petropoulos and Clr. Brennan

Nay - Clr. Pealer and Clr. Grimaldi

MOTION CARRIED

12. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO CREATE AND IMPLEMENT PADDLECRAFT RENTAL VENDOR TEST PROGRAM AT THE SENECA LAKEFRONT

David West presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva wishes to improve affordable access to Seneca Lake by kayak, canoe, and paddleboard (together referred to as paddlecraft); and

WHEREAS, City funds for subsidizing such access for people who do not own paddlecraft is extremely limited, and

WHEREAS, private vendors are ready and willing to provide this desired amenity at a reasonable fee, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this City Council hereby approves the creation of a paddlecraft rental vendor test program as described in the attached briefing. The City Manager, and any staff she designates, is hereby authorized to draft and release an RFP, choose a vendor, and complete any necessary contracting to carry out the proposed program for the benefit of the City of Geneva community.

David clarified this is along the same lines as the last resolution, but is for people who don't have

paddlecrafts, to provide a place to rent from. This would entail putting out an RFP for a kayak, canoe, paddleboard rental business to locate themselves at the lakefront for 3 years. This would allow for the city to test and not give up the lakefront if it is decided people don't like it. He imagines a shed placed on city property, which they propose to put by the mouth of castle creek, but allow the proposer to have some say. They would tell the city, in the proposal, what fee they would provide to the city, since the city cannot give away public property for use without a fee. They would also say what service they would offer, such as their hours, costs to the public, as well as number and types of products they would offer. He said people have expressed interest but there should be a fair process to determine who will provide this service.

Clr. Petropoulos asked if they would assume liability and David confirmed the company would assume the liability not the city.

Clr. Lavin said there is a business, which he is familiar with, down in Himrod which offers an expansive variety of products despite being located away from a lot. He asked if there would be room in terms of the scale this is operated on? David responded that there would and he suggests starting small since this is a trial for just three years.

Clr. Pealer asked if there was a limit to the number of units or the area that will be used where they locate themselves. David said there absolutely can be, if they wish, as there should be a balance of providing enough without being too large. He added that, being an RFP open to review, he suggests council appoint who will do that review and he would be open to helping.

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

13. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SALE OF CITY-OWNED REAL PROPERTY

Comptroller Newcomb presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The City Council may declare, by resolution, its intention to dispose of City-owned real property if it finds the property is no longer needed for the purpose acquired and that said property or title thereto is not needed for any other public purpose of the City; and

WHEREAS, City Council authorizes the City Administration in consultation with the City Attorney to sell the property utilizing the established disposition of City property procedure; and

WHEREAS, any offer for the purchase of City-owned real property shall be accepted or declined by resolution of the City Council; and

WHEREAS the properties are all sold "as is" and without any representations or warranties of any kind.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geneva City Council hereby approves the 2023 list of city-owned real property for sale.

Comptroller Newcomb stated the city staff has reviewed all city owned property, separating the ones that are parks or can still be of use to the city. The rest have been

listed, which the previous council just approved, and this resolution will allow the city to sell the roughly 23 properties that were deemed ready to be put back on the tax roll.

Clr. Grimaldi asked to see the list of properties, saying just because they've been approved doesn't mean the past council didn't make any mistakes. The comptroller answered that they could absolutely share that list with them. Clr. Lavin added that he likes the idea but agreed with Clr. Grimaldi that they should understand everything in depth, before moving things forward. He asked if they've exhausted the potential for programs with developers who may take 15 properties rather than selling them individually. The comptroller explained there are various sale processes proposed, the resolution just allows staff to move forward with the sale process, but none will be finalized until it comes to council to be accepted or denied. She added that, based on classifications, they plan on going toward the RFP process as opposed to the auction process. He stated he would like to have a thorough discussion about the potential beyond the immediate opportunities at a time where there is a demand for housing and strong need for the tax base.

City Manager Hendrix replied, saying that they can definitely be provided a list, but clarified that the properties have already been vetted through the process Clr. Lavin was referring to when they're brought to council. A team of city staff including the comptroller, DPW director, police chief, fire chief, director of planning and economic development, and assessor have reviewed them and removed any from the list if there were still potentials the city wished to explore. She added that the list that's adopted now are a first round of properties, which are predominantly single-family homes or vacant lots, such as ones that have been foreclosed upon and need to go to auction. She said she wanted to be clear that the process happens with staff who annually provide a categorized list of which properties they propose to be sold.

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

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye - Mayor Valentino, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Pealer, Clr. Gillotte,

Clr. Petropoulos and Clr. Brennan

Nay - Clr. Whitfield and Clr. Grimaldi

MOTION CARRIED

14. RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2024 GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR RATIFIED CONTRACT CHANGES

Comptroller Newcomb presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva Police Department had two (2) Axon contracts due for renewal in 2024; and

WHEREAS, the approved 2024 Budget document does not reflect the final contractual obligations and additional funds are needed to cover anticipated expenses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Geneva City Council hereby and in due form does amend the 2024 General Fund budget as follows:

Revenues :

Add
Appropriation from General Fund Balance \$47,750

Expenses :

Add
Firearm line 3120.4058- \$13,000

Uniform Cost - 3120.4073 - \$34,750

Comptroller Newcomb explained when putting together the 2024 budget they knew the police department was still working through their contracts with Axon which were expiring in March. The acting police chief has been working through pricing and negotiations, where we've reached a comfortable point, and cannot get them any lower on these contracts. She explained that this budget adjustment is in relation to the taser and body worn cameras and this will reduce the general fund balance to be put toward these contracts.

Clr. Pealer said an alternative listed is making cost saving measures in the existing budget, and asked if there were any suggestions about what those cost savings could be? Comptroller Newcomb said they don't currently have any proposals for cost-saving measures. City Manager Hendrix added that it would ultimately be going line by line to make overall adjustments. She said the operating budget, unless you're looking at personal costs, is roughly \$100,000-200,000 and is a very tight budget.

Clr. Petropoulos asked if the body cameras need to be upgraded and if that opened up the possibility for grant funding? The comptroller assured that the acting chief is diligently exploring various options for grant funding so some costs could be offset but this resolution allows her to make a budget adjustment at the end of the year if the police budget is over by this amount. City Manager Hendrix added that alternatives have been discussed for both cost savings as well as with the supplier themselves. She explained that their research showed Axon has the market and while there are alternatives, they communicate to each other. So, it becomes more complex, since all other policing jurisdictions are using the same thing. She assured they will continue to look at grants. She also said that other law enforcement colleagues said they're experiencing an even larger price increase, for a couple reasons including the fact we aren't using as many cameras due to our size compared to other municipalities. She explained the challenge with certain contracts is they anticipate a certain increase percentage, because that's what they've seen for the past few years, but now that increase percentage is becoming larger.

Clr. Pealer asked if and what the budget plans were that the city had made in anticipation for this contract. The comptroller explained that they anticipated a roughly 4% increase while putting together the 2024 budget but the increase was greater than that.

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

15. RESOLUTION CORRECTING THE POLICE BUDGET ADVISORY BOARD
BYLAWS

Comptroller Newcomb presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the police budget advisory board bylaws were presented and adopted by City Council on October 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Police Budget Advisory Board bylaws adopted by the City Council incorrectly referred to the name of the board as the Police Budget Review Board; and

WHEREAS, the City Council intends to amend the bylaws to state the name of the board as the "Police Budget Advisory Board".

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Geneva City Council does hereby amend said bylaws, effective immediately, to state throughout, that the name of the board is the "Police Budget Advisory Board".

Comptroller Newcomb stated that this arose due to reviewing the bylaws regarding two vacancies on the board. In the bylaws the name of the board (Police Budget Advisory Board or PBAB) and the name Police Budget Review Board (or PBRB) were used interchangeably throughout the document so this resolution is to clean up the language. This will change the areas that reference a Police Budget Review Board or PBRB to the correct terminology of Police Budget Advisory Board or PBAB.

Clr. Pealer said he recalled it being a review board, and asked if they've identified which is correct since they're used interchangeably? The comptroller answered that the Police Budget Advisory Board is the correct name since it is the terminology used in the discussion and what was ultimately passed by council in the resolution creating the board itself.

Mayor Valentino commented that nearly 3 years later they are still cleaning up resolutions passed by the majority of the previous council. He feels they weren't diligent or gave staff or legal time to review those resolutions but forced them through the system. He said he's also disappointed because it reads that there is supposed to be a monthly report but council has only seen two reports on an annual basis. The comptroller replied that the report the bylaws references comes from her office to the budget advisory board showing the monthly GPD expenses which they are receiving and do review. She said if council wishes to start receiving it, they could do that, and the mayor apologized for his confusion and said it is not necessary. She also added that they are acting as a budget advisory board to serve in a research capacity by putting in time and effort to provide areas that may benefit the police department. Specifically, last year and this year their focus was on mental health so they've been working in conjunction with the acting chief and local law enforcement to see what current assets can be used as a phased in approach over the next few years.

Clr. Lavin said he agrees with the mayor that a committee like this is outside the purview of the council and if there was a public safety committee, with a chair appointed by the mayor and approved by council, they could act under council with a regular process of monthly reports rather than wondering about the nature of their work. Comptroller Newcomb pointed out that in the bylaws there are supposed to be two councilor liaisons that attend the meetings, which Mayor Valentino added that he'll be appointing one tonight. Clr. Lavin said they saw with the last council that they didn't show up half the time and they're not encouraged to talk. He referenced the green committee, saying they do a lot of great work, but feels they would be better if they were integrated in council. Comptroller Newcomb said she believes the intention of the council liaisons is to provide a report on a monthly basis and in the past when they

attended there is open communication with the group. She stressed that they are public meetings so anyone can attend if they wish to be aware of the board's conversations and standings.

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

16. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INCREASE IN AIM FUNDING

Mayor Valentino presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) program plays a critical role in funding essential municipal services for cities and villages across New York State; and

WHEREAS, city and village officials share the same priorities as our state leaders which is to make New York safer and more affordable; and

WHEREAS, New York's local governments, who are on the frontlines of controlling property tax affordability and ensuring public safety, are integral to achieving those goals; and

WHEREAS, the State has not increased AIM funding in 15 years and according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation has increased by nearly 45% during that same period; and

WHEREAS, this neglect from the State has led to rising municipal tax burdens and harmful disinvestment in essential municipal services and staff; and

WHEREAS, the property tax cap further limits the ability of local governments to properly fund the services their residents need; and

WHEREAS, the challenges of rising inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid, only accentuate the need for an increase in AIM funding; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's 2024-25 Executive Budget proposes to keep AIM funding flat; and

WHEREAS, an increase in AIM funding would reduce the local tax burden and help revitalize communities across New York;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Geneva, Geneva City Council urges Governor Hochul to work with the leaders of the Senate and Assembly and increase AIM funding in the 2024-25 adopted State Budget.

A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senator Helming, Assemblymember Gallahan and the New York State Conference of Mayors.

Mayor Valentino explained a variety of different municipalities are doing this in an attempt to reach out to the senators, assemblymen, and ultimately the governor to ask for an increase in AIM funding. He said this is a formal way of reaching out since it hasn't increased in 15 years despite a nearly 45% inflation increase during that time.

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

17. **TABLED RESOLUTION ADOPTING LICENSE FEE FOR SHORT TERM
RENTAL LICENSE**

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the 2024 budget was presented and adopted by City Council in October 2023, and

WHEREAS, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 350 and Chapter 215 of the Geneva City Code was adopted in October 2023 which enacted Short Term Rental License and Short Term Rental as a use allowed by Special Use Permit, and

WHEREAS, the fee schedule presented within the 2024 Budget did not include the fee for Short Term Rental License as determined by Council, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this City Council hereby approves the addition of the Short Term Rental License Fee of \$1,000 per property/per year to be issued on an every other year basis.

City Manager Hendrix informed everyone that last year chapter 350 and 215 of the city code was amended by council and part of that discussion included a \$1,000 per property per year for the short-term rental license. She said since this occurred mid-budget and was not reflected in the 2024 fee therefore it cannot be collected even though it went into effect on March 1st.

Clr. Brennan said he feels there are multiple defects and they need to understand it properly before passing it. Clr. Lavin agreed with him, adding that it is a great issue that needs to be taken care of, but it is something being carried over from the last council and wants to have more information first. He also acknowledged that the town has had an ordinance in place for a while and it may be worth it to compare the two to keep things consistent.

David stepped up to speak, stating as part of the resolution that created the ordinance, they did not include a fee because they felt it was not best practice but they should have included it in the fee schedule. In terms of things to be adjusted, he said the wording council used when approving the original ordinance was to be \$1,000 per year per property, but he feels that property is not a clear term. Therefore, if they are to change things, he shared staff's recommendation to use the term dwelling unit so a 6-unit property pays a fee for each unit. In other words, a single house wouldn't have to pay the same fee as another unit which has 6 different dwellings inside.

Clr. Pealer said he feels they gave legal ample time to review it for discrepancies or liabilities to the city so he was curious what Clr. Brennan was referring to. Clr. Brennan said he can answer that but asked for clarification that this current resolution is strictly clarifying previous wording regarding the fee, not any other aspects of the ordinance. The city manager agreed, along with the mayor, who added that past ordinances had fees embedded in them which becomes cumbersome if a change needs to be made. Clr. Brennan went on to say that the \$1,000 per property would've been inequitable and also excessive in his opinion since many of the other city fees are much less. He also said the wording was confusing regarding the fee being per property, per year, on an every other year basis. City Manager Hendrix agreed it is a little confusing and explained that the license is issued for two years so, rather than saying \$2,000 they phrased it as \$1,000 per year, but it would be paid at once. Clr. Brennan asked if that meant a building with 4 dwelling units would be \$4,000 per year so \$8,000 for the two years if the wording was changed per staff's recommendation and the city manager confirmed.

Clr. Grimaldi pointed out that a house with four bedrooms could be a single dwelling unit but someone renting out each room singularly would have a 4-dwelling unit. He feels they will make about 4x the amount that the person renting a 4-bedroom house to one family will get. He asked David to ask how they describe a short-term rental. David stated it is defined as the rental of rooms for less than 30-days in a building that isn't a hotel. Clr. Grimaldi asked if that definition is legal or approved by the legal team. City Manager Hendrix said legal has looked at the definition and it is the clearest definition that has stood up so far.

Clr. Lavin asked if they have included an occupancy charge in any of this yet? The mayor said the city hasn't and the city manager said it would be home rule legislation which would have to be approved by the state and carried by local representatives. She stated this has not happened in Ontario County and the view is that since it is a tax the members of the legislature often don't want to increase taxation at any cost. Therefore, while they could work with them on it, they have not been willing to carry this legislation at this point. She explained they would have to pass a local law and ask them to carry it forward but currently no one would. Clr. Lavin said it requires more talk, possibly about higher fees, to address the equity question for the business in the city. He asked if the town was currently charging occupancy tax? City Manager Hendrix said both the town and Ontario County are not but the town is working on a model and for someone to carry it as well. Clr. Grimaldi added that Yates County does charge and the city manager agreed many counties do but it is up to local officials to help make it possible for us to do.

Clr. Brennan said if council had a chance to review all aspects of the ordinance, he feels they could arrive at a reasonable agreement on both the wording and the fees.

Mayor Valentino said he feels staff has worked diligently but acknowledged since he has been working on it, he may take for granted what he knows. However, he thinks this is the next step to determine the fee, implement something a lot of hard work went into, and get some revenue. Ultimately, he said they knew this would be a live document that would continue to be changed and fixed, but he respects that they want to ensure they're educated before moving forward. He stressed that if it is tabled, he would like to see direction given to staff so they know whatever education or documents that is needed from them is said upfront since there was a timeline to implementing this.

Clr. Brennan, in reference to Clr. Pealer's question said the inspection of 1 and 2 family homes is not authorized in New York State. His understanding is, by fire-code law, they do inspect 3 or more family dwellings every two years so to do it yearly, which

he believes was in the original ordinance, would be doubling the fire department's work. He felt this was just another example of a wrinkle that needs to be ironed out before being implemented.

Clr. Pealer said that his concern just came up at a planning board meeting where they determined it wouldn't trigger an interior inspection, but only an exterior one. He also asked the impact on a councilor abstaining if they own a short-term rental? He wanted to know if they had to obtain if they had any financial interest in a property affected by this ordinance. City Manager Hendrix and the Mayor confirmed and recommended any councilors with questions or concerns about this they should reach out to legal.

Clr. Brennan made the motion for this resolution to be tabled until they can have further discussion.

**ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos ; seconded by Mayor Valentino
MOVED THAT this resolution be approved**

**ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Brennan; seconded by Clr. Gillotte
MOVED THAT this resolution be tabled**

**ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye - Clr. Whitfield , Clr. Lavin, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Gillotte,
Clr. Brennan**

and Clr. Petropoulos

Nay - Clr. Pealer and Mayor Valentino

MOTION CARRIED

After the vote City Manager Hendrix said that the short-term rental ordinance has been paused, which they will make clear on the website, since they cannot now enact the ordinance without the fee.

18. **RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2024 GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR
ADDITIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE SOLAR ECLIPSE**

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva is expected to host over 20,000 visitors on April 8, 2024 as the City experiences the 2024 Total Eclipse, and

WHEREAS, City Staff have been working with local, state, and federal partners to ensure that we are prepared to support the health and safety of our residents and visitors, and

WHEREAS, the 2024 adopted budget included up to \$10,000 to support expenses related to preparedness for the Solar Eclipse, and

WHEREAS, staff have reviewed impacts on similar cities who experienced the event in 2017 and in preparation have found that to fully prepare additional resources may be,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this City Council hereby does amend the 2024 General Fund Budget as follows:

REVENUES:

Add appropriation from the General Fund Balance	\$10,000
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EXPENSES:

Add to Solar Eclipse funding line 1230.4046	\$10,000
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City Manager Hendrix began by saying that a councilor brought forward a resolution to include funding for the solar eclipse up to \$10,00 during the 2024 budget process. They have focused on public health and safety but due to increased demand and prices they are requesting an additional amount, up to \$10,000. This would be for mostly trash, outdoor restrooms in parks and parking lots, roll offs, alternative transportation and traffic signage. She said due to the partnerships with BID and other partners there may be sponsorships or changes in the amount needed. She clarified that this does not account for potential overtime that would fall into a different category and be budgeted as such. The day of the eclipse will require all hands-on-deck and it has been made clear to staff that new requests for time off will likely not be accepted.

Clr. Petropoulos said he wishes the proposal included what the money is going to be spent on. He asked if the state has some of these things and were able to help? City Manager Hendrix said no, due to the fact it is a state-wide event, so they have given us some resources but a traffic board is roughly \$2,500-3,200 to rent for the time period we need it. She explained that it is needed for more than just the day of the event because it is an early warning sign and shows how large trucks can reroute. She added that they're looking at about 40 port-a-potties, which will be put across the city, because the estimates are 20,000 to 200,000 people. So, while she acknowledges that they may not know, they need to be prepared and have heard from other cities that people will find their own restrooms if they can't locate one. Another complaint she has heard is garbage issues and abandoned vehicles. An estimate she was given compared it to 79 football stadiums letting out at the same time.

Clr. Pealer said he is excited about the eclipse but he has some concerns. He recalled the city's 125th anniversary celebration was largely donated by community partners, so the money they had set aside was not needed. Comptroller Newcomb corrected him, saying the original resolution was for up to \$7,000 and roughly \$5,782 spent from city funding for the celebration. He asked for a ledger, showing those funds, and the comptroller said he would resend it to him. Ultimately, he said he'd hoped to still see more community partners chipping in since they are widely promoting it, such as HWS, which draws people in. He asked, since the large expense appears to be the port-a-potties and road signage, when they have to secure these items. His concern being that if there is a thunderstorm, all of this money may be spent, and not needed but if we can wait there may be a better prediction of the turnout. The city manager replied that, as she's told staff, although the city isn't having an event the solar eclipse is an event that is happening to us. She believes people are coming regardless, based the hotels being booked, but whether they stay or just drive there will be a lot of people irrespective of weather. She said while they could pull back and get less things like trash cans and port-a-potties, she would rather be cautious, so she still recommends getting as many as possible.

Clr. Lavin agreed with the city manager that we can quickly become overwhelmed, which he experienced when a concert in Watkins Glen led to a buildup in Geneva, over 30 miles away.

City Manager Hendrix added that it was difficult for her to understand that this is a total solar eclipse, which has not happened here in her life, and won't again in her lifetime.

Clr. Petropoulos said he feels there haven't been updates but has heard they may declare a state of emergency here. He asked if they've reached out to the governor's office to call out the national guard to help direct traffic? The city manager said NYS has a taskforce and regional, county and local levels which the state police and DHSES (Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services) are a part of. She is looking at how we're prepared until they arrive because if there is a need for them it will be across the region. She added that the governor's office has provided some funding into the welcome center since they are promoting it and there will be security provided by NYS at the welcome center. She stated that they're also working with the park police and Seneca county who patrols the lake. She said there is a lot of communication and she is proud of the council for acknowledging that initial need for funding.

Mayor Valentino said he doesn't usually allow someone from the audience to come speak on a subject but invited up an employee from the Rochester Museum and Science Center. She said that the eclipse is coming whether people like it or not, and she feels that we haven't done enough, but we need to be prepared since there are a lot of people coming and this is going to be their impression of Geneva.

City Manager Hendrix announced that the Solar Eclipse Task force meeting will be held Friday at 4pm at 41 Lakefront Hotel and is open to members of the public.

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

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

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

Nay - Clr. Pealer and Clr. Grimaldi

MOTION CARRIED

19. RATIFYING LABOR AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF GENEVA MUNICIPAL
EMPLOYEES' UNIT- CSEA-#7852-00 (MEU)

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the collective bargaining teams for the City of Geneva and City of Geneva Municipal Employees Unit- CSEA-#7852-00 have concluded negotiations for a successor collective bargaining agreement covering the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026 for MEU, and

WHEREAS, the City Manager is now recommending that the City Council adopt a three (3) year contract with the City of Geneva Municipal Employees Unit- CSEA-#7852-00, the following are the areas of proposed modifications:

- Article 1 - Recognition
- Article 2 - Salary
- Article 3 - Longevity
- Article 4 - Retirement
- Article 6 - Health Insurance
- Article 7 - Vacation
- Article 8 - Holidays

- Article 9 - Sick Leave
- Article 10 - Personal Leave
- Article 13 - Funeral Leave
- Article 14 - Grievance Procedures
- Article 17 - City Affairs/Management Rights
- Article 18 - Working Hours
- Article 21 - Time Schedule for Negotiations
- Article 22 - Transportation Reimbursement
- Article 25 - Seniority, Layoff, Recall
- Article 28 - Drug Policy
- Additional Items - Clothing Allowance for Code Enforcement Officer and Language Clean Up

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this City Council hereby ratifies said agreement and authorizes the expenditure of the necessary funds therefor; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City Manager be and hereby is authorized to execute said agreement on behalf of the City of Geneva.

City Manager Hendrix said this was reviewed at length and thanked the members of the negotiations team. She said they will see salary increases over a 3-year period beginning January 1, 2024 and a 2.75% increase for each year of the 3-year contract.

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

20. BOARD/ COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Pealer; seconded by Clr. Gillotte
MOVED THAT Matthew Fisher be appointed to the Recreation Board and Bryson Cochran be appointed to the Planning Board
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Valentino compliments Clr. Pealer and Gillotte for helping to encourage progress for appointments. He informed everyone that the standard practice is for a liaison to the board/ commission to work with the city clerk and the two councilors in charge of appointments to set interviews and recommend appointments to fill any vacancies.

Mayor Valentino appointed Clr. Brennan to the Shadetree Committee and Clr. Gillotte to the Police Budget Advisory Board (PBAB).

21. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Clr. Gillotte said the Mark Varvayanis is the new president of the BID board of directors and Bob

Stivers finished his term and stepped down. Regarding the Garlic Festival he explained BID couldn't handle the volume and expense that the festival became so Show Ready Events LLC will be taking it over. They are working on a transfer agreement and he will give more updates on it soon. Clr. Gillotte said the BID secured a roll off for trash during the eclipse and are selling eclipse glasses for \$1 but are going up to \$4 on Monday. He also shared that April 5th there will be live music vendors touring the city in front of different businesses as part of the eclipse.

Clr. Petropoulos said he met with the LDC and a survey was done for where they can make improvements. He shared that Catherine Price, from the BID, did a presentation for the plaques that will accompany the flower beds downtown. They also talked to BID about the restore program which targets abandoned buildings so he is going to reach out to see if anyone is interested locally. He said the LDC is also in the works of scheduling interviews for 2 vacancies and they've received 6 applications. He added that the castle street tunnel painting project received an update and they're going to try to do a mural down there. As for other events he said he attended a police department award ceremony, and was impressed by an officer who talked someone down from jumping off a building. Clr. Petropoulos said he received complaints about the weeds at the Geneva Peeps facility on State Street so he is going to tour the area Friday and see if the buildings are okay too. Lastly, he welcomes the Mexican Grocery Store that moved in recently.

Clr Whitfield reported that Geneva Recreation is starting soccer (youth, soccer for tots, spring break recreation, and adult soccer). Adult co-ed soccer begins April 10th on Wednesday's from 7:45-9:45 pm. The tot's group is ages 3-4, youth is 5-6 and 7-8, and the spring break is April 1st-5th from 8am-12pm ages 5-12.

Clr. Grimaldi attended the housing authority meeting where they discussed their scatter sites and resident complaints.

Clr. Pealer reported that the planning board met where they approved the property on Forge Ave to be subdivided and sold. The project for a potential Dunkin Donuts on the corner of North St and Exchange St was tabled and the De Sales development is under review from a previous initiative. He added that they also discussed the new Airbnb/ short-term rental policies. He expressed his concern about a member intending to investigate these properties in person since his understanding is they are supposed to review plans as opposed to going out and investigating. He feels that should come from city staff, and it isn't appropriate for the members to be doing because they aren't an inspection force. Lastly, he reminded everyone that the interviews are ongoing and to continue to apply.

Clr. Lavin explained the IDA meeting went well and complemented David West, saying he is organized and anticipates productive meetings. He said they received updates from the legion project, stating they're still awaiting financing, and they have another meeting Friday to discuss Trinity Church. He also met with the Vice President for Student Affairs from HWS, in hopes to rekindle that connection between the city and colleges, and they discussed the larger freshman class this year. They anticipate increased enrollment in upcoming years which means more students joining the community. He also addressed strategies regarding the noise issues and late-night fraternity parties. While he feels they aren't as stern as he would be, he does believe they will educate the students as to why these behaviors are inappropriate in residential neighborhoods. On the other hand, he recognized that they are a big company town so they need to find ways to make it work and he suggested starting with revitalizing the committee that connects the two.

Clr. Brennan announced that Ford Weiskittel retired from the HDC as of the new year after roughly 20 years of service. He said they are meeting with the staff of Historic Geneva to elect a new chairman in the upcoming weeks. Lastly, he provided the funds Tom Burrall raised from firewood, which amount to \$280.

Mayor Valentino reported that, as a liaison to the Ontario County Railroad Steering Committee, he will be meeting with them at the end of March or early April. He is working on getting caught up on where they currently stand and said their focus is the railyard on Middle Street and if there are possibilities of feasibly moving that railyard elsewhere in the county. He also congratulated Hobart Ice Hockey team who won the New England Hockey Conference and now will move on to NCAA Division 3 National Playoffs where he hopes they will repeat their win like last year. Mayor Valentino thanked the City Clerk Wright, since this is her last meeting, saying that he has received many compliments about how helpful she has been. He added that he was disappointed to see her go but he knows firefighting is her lifelong dream so he wishes her well and will be sure to keep her close in case they need anything.

22. ADJOURNMENT

**ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Pealer
MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:53pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Nicole Wright

City Clerk