

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

April 3, 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 7:35pm)

2. AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

ACTION TAKEN by Mayor Valentino; seconded by Clr. Brennan

MOVED THAT the agenda be amended to add 3 resolutions for the BID, Legal Services and a Separation Agreement.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

MOVED THAT the agenda be amended to add a resolution to keep Tax Levy at or less than 0%

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye –Clr. Lavin, Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Brennan

Nay – Mayor Valentino, Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Petropoulos and. Clr. Pealer and Clr. Grimaldi

MOTION DEFEATED

3. PROCLAMATIONS – Hobart Hockey Team and Fair Housing Month

4. PRESENTATIONS:

A. Overview of the WIAA grant and ATAD expansion – Joe Venuti

Thank you, Mayor - and good evening, City Manager and Councilors.

Along with MRB Group, our consulting engineering firm we are working on an exciting ATAD Expansion Project at our Marsh Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant on Doran Ave.

Our plant provides waste water treatment for the City of Geneva, Town of Geneva and portions of the Town of Waterloo.

We own and maintain an extensive sanitary sewer collection system, a Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP), and a High Flow Facility (HFF) which treats the very high flows generated during heavy snow melt periods and large rainstorms, and several in-line pumping stations.

The basic function of waste water treatment is to speed up the natural processes by which water is purified. This is achieved by Primary Treatment, Secondary Treatment, Aeration, Disinfection and Sludge Treatment.

It is important to understand that volume capacity for both liquids and solids are very different and that - “capacity “- is where the ATAD Expansion Project comes in.

What is ATAD? Autothermal Thermophilic Aerobic Digestion

This technology uses the nutrients and metabolic heat contained in sludge to generate high temperatures in a digester to stabilize and effectively pasteurize the treated sludge.

This process generates a high-quality product. Due to many years of hard work by former and current DPW staff, continued council support and investment by the city, we create the EPA’s highest classification of Class “A” biosolids, which we look forward to producing long into the future.

I have asked Tim Carpenter to brief us on how we got here, the WIIA Grant Funding strategy and the overall ATAD Project.

Tim is an experienced Professional Engineer with MRB and is a proven leader in both design and construction administration of water and waste water treatment plants.

Tim and his team are very familiar with our plant and pump stations.

Thank you I would like to introduce Mr. Tim Carpenter

Tim Carpenter

Hello Mayor, City Manager Amie and Councilor members

We thought it would be helpful to hear a brief discussion on how we spend \$9 million on this project and what goes in to these projects. At WWTP, liquid side and ends up with a solid side which goes through the sludge digester. Then can be hauled off to landfill as compost but for the last 10 years we have not been using the landfill and saving from not having to haul compost. Right now digestion side we are up to 97% total capacity which will not allow us to receive new waste water from neighboring areas. This will also limit possibility of growth by new industry. 5 years ago, we decided to hatch a plan to expand ATAD and will double the capacity so we will have ample room to receive waste from neighboring towns and will allow for new industry growth in the future.

The project to be about \$9M in construction costs with \$2.3M in WIIA grant and a \$6.7M Hardship Loan at 0%. This has been a 5yr process from idea to construction which started in 2020 with the idea, a prelim study was done in 2021 and applications were started in 2022. Grant applications were done in 2022 and received for \$2M. The design process was started in 2023 and set to be finished later this year with the bidding process sometime at the end of 2024 and construction to begin in 2025. We are partnering with Thermal Process Systems (vendor of Sludge treatment system) to double our system, MRB Group Peak, NYSDEC to review design and NYSEC who will administer grant and review design. Tanks will be repurposed to save money. Anticipated schedule is to secure approvals and put project out for bids this fall, award project early in 2025, begin construction 2025 and have completed by early 2026.

B. Wine and Grape Report – Julia Hoyle

Julia Hoyle is a winemaker at Hosmer Winery and lives on Pulteney St

Her spouse, Colby, also a wine maker own 55 acre vineyard– Lohoma vineyards and are opening Appollo’s Praise Winery -set to open very soon.

We have noticed over last few year- the community of Geneva is separated from agriculture industry.

Many live in the Geneva area. Geneva is considered the epi- center of local wine and grape growers and workers. Rose Soiree started over 10 years has brought our 2 communities together as well as other

events. Along with Micro-Climate, they can be credited with the current version of Linden street-walkable, full of music and a meeting place for locals and visitors. FLX Excursion Conference brings together hundreds of people from all over the world that work in the industry as well as wine writers for this 3-day celebration with hundreds of consumers who also attend. Vinifer Wines runs a Summer Wine Series and were also named to the Future 40 tastemaker by Wine Enthusiasts just last year. That is very important. I have suggested this report 2x per year to share the joys and trials and excitement of the vineyards and comes home with us - to Geneva. Lots of investment from our city coming from this industry and is Important to acknowledge and encourage the organic investment that is already happening. The wine industry is not a tide that came out of nowhere but it can be cultivated. Would like to continue to engage the community be a major driver and integrate it into broader conversations through agri-tourism and wine industry and city committees to benefit all of us. The wine industry is here to stay – but who is the capital remains to be seen. It has been Penn Yan, Hammondsport and now Geneva- if Geneva wants the title and ups and downs that come with it, they will need to plan for it. Thoughtful planning by Geneva management and officials will carry the city forward and make it a place that supports it current residents and embraces tourism. These two things can and need to co-exist

Fun Facts:

FL AVA composed 144 wineries and 423 farms

NYS ranks as the 3rd most producing wine state ...western NY with Concord and Catawba grapes

NY wines can be found across the world in Sweden, UK, Norway, Canada, France, Germany, Denmark Japan and Hong Kong and many more.

Warm days make growers nervous...they lost almost 50% last year with the late freeze in May. Nearly 50 years since we had lost as many. I look forward to coming back in the fall when we have wine in tanks and give you an update.

5. FOUNDRY UPDATE

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. This is the final design and final property to be cleaned up as part of NYSDEC's offsite remediation project.

Remedial Construction

- The remedial contractor mobilized equipment and materials and resumed construction activities in late March. Small excavation areas at properties between Geneva and Genesee Streets that were not completed by the end of 2023 are being addressed now. Remediation of two additional residential parcels located on Tillman Street and Clinton Street is expected to be substantially completed by the end of April.
- Remediation of the State Street parcel owned by the city and used as a project staging area also will be completed during spring 2024. Demobilization from the project staging areas on Lehigh Street, Geneva Street, and State Street is expected to be completed in summer 2024.

6. SUPERVISOR UPDATE

Closure Plan for 2028 for Landfill Workshop attended by several Geneva residents intended to appraise residents, others are planned in the future. There were no questions asked as it was an informational workshop. Closure consultants process will take most of the rest of this year. If you would like an invite to the next one, please email me: James.Kennedy@ontariocountyny.gov. I continue to serve on the Health & Human Services and Government Operations Committees. I also regularly attend monthly planning and Environment Quality (oversee Landfill) and ways and Means. Housing Advisory committee from Housing Report is looking for advisor member – please email me your interest

Rabies Clinis April 6

7. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

- A. February 26th, 2024 (Special Council Meeting)
- B. February 29th, 2024 (Special Council Meeting)
- C. March 6th, 2024 (Regular Council Meeting)
- D. March 11th, 2024 (Special Council Meeting)
- E. March 18th, 2024 (Special Council Meeting)
- F. March 20th, 2024 (Special Council Meeting)
- G. March 27th, 2024 (Special Council Meeting)

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Lavin; seconded by Clr. Grimaldi
MOVED THAT the group minutes of the February and March Council Meeting be approved
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anne Harvey Hoyt

As you may/may not know, one of our stated goals for 2024 is to promote homeowners' use of rain barrels and rain gardens to divert storm water from the city's aging storm water infrastructure.

We will be offering a program at Mission Zero3 on rain barrels in collaboration with Ontario County Soil & Water.

Now -- thanks to a new collaboration with Seneca Lake Pure Waters -- we will be co-sponsoring a program at the Geneva Public Library on rain gardens -- where best to install a rain garden, how to install one, what plants to use, and how to maintain it. We're hoping to install a demonstration rain garden on the library grounds.

The person leading this program will be Emily DeBolt, the new director at Seneca Lake Pure Waters. It will be SLPW's contribution to a regional effort by the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance to promote lake friendly practices in the month of May.

Mission Zero now has at least 26 vendors and groups participating in this event. Besides the rain barrel workshop, the city's Shade Tree Committee will also be distributing trees.

I am also here to voice my support for the city's Business Improvement District. Ever since the Green Committee became involved with supporting the city's Lakefront Park, we have requested through our council liaison that the city hire a horticulturalist to manage the park.

Every year, when a new budget is adopted, there is no appropriation for this expense. Instead, the city has left much of the work of maintaining this park to people like me who have no formal training.

Thankfully, last fall, BID stepped up and hired a trained horticulturalist to direct the work in the city's downtown beds, to manage the volunteers at the Lakefront Park, and to do the work that's needed at the park.

This work has to be done. BID has taken on that responsibility. I urge you to support them.

We've also asked council every year for funds to pay for replacement plants. We've never gotten that either. Instead, Geneva Community Projects contributed money one year, and last year, BID provided \$1,000 to purchase plants.

BID is taking on many of the city's responsibilities and doing it at less expense than the city would incur were it to do these things. Rather than withhold funding for last year's fourth quarter, I urge you to transfer these funds to the 2024 budget and reimburse BID for the work it does for the city.

Brenda Cardinale - Darlene Tritec

Darlene spoke first about the Hometown Hero Banners, with partnering American Legion ordered 102 Veteran Banners to be installed by the BID next month. This is a huge source on community pride- we are asking for City's support for an unexpected cost to this project approximately \$700 and hoping the city can help cover the deficit.

Brenda – we are hoping city could help us and for future costs. We would welcome any help. We thought we would receive 40-50 banners but received double the requests.

Mayor- we can look to add this in our next budget to help with future

Clr Grimaldi...suggested to contact the Knights of Columbus for help

Jayson Swarley

Thank you Mayor Valentino and City Manager Hendrix and the Council for allowing me to speak. I am a business owner and was born and raised in Geneva and continue to be heavily involved in farming, the farm Bureau and agri-tourism. I am a financial planner and have clients that have short term rentals as well as myself and family members. There is a need for it- we are booked most year around. I appreciate the work council has put on this issue and regulations they are proposed- TUD to accommodate S Main lack of parking where we don't have any and hopefully don't have to have onsite parking. But these new fees that are being suggested will put us out of business. It's a lot to ask for \$100 per unit, 4 units for \$4000 and pay it 2 years in advance after coming out of a lean season is just too much. What other business is asked to pay \$1000 for a yearly license? It is really unreasonable -something like \$150-200 per unit and a year at a time is much more reasonable and affordable. Agri-tourism is a huge part of our community- People have to have a place to stay and want to be able to cook and relax in a living room with a glass of wine. People want the at home space not in a room. They want the home experience. This is what keeps us busy. I would be happy to talk further with anyone interested.
~ Thank you

Craig Upcroft

Thank you Mayor Valentino and council- I appreciate the opportunity to speak, I have been a Geneva resident for 2 years, I moved from Punta Gorda for opportunity- I bought a house out there after losing my job and went in to the STR business. It's a seasonal business out there so I decided to research to find a place to that had 4 seasons, so I went on YouTube and found Geneva had opportunity. I bought a house by the Belhurst and it's been doing well but its only seasonal. I got an email from ABNB about this new resolution that Geneva wants to charge \$1000 for me to run my business and wondered why... I bring so much to Geneva. I have people at my house right now from Dubai and people that come in from all over the world. They come a visit Wegmans, Rusty Pig and wineries. I even sell local wines to the visitors. Inflation has hit everyone. We run this as very serious to me...other places have started implementing fees but they are starting to see businesses leave. We pay NY taxes (14.5%) and now you are asking for more – it really hurts. We make enough to make our mortgages and to eat with. Businesses and citizens are leaving Geneva. Used to be 12K people and now its 9k. there are a lot of BnB that bring a lot to Geneva. I would like you to think about what's happening Thank you

Catherine Price from BID

Good evening everyone. Part of what I wanted to talk about is what we do as the BID. We have a new mission statement which I would like to share with you:

The Geneva BID improves and enhances the vibrancy of the City of Geneva's downtown area by serving as stewards of local resources to assist businesses and property owners through supporting the maintenance, operations, events and infrastructure of the district. We strive to create a vibrant storefront filled epicenter of networking, marketing, promotion, events, and beautification. The BID stands committed to make Geneva stand out and be the true destination of the Finger Lakes Region.

We have 175+ business downtown- we strive to create opportunities and provide services that help downtown merchants. We work with business on a variety of projects, events and help business owners opening in Geneva. We also work with the City on Events, FL Visitors Connection and discover Geneva Passport. We help bring people to visit wineries and downtown. Right now, we have 26 events that we produce or coproduce in Geneva. With the Downtown landscape being completed in 2023- we now have 62 landscape beds (increase of 150%) and with that brings an increased workload. We work closely with the Green Committee- We have a new planting guide out, plaques for the plantings ordered -lots of info on plantings on our website. We are considered cutting edge with Native Plant Parks- they are sustainable, perennials grow and continue to bloom, long term a lot less work but short term it is more work. Received a grant from On the Canals to be able to give out 2000 seed packets and host a Native Plant and Insect event. Among other things we do the Xmas decorations, pickup garbage, shovel handicap ramps, maintain planters (with more being added this year). We have been working with the American Legion on the Hometown Hero project and are replacing light poll brackets to house the banners and make them easier to use with more banners in future years. Budgets are tight, my lateness in producing our 4th quarter report to the city resulted in us not getting reimbursed for our expenses. Please consider making an adjustment to the General Fund so that we can be reimbursed for our 4th quarter expenses. This puts the BID in a precarious situation. I hope you will consider passing the resolution to reimburse the BID \$14,901.29 for the 2023 expenses.... Thank you

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Storm Task Force Meeting Recap

The members of the Storm Task Force meet on March 12 and reviewed their charge, which is to research and provide recommendations to council for ways to respond to and mitigate storms in the City. The members have divided into three teams focused on Infrastructure Preparation and Emergency Planning and Communications and Community Education. The teams will be meeting on a regular basis and then come back as a Task Force at least quarterly. The Staff will be working with the teams to identify resources for the group to create their recommendations. A few ideas that the groups brainstormed include:

A few ideas that the groups brainstormed so far include:

- Alarm system programming to check creek water levels
- Creating a campaign focused on capturing water vs. run off
- Reviewing ordinances and practices related to leaf collection, rain gardens, debris, and other methods to capture rain water
- Researching the infrastructure and developing annual plans that are clearly communicated
- Reviewing the creation of neighborhood alert programs and neighborhood response programs during weather events
- The creation of new homeowner packets on obtaining abstracts, what to know during an event, who to call, etc.

RFP for Rink

As part of the 2024 Budget process, funding was re-allocated from 2023 to support a review of the Recreation Complex and the development of a Master Plan for the complex. Later this month a Request for Proposal (RFP) for this project will be released.

Kayak RFP: A RFP for the Kayak services presented at the last council meeting will soon be issued.

Assessment: As mentioned by the Assessor we are coming into assessment season on April 1. The mailings are being prepared and will go out on April 1. A full disclosure notice and a letter has been mailed. The full disclosure notice shows the change in assessed value as well as a hypothetical estimate of the new tax liability. This is based on last years levy with the new tax base. The assessor's office will be making all of the appointments for the informal hearings and grievance day. The office can be reached at 315-789-0091.

Solar Eclipse: Maps will soon be available at City Hall. City Hall will be open during regular business hours the day of the Eclipse with the front counter closing from 2:45pm - 3:30pm for staff to view the eclipse. Within in City Hall we will have water, printed maps, information on the community, and until our resources are depleted, eclipse glasses.

As a staff we are treating this as an incident command system training and are practicing ICS principles in deploying our resources. The Fire Department, Police Department, Department of Public Works, and a variety of community partners will be in on-going communication throughout the event, ready to respond to any emergencies that may arise.

Retreat Notes/Follow Up

Our facilitator Ian will be preparing an overview of notes and next steps from the retreat meetings. These notes will include action items for council to take as we move forward the discussions to actions.

Budget 2025: April begins the budget process and the Comptroller and I have begun to review the current financial situation of the City, utilizing the 2023 actuals and reviewing Q1 documentation. In May we will discuss the 2025 process and utilize the information have.

City Council will soon be moving back to 2nd Floor of City Hall. We are hopeful to welcome council back for the May Council meeting, with a ribbon cutting prior to the meeting.

9. 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

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

MOVED THAT this resolution be amended to change the fee from \$1000 to \$200

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye – Clr. Pealer, Clr. Gillotte, and Mayor Valentino

Nay – Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Moracco
and Clr. Whitfield

MOTION DEFEATED

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

MOVED THAT this resolution be tabled

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye – Clr. Lavin, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Whitfield and Clr. Grimaldi

Nay – Clr. Moracco, Clr. Pealer, Clr. Gillotte and Mayor Valentino

MOTION DEFEATED

ACTION TAKEN by; Mayor Valentino; seconded by Clr. Gillotte

MOVED THAT this resolution be tabled

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Valentino-received email asking if any councilors have any interest in STR that they should make it known. Clr Brennan asked to recuse himself as he does have STR.

Clr Petrpolis said he may have some interest in STR. He has constituents in his ward that has numerous ABNB. He thinks \$1000 is a little high. Do we have any stipulations if there are numerous violations? My feeling we could compromise on the fees.

Clr Lavin: We have a session scheduled for next week. Should we table until that session?

Mayor- I would like to continue discussion

Clr Grimaldi: \$1000 needs to be substantiated that fee represent the city's cost. Inspecting is a mistake because it puts city liable for problems. Has been told that we can't single out one group of rental properties, what we want to do is to redo ordinance that the owner submits application and a fee. Have owner sign off on some sort of paperwork that everything is in working order. Fees need to be reviewed. We don't have staff to inspect and will become a more restrictive law and submit to state. Would like to table this.

Clr Pealer I agree with what Clr Grimaldi has said. Goal tonight to get this resolution passed and to do it in a responsible way. This is a complicated topic – not as simple as stimulating free trade. I live on a sleepy street, that narrow and if someone is parked on the street only 1 car can pass. My parents would have never been able to live and start a business here if the housing prices were what they are now. My house has doubled in 9 years. My #1 priority since 2020 – what are symptoms of struggling communities- we have over 50% rentals and they out way our residential. Generally speaking, a single-family residential home was never meant to be like treated like this. We want new people to come here to live, children to go to our schools- not just taxpayers here. STR negatively affecting our neighborhoods. We need to have options for middle class families. I hope we can make this resolution fair and balanced. We are losing residents. I'm going to vote for this tonight- we have to get the plane in the air.

Clr Gillotte: Do we have an option to freeze and get rid of fees in the resolution and push forward with amendment? The fees need to be addressed. Can we pass this resolution without fees and go back later.

Amie- fees are holding up the discussion. Fees were not addressed in the resolution. That is all that is being requested Staff has been preparing this for your session next week to go. Fees have to commensurate with what the work load is. The other side-how was fee discussed with previous council. Staff is working on recommendations based on current legislation. It has stayed on agenda because it is unfinished business and will stay there.

Clr Petropoulis- I want to see this resolution weed out people who care about Geneva and the ones that are mere opportunists. Do they live on or new property? We want to be able to hold them accountable. I would like to tweak this to a little more - it was from an year ago come up with a fair and equitable resolution.

Amie: Pieces have changed with legislation (things have been struck down in court) since last year. We need to be flexible with code and ordinance-as things change. There may be things we try and then need to adjust.

Clr. Lavin: Should we wait to have session before we make adjusts? Amie responded yes.

Mayor- Thank you to staff who have worked diligently on this for a long period of time. We have an ordinance in place. We had delayed the start of ordinance –The fee resolution kicks off the ordinance. Challenge of unregulated business in our neighborhoods. Ordinance gives accountability on STR but no opportunity for revenue to compensate expenses. Hearing from hotels and BNB that we are collecting a 3% occupancy tax from them but not from others. Not fair to those entities who are being charged the tax- it is complicated. We need something in place for accountability and have issues responded to quickly. Resolution for fee can be changed anytime- but ordinance will take longer - take PH and 2 readings to change ordinance. We started meeting saying how many meetings but we need to commit to getting this done soon.

Clr. Pealer: We need to pass resolution to get this plane in the air. Tonight we can set a fee. When discussion is done I want to make an amendment to make the fee to \$200. Original fee was largely arbitrary - just to get the ordinance done.

Mayor: Looking to make changes to ordinance with staff. Director of Economic Dev has approached the podium to add input.

Clr Lavin: Our public management is suggesting we have other things to review besides the fees. We want to address these all together- we have a session to tackle this.

David West- quick word of advice if you want to pursue amending the resolution tonight. Second suggestion from staff: The language was unclear how fees apply and to what it applies. Need to interpret and clarify what the per property is... dwelling or bedroom or other. If you want to amend what happens to those that have already applied. He went on to define dwelling vs bedrooms.

Mayor: So to make a motion to amendment what David is recommending and a motion to amend the fees to \$200. Do we have discussion on that?

Amie: Can we make it clear if that motion is per dwelling unit or per bedrooms vs per property

Clr Pealer: I think it's wise not to make it clear and handle it at work session. I favor dwelling but a lot of people need to digest it. The Mayor and I have a lot of relationship with this ordinance. I like a lot of the staff recommendations and agree with all of them. I want to take this one step at a time and setting the price tonight and get the plane in the air. If we need to make refunds later let's make them small- we have done this before.

Pert: My issue with per property-is it could be 10 subdivide bedrooms vs only 1. It goes a little easier on the guy with ten. I don't know how long it will take to change definition- but would like to change definition.

Gram: I think we should wait – we have too many things to change?

Vote taken but was defeated.

Clr Grimaldi-I don't think that we think we think the previous did a good job- at the time it was an ok job but now with judges making these opinions. I think we should wait on this to review it all.

Clr Whitfield: We also have a new council member that may not know what is going on -which is why the table should be. Although some of may not know about STR- am hearing only 2 know about -that's why this should be tabled.

Clr Moracco- Why can't we just charge the Occupancy Tax?

David: State Law does not allow STR to be charged Occupancy Tax because of the number of rooms. Most of STR don't fall under this, a state law would need to be passed.

CM: Home Rule law- has passed in other municipalities but not Geneva. Something that will be considered in the work session. Fees are related to work that is done in the process.

David West: Fees are not a generating revenue but to offset costs to implement regulations.

Clr.Lavin: Hotels are screaming why should we pay Occ Tax and nit ABNB- it's a fairness question. Wayne county did get approval but just has not happened in Geneva

Mayor: In an essence of efficiency, I would like to make a motion to table. Motion passed.

10. RESOLUTION DECLARING WATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT A TYPE II ACTION

David West presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva, with assistance from MRB Group, completed an Engineering Report for the Evaluation of Existing Treatment facilities and Recommendations for Capital Improvements at the City of Geneva Water Treatment Plant on February 6, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva seeks to be ready for grant opportunities that may fund water treatment plant improvements including WIIA, BRIC, and others; and

WHEREAS, completing SEQR review of projects is a key component in grant readiness and an important responsibility of Council; and

WHEREAS, Council declared lead agency for the review of this project on Feb. 2, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the construction of new facilities at the water treatment plan proposed by the MRB report falls well within the Type II threshold for Part617.5-C9: construction or expansion of a primary or accessory/appurtenant, non-residential structure or facility involving less than 4,000 square feet of gross floor area and not involving a change in zoning or a use variance and consistent with local land use controls, but not radio communication or microwave transmission facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Geneva declares that the Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project is a Type 2 Action for the purposes of State Environmental Quality Review, and no further review is required.

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

11. RESOLUTION NEGATIVE DECLARATION OF ENVIROMENT SIGNIFICANCE – GENEVA RAIL TRAIL PROJECT CLARK TO GENESEE

David West presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva, adopted the Brownfield Opportunity Area Connectivity Strategy in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva was successful in pursuing a Recreational Trails Program grant in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Geneva City Council declares itself to be the lead agency for the review of the Geneva Rail Trail Project Clark to Genesee called for in the BOA Connectivity Strategy and funded by the RTP grant; and

WHEREAS, Council has reviewed the project plans and developed the Full Environmental Assessment Form Part 1 with the assistance of expert staff; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project replaces previously removed bridges with new bridges to allow the use of the former rail bed as a pedestrian path; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts and does not impact any sensitive areas; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Geneva adopts the attached Parts 2 & 3 Full Environmental Assessment Forms, issues a negative declaration of environmental significance, and directs the City Manager to take all necessary actions to sign and submit said documents.

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

12. RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2024 GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO THE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

City Manager Amie Hendrix presented the following resolution:

Whereas, the City of Geneva contracts with the Business Improvement District (BID) to provide enhanced maintenance programming within the district; and

Whereas, In the 2023 Budget up to \$90,000 was awarded to the BID to provide ongoing maintenance and beautification services in the downtown and lakefront districts; and

Whereas, this agreement provides funding to reimburse expenses related to support of two (2) year-round full-time equivalent employees as well as two (2) additional seasonal staff members and reimbursement for supplies required for maintenance efforts; and

Whereas, the executed contract requires BID to deliver a report of activities and supporting documentation based upon this budget allocation at the end of each quarter, specifically no later than the 15th of the month after the close of the quarter, for reimbursement; and

Whereas, the fourth quarter annual report requesting for \$14,901.29 for reimbursement of 2023 expenses were received after the deadline of January 15, 2024 on February 27, 2024; and

Whereas, the City 2023 financials were closed by the City prior to receipt of the fourth quarter report; and

Whereas, the BID is requesting to receive this funding in 2024, in addition to the approved 2024 Budget amount of up to \$90,000; 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 not to exceed: \$14,901.29

Expenses:

Business Improvement District 6326.4064: \$14,901.29

Be it further resolved, that the City Comptroller is authorized to execute this payment to

Business Improvement District in April 2024 after final review of all supporting documentation.

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

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13. RESOLUTION APPROVING EMPLOYMENT SEPERATION AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

City Manager Amie Hendrix presented the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that this City Council hereby approves a certain Employment Separation Agreement and Release, and also authorizes the City Manager to execute said Agreement on behalf of the City of Geneva.

ACTION TAKEN by Mayor Valentino; seconded by Clr. Gillotte

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. RESOLUTION DESIGNATING LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDER FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM

City Manager Amie Hendrix 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.

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

15. BOARD/ COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Gillotte; seconded by Clr. Brennan
MOVED THAT Mary Salotti, Tom Burrall, and Jerry Buckley be appointed to the
Historic Districts Commission
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Gillotte; seconded by Clr. Pealer
MOVED THAT BJ Radford and Anthony Noone be appointed to the
Police Budget Advisory Board
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Gillotte
MOVED THAT Martha Davis be appointed to the Local Development Corp.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Gillotte; seconded by Clr. Pealer
MOVED THAT Lisa Pietrocarlo be appointed to the Recreation Advisory Board

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

MOVED THAT Kyle Olschewske be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

MOVED THAT Daisy Hoyt, James McCorkle, Tom Burrall be appointed to the Shade Tree Committee

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Clr. Whitfield: Advisory Board meeting April 16, Soccer signup and camp registration is going on. Canasaga Dog Show April 14. Mission Zero April 27. Role Model Career Day April 23. Congratulations to Hobart Hockey Team on 2nd Championship

Clr. Petr: Colt St Easter Egg was really well attended. LDC- Eclipse all lodging is full. Closing on Dunkin' Donuts is final approval with IDA. New appointee for IDC. New consultant Gary Ferguson- brainstorming ideas for Geneva. Productive session.

Clr. Gillotte: BID board has been rejuvenated. Ward 4- would like to see Madia's Castle St cleanup – moving slow. After getting elected I sent out postcard to my ward and its working.

Grimaldi – Did not attend Housing Authority Meeting, will report next month.

Clr. Pealer: Planning Board SEQR passed for Dunkin' Donuts. Full support to Hometown Heroes Program - it's a great project. Wonderful sense of patriotism-the all-stars of our community. I have had questions RFP for Kayak program- on our site. Port-A-Potty will be setup Sunday. Will traffic light s be adjusted? Joe V- they will remain on, we can adjust the lights in Geneva only.

Clr. Lavin: Apologize to council for trying to do something quickly tonight. This is a group of people can get along even if we disagree. Traditional processes were brought up to be discussed. Have not found a venue to bring up issues brought up in Jan – no performance goals for different heads have been set- best practices is not in effective in Geneva. Without being critical of the people, we need to speed up to get things done. Need committees to vet issues to bring them to the council. I would like to be able to give direction to CM for budgets, in a year with assessments going up (about 40%)- can we reassure and say listen – we understand. People I my ward with a house \$400K are paying 20K-not a competitive situation for our community, when apartments have higher rents for the poor. When agenda is put together is with mayor, cm and lawyers and need to make is accessible to councilors to add topics

Clr Brennan: Shade Tree committee- have existed for 35 years, have a check for \$200 (from Tom Burrall) we have “eclipsed” \$11K since Dec. 2021. Remarkable committee led by James Norwalk, helped by Mark Perry. Thet have a spreadsheet of trees in Geneva April 27 event with tree giveaways. Need just 1 more member.

Historical District committee: Very important committer, Ford Witzel has retired and we are working on regrouping. Looking to have more meetings more frequently.

Mayor: On the agendas – We meet 2nd or 3rd Tuesday. before the next month's meeting. Any councilor can bring a resolution to get something on the agenda, best way is to send it to the CM so staff can vet it. No magic to getting on the agenda- this makes it easy to get on. We just ask that it is worded properly and legal. Anyone can attend-its 9am 2 Tuesdays before council meeting. We inform council-we just need to caution not to have a quorum because it could turn in to a public meeting. I attended the OC Safety Committee Awards dinner at Clifton Springs Country Club- it was amazing. 73 awards were given out – 3x more than they have ever given. Citizens that got involved and put support and life out there to protect others. Please enjoy all the events going on in Geneva leading up to the Eclipse. Enjoy, be safe and have a good time!

17. ADJOURNMENT

**ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Whitfield
MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:30pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Alicia Jean
Deputy City Clerk