

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

September 4, 2024 – 7:00 PM

City Hall – 2nd Floor Council Room

47 Castle Street

Geneva, NY 14456

Presiding – Steve Valentino, Mayor

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Brennan, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Pealer, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Moracco, Clr. Whitfield (arrived at 6:11)

Absent:

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

MOVED THAT council move to executive session at 6:01pm to discuss proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities held by such public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value thereof.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

MOVED THAT council exit executive session at 6:56pm

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. PROCLAMATION - Remembering Assistant Chief Kevin Powers

4. PRESENTATION - Planning and Economic Development Overview – presented by Director West

Director of Planning and Economic Development David West opened by thanking City Council for their time, and shared that he's happy to have been with the City for one year. Director West went on to review what he was brought on to accomplish for the City of Geneva, including oversight of all matters related to community development, economic development, and planning for the City; such as issues related to business development, zoning, housing, tourism, transportation, community engagement, energy and sustainability, and acting as a key member of the City's leadership team. Additionally, this role oversees and supervises the City's grant program and its administration, supports work related to land use planning and programs including assisting with zoning administration and comprehensive planning; as well as supervising, developing and implementing city wide economic development, community development and neighborhood/housing strategies, plans, and activities. Duties and responsibilities of the position are extensive and were also reviewed. Director West shared details

related to the Economic Development Strategic Plan and its partners which include the Geneva BID, LDC, IDA, and the City's Planning and Economic Development Department. He also shared other Economic Development partners including colleges, Ontario County Economic Development, among many other local and regional agencies. In his first year, Director West shared several accomplishments including the completion of a 6 year long zoning update, the adoption of short-term rental legislation, launching the GEDC Engineering Study, the Rec Complex study, and the Economic Development Strategic Plan, and Community Engagement and survey. First year key Economic Development accomplishments include managing \$150,000 in direct support to 7 local businesses, award of a \$1.5 million Restore NY Grant for Mixed Use Downtown, permitted 95 events in 2024 (a 38% increase over previous year), and a very successful Farmer's Market showcasing 97 vendors (up for 72 in 2023) with a SNAP program on track for a 3x increase in utilization. Director West also reviewed grant accomplishments over the past year to include participating in applications to EFC, US EPA, DOT, CDBG, as well as the management of 18 grant programs. Additionally, Director West shared several housing accomplishments benefiting the City including collaborating to bring two Habitat for Humanity homes into the works, collaboration with Finger Lakes Community Action bringing \$4.5 million to the Geneva Housing Authority, \$100,000 for a small fixes homeowner program, application for CDBG homeowner rehab program, and delivered IDA incentives to DeSales where 17 market rate apartments will be created. Moving forward Director West shared that he's looking forward to the Growth of Microenterprise Program, Housing Repair Program (if funding is awarded), the redevelopment of OEO and Crystal St. sites, LDC reboot of the Neighborhood Program, better marketing for the city and more connections with partners. Director West shared that his overarching goals are to improve the quality of life in Geneva, to add more fun, grow the tax base and stop population loss. He highlighted how economic development works over time to invest, build partnerships and coalitions, market the community and build businesses locally and shared plans including but not limited to the comprehensive plan, lakefront amenities, neighborhood study, connectivity between downtown and the lakefront, infrastructure and more. Mayor Valentino thanked Director West for his efforts, and shared that he sees things heading in the right direction, offering City Council's assistance to make connections. Councilor Lavin shared that he's a big fan of Director West's work, and would like City Council to give his department more guidance on what to focus on, and encourages more community support of the projects highlighted in the presentation as well as the plaza and other ongoing projects, and expressed some concerns related to the return on investment of the GEDC. He closed his comments thanking Director West for all of his efforts and great work.

5. DISCUSSION - Senior Exemption Programs – City Manager Hendrix and Assessor Rados

City Manager Hendrix led with an explanation of total assessed value, using 2023 numbers to show what is occurring currently with the 2024 budget. She explained that the tax levy is the addition of all city expenses, subtracting revenue; the levy fills in the remainder of the budget, which was \$8.4 million in 2024. She further explained that the tax rate is the levy divided by the taxable assessed value of real property in the city. Assessor Rados further explained that there are currently 24 residents enrolled for the city's senior exemption to property tax, and 38 residents enrolled in the school and county exemptions.

Mayor Valentino wondered if the city has current annual income levels to determine the impact of this exemption. He thanked the City Manager and Assessor for showing the impact of the proposed exemptions in a digestible manner.

City Manager Hendrix shared that the County includes an IRA deduction in their senior exemption

program, and recommends that the City use the same methodology, and shared the recommended sliding scale:

\$ -	to	\$ 18,000.00	50%
\$ 18,000.01	to	\$ 18,999.99	45%
\$ 19,000.00	to	\$ 19,999.99	40%
\$ 20,000.00	to	\$ 20,999.99	35%
\$ 21,000.00	to	\$ 21,899.99	30%
\$ 21,900.00	to	\$ 22,799.99	25%
\$ 22,800.00	to	\$ 23,699.99	20%
\$ 23,700.00	to	\$ 24,599.99	15%
\$ 24,600.00	to	\$ 25,499.99	10%
\$ 25,500.00	to	\$ 26,399.99	5%
\$ 26,400.00	or more		0%

Councilor Pealer wondered what the total assessed value vs. levy impact breakdown would look like. Assessor Rados explained that the proposed exemption is a tax shifting exemption, with no loss in revenue. Councilor Grimaldi added that for a home assessed at \$150,000 the tax cost will increase by \$3, based on County numbers. Discussion followed. It was agreed upon that a resolution would be brought forward to set a public hearing.

6. AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

ACTION TAKEN by Mayor Valentino; seconded by Clr. Grimaldi

MOVED THAT the agenda be amended to include a resolution Proposing a Public Hearing and Adoption of Amended Levels of Real Property Tax Exemptions for Senior Citizens Under Real Property Tax Law Section 467.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. DISCUSSION – Zoning Change of MDR to CB5 – Director West

Director of Planning and Economic Development David West brought forward an opportunity to extend the most flexible zoning district, CB5, which allows a variety of business and housing uses, up to five stories, with the best opportunity for tax revenue, in the downtown area. He shared key areas identified where development can happen, and asked Councilmembers in which areas they would like to see more development. Director West provided an example of limited residential use right into the downtown area, as a suggested area to consider. He added that the Finger Lakes Times building is in a more limited zoning area, that would benefit from more development flexibility, as that property is on the market, as well as the downtown ATM drive through at the north end of downtown. Director West asked for feedback, even if the feedback is that councilmembers like the lines where they are. Mayor Valentino provided some background on previous council's updates to Chapter 350 of the City's Zoning Ordinance, noting that it is a fluid document, and it was understood at the time of the update that it would continue to be updated. He further shared that he likes to see these identified opportunities, wondering if council should take small bites, or take on bigger pieces. Director West suggested taking on bigger pieces, thinking in a larger perspective, not focusing on a single project. Mayor Valentino then wondered about the impact of lake views if more areas are updated to CB5. Councilor Gillotte likes the proposal, and believes it's good to have more flexibility, noting that he prefers the bigger plan, he sees it as helpful since the City is landlocked. Councilor Pealer agreed with Councilor Gillotte, and wondered what five stories would look like. He further commented that

three stories look nice, but is open to the update. City Manager Hendrix explained that there could be a phased in approach to the updates. Councilor Petropoulos shared that he also likes the downtown flexibility, and wants to be sure that the historical look of downtown isn't compromised, and that consideration is given to the overall impression of downtown is given to residents, businesses, and tourists. Councilor Lavin shared that he is also supportive of the idea, noting that the time is now while there is development pressure as the Finger Lakes region is growing and developing. Discussion followed regarding the slight differences in total height of three versus four story buildings downtown. Councilor Brennan shared that he was trying to find a reason not to rezone, and can't think of one. He supports protecting the City's history and noted that it's a no-brainer to rezone the Finger Lakes Times property which is currently almost impossible to redevelop. Mayor Valentino advised that he'd like to see something sooner rather than later, agreeing with Councilor Lavin that the city should strike while the iron is hot. He shared council's direction to come back with suggestions to changes to zoning. Councilor Grimaldi added that current zoning kills the value of the Finger Lakes Times building, and noted that the Fire Department is in a residential zone, and probably shouldn't be. Discussion then occurred around older neighborhoods that are mostly single-family homes, and updating them to R1, so they can't be converted to multifamily rental properties. Mayor Valentino's opinion is that could be a next step. Discussion followed. Director West committed to having something together for the October meeting, which he will get to Councilmembers quite early for review.

8. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

- A. August 7 (Regular Council Meeting)
- B. August 22 (Special Council Meeting)

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

MOVED THAT the minutes of the August 7 and August 22 Council Meetings be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Popalisky shared that while he believes that reducing costs of anything for seniors is laudable, but not in line with the goals set at the recent meeting at the Bozzuto Center. He expressed concern with the City's current tax exemption and wondered how many seniors who aren't currently participating will enroll, suggesting that the numbers presented may not wind up being an accurate projection. He also noted the increasing number of seniors living in the City and shared his belief that the senior exemptions will add to difficulties in attracting younger people to buy and settle in the City of Geneva due to high taxes, reinforcing his belief that increasing the senior tax exemption will go on people and businesses we want to attract to the City. Mr. Popalisky added that the City Manager should be concerned about tax revenue, noting a decrease from revenue of \$5.2 million in 2022 to \$4.6 million in 2024. He further explained that he'd like to see the City use exemptions to rehab existing homes or buy homes, rather than offer more exemptions to seniors.

Cathrine Price, Executive Director of the BID shared that BID is asking for funding in the 2025 budget for economic development, sharing that beatification is key to economic development and keeping Geneva attractive. She reminded Council that downtown growth spreads out the tax burden and funnels more money into our community. She explained that BID is committed to growing businesses and the tax base in the downtown area. Ms. Price went on to explain that the BID is working with

partner agencies and received \$25,000 in grant funding from the federal government for Placer AI, a tool that will provide advanced purchasing pattern analysis. She shared that the tool will provide detailed reports on purchasing patterns analysis breakdowns encompassing seasonal, and day of the week trends. BID and partner agencies will look at foot traffic counts, strategic planning support measurements, measurement of efforts of community events to determine targeted advertising, all of which will assist in making Geneva more attractive.

10. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Hendrix provided the following report:

Welcome Back Students

While our higher education's campuses have been abuzz for a couple of weeks, today marks the first day for many students as our grade schools opened their doors. City crews are working with all partners to keep health and safety as a key part of our school, campus, and community life. As our higher ed students returned we appreciated their support in assisting with City tasks during orientation and beyond. For our new members of Geneva, please remain mindful of your neighbors as you become a part of the community.

On our GSCD campus we are excited to expand our SRO program in partnership with GSCD. Officer Perry has joined Officer Grenier for this academic year. I would be remiss to not also thank our crossing guards who ensure our students get to school safely. We have additional opportunities available for crossing guards so please reach out to HR if you are interested.

Rate Quote Request

Earlier this year, we shared that CashVest 3+1 engaged with the City to better understand how our City funds could be utilized differently to yield higher earning potential. In the coming weeks, we will be issuing a rate quote request from financial institutions to allow us to further understand what potential we may have for additional earnings from the funds the City currently has. This request will go to our current financial institutions as well as others. This data will allow council to make a well-informed decision. The Comptroller will be reaching out to our current provider prior to the request issuance to collect additional information about the in-kind and other benefits provided by this institution.

Budget Presentation

Thank you to the few dozen folks that responded to the budget 101 survey. The Comptroller and I will be issuing an overview of City of Geneva Budgeting in the next week to allow citizens to better understand the processes utilized in building a municipal budget.

Future Property Disposition

There are many city properties which have not been approved for sale by council or recommended for sale by staff due to the nature of the property (it houses a facility, is a park, is in remediation, could assist the City with another benefit like storm water control, etc.). In the Property Purchase Procedure we outline a process where a party can put in a purchase offer that outlines the intended use of the property to which the Property Acquisition and Disposition Committee will review and make recommendations to council. The PADC will also review all properties annually and make recommendations to council at the end of each year. The 2024 review will begin in October with a recommendation for any properties to be disposed of in 2025.

School Tax Bills

Payment of school tax bills are currently being processed at the County facility located on Seneca Street.

Vacancies/Hiring

Welcome to Dan Price and Jennifer Sutton. Dan joined the team as a Code Enforcement Officer on August 30. Jennifer will join the team on September 23 as the Grant Coordinator. We will also welcome Thomas Gabriel as our tax clerk. This is a shared position with the City of Canandaigua and will support the Assessor's office. We are currently recruiting for seasonal support at the Rink, DPW, and for school crossing guards. In the coming weeks be on the lookout for the search for a Safety Coordinator.

Halloween

Halloween trick-or-treating will be on October 31, 2024.

Appointments

I have the pleasure of appointing James Anderson and James Engel to the Shade Tree Committee.

11. RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 48-2024 STANDARD WORK DAYS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR RETIREMENT PURPOSES – JAMES PETROPOULOS

City Clerk Tillotson presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Resolution Number 48-2024 established a standard workday for elected officials; and
WHEREAS, Said resolution was incorrect in the Record of Activities result for City Councilmember James Petropoulos; and

WHEREAS, Councilor Petropoulos' Record of Activities result was amended to 1.58, not 28.5 as originally presented; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Council will report the following days worked in the New York State Employees' Retirement System based on the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials, who are members of the Retirement System and are not part of an acceptable time keeping system, to the City Clerk:

Title	Standard Work Day	Name First and Last	Registration #	Tier 1 (check only if member is in tier 1)	Current Term Begins/Ends	Record of Activities Result	Not Submitted (check only if official did not submit their Record of Activities)
Elected:							
City Council	6.0	James Petropoulos			1/1/24 – 12/31/27	1.58	

and further

RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted by the City Clerk to the New York State Comptroller.

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

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 abstention)

12. RESOLUTION – DECLARATION OF SURPLUS FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT

Chief Parrotta presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The City of Geneva maintains an inventory of equipment and supplies for the provision of certain municipal services; and

WHEREAS, The attached schedule of equipment no longer contributes value to the City's operations; and

WHEREAS, The equipment in the attached schedule may either be sold or traded to derive any final value to the City; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Geneva City Council, hereby and in due form does direct the City Manager to dispose of the equipment in the attached schedule. The proceeds of any sale shall be applied to the Equipment Amortization Fund.

Fire Department Surplus Equipment September 2024

- 2002 American LaFrance fire engine
- 25 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs)

Councilor Grimaldi wondered if the fire engine would be auctioned and the rest disposed of. Chief Parrotta explained that all surplus equipment will be auctioned, noting that although the SCBA's are beyond use for the Fire Department, they are still useful for other applications. Councilor Brennan wondered what the City will get for the fire engine, Chief Parrotta explained that they will get whatever someone is willing to pay at auction.

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

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13. RESOLUTION – AMENDMENT TO RULES OF PROCEDURE

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Geneva City Council has adopted Rules of Procedure to ensure the orderly conduct of official meetings of the Council; and

WHEREAS, the Rules govern many facets of Council operations, including the solicitation of public comment at Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, Section 11 of the Rules of Procedure needs to be updated based on Local Law # 4-2022 previously adopted by City Council

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to expand upon the Rules of Procedure by adding a new section restricting the use of electronic devices that are not city issued during City Council meetings. Use of various electronic devices can create distractions from the meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geneva City Council, hereby and in due form, does amend the Rules of Procedure to affect the following changes:

Section 11

- Removing current language that is in conflict with Local Law 4-2022 and providing a reference to the same Local Law.

Section 12

- Adding a new section restricting the use of non city issued electronic devices during City Council meetings.

RESOLVED this 4th day of September, 2024.

After presenting the resolution, City Manager Hendrix deferred to Mayor Valentino who reviewed the proposed updates to the Rules of Procedure. He explained that Local Law 4-2022 supersedes section 11.

Councilor Lavin wondered what the thinking of not using phones is related to, as councilors use them to keep in touch, and further wondered what about families reaching out in the event of an emergency. Mayor Valentino advised that if councilmembers need to pull a device out, they are able to step out of the meeting. Councilor Pealer shared complaints he's received from constituents who notice councilmembers on their phones during meetings. He also shared that he prefers to use his own technology over city issued technology. Councilor Gillotte shared that he believes that it helps with transparency if councilmembers aren't on their phones during meetings, especially after the past four years. Mayor Valentino shared that councilmembers can access the internet on City laptops during meetings. Councilor Lavin shared that it seems overboard, trying to control each other, explaining that he gets requests during meetings to bring points up. Councilor Whitfield shared that sometimes he gets texts during meetings about what to share in his council report, and does not agree with the proposed amendment. Councilor Pealer wondered, without diminishing the rules of order, how tied is City Council to the rules of order? Mayor Valentino referred to Section 9 for an explanation. Councilor Grimaldi wondered logistically how adding Section 12 would impact a councilmember who needs to participate remotely, would they have to use city equipment? Mayor Valentino thought that was a good question, and discussion followed.

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

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

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

MOTION CARRIED

14. RESOLUTION – SETTING PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2025 BUDGET

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City Council will receive the City Manager's budget proposal for the 2025 City of Geneva Budget on Monday, September 16, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City Charter calls for scheduling a Public Hearing to hear comment on the budget proposal in advance of budget adoption; and

WHEREAS, City Council anticipates adopting the 2025 budget at a special meeting on or before October 31, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Geneva City Council, hereby and in due form does set a Public Hearing on the City Manager's Budget proposal for 2025 for 7:00pm on October 2, 2024.

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

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. RESOLUTION – PROPOSING A PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF AMENDED LEVELS OF REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS UNDER REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW SECTION 467

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, section 467 of the New York State Real Property Tax Law provides for the establishment by taxing municipalities of certain real property tax exemptions for persons over the age of sixty-five; and

WHEREAS, section 467 of the New York State Real Property Tax Law further provides that the governing board of a municipality may establish and amend such real property tax exemptions by adopting, after a public hearing, a local law, ordinance or resolution to such effect; and

WHEREAS, section 318-31 of the Code of the City of Geneva entitled "Exemption for Senior Citizens states that

Real property owned by one or more persons, each of whom is 65 years of age or over, shall be exempt from taxation by the City of Geneva to the extent of 50% of the assessed valuation thereof; subject to the following conditions:

A. Application; income; exemption.

1. The owner or all of the owners must file an application annually in the Assessor's Office on or before the appropriate taxable status date or at such other time as may hereafter be fixed by law. The income of the owner or the combined income of the owners of the property must not exceed the sum of \$12,500 for the calendar year immediately preceding the date of making application for exemption. Where title is vested in either the husband or wife, their combined income may not exceed the sum. Such income shall include social security and retirement benefits, interest, dividends, rental income, salary or earnings and income from self-employment, but shall not include gifts or inheritance.

2. A sliding scale exemption pursuant to § 467, Subdivision 1(b)(1), of the New York State Real Property Tax Law shall be provided to certain persons 65 years of age or over.

B. Title to the property must be vested in the owner or all of the owners of the property for at least 24 consecutive months prior to the date of making application for exemption

C. The property must be used exclusively for residential purposes, be occupied in whole or in part by the owners and constitute the legal residence of the owners.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Geneva desires to update and amend the levels of exemption granted to eligible persons, in accordance with subdivisions one and three of section 467 of the Real Property Law; It is hereby

RESOLVED, that a resolution is proposed, to modify the income-related real property tax exemptions for persons eligible pursuant to Real Property Tax Law section 467 at the levels enumerated below, with a modification to the above language of section 318-31 A1 to read as follows (*new language shown in italics, omitted language shown with strikethrough*):

A. Application; income; exemption

1. The owner or all of the owners must file an application annually in the Assessor's Office on or before the appropriate taxable status date or at such other time as may hereafter be fixed by law. The *gross* income of the owner or the combined *gross* income of the owners of the property must not exceed the sum of \$26,400 ~~\$12,500~~ for the calendar year immediately preceding the date of making application for exemption. Where title is vested in either the husband or wife, their combined income may not exceed the sum. Such income shall include social security and

retirement benefits, interest, dividends, rental income, salary or earnings and income from self-employment, *individual retirement account distributions* but shall not include gifts or inheritance.

Be it further **RESOLVED** that, the new sliding scale shall be as follows:

\$ -	to	\$ 18,000.00	50%
\$ 18,000.01	to	\$ 18,999.99	45%
\$ 19,000.00	to	\$ 19,999.99	40%
\$ 20,000.00	to	\$ 20,999.99	35%
\$ 21,000.00	to	\$ 21,899.99	30%
\$ 21,900.00	to	\$ 22,799.99	25%
\$ 22,800.00	to	\$ 23,699.99	20%
\$ 23,700.00	to	\$ 24,599.99	15%
\$ 24,600.00	to	\$ 25,499.99	10%
\$ 25,500.00	to	\$ 26,399.99	5%
\$ 26,400.00	or more		0%

Be it further **RESOLVED** that, a public hearing upon such change in ordinance shall be set for Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 7pm.

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

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

City Manager Hendrix appointed James Anderson and James Engel to the Shade Tree Committee during the City Manager Report.

Councilmembers shared that there is a need for applicants to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board, Board of Assessment Review, IDA and LDC.

17. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Gillotte shared that PBRB did not meet in September. BID held several successful events including Native Plant Tours which have been extended due to popular demand, Wheels on the Lake which raised \$7,000, proceeds will benefit local veterans, Glorious Garlic Festival which experienced lower attendance probably due to an admission fee charged at the gate, but was very successful, and reminded everyone to visit downtown for First Friday this Friday.

Councilor Petropoulos shared that the LDC met today and that they will be bringing on a HWS intern, and that the Strategic Plan draft will be released soon. Ward 5 thanks DPW for storm cleanup efforts. Councilor Petropoulos shared that he attended the Scott Bissell Memorial Block Party which was a huge success. He also shared that the LDC is bringing back the Neighborhoods Initiative, and that he attended the GPD Youth Academy graduation. Councilors from Wards 4, 5, and 6 plus At Large held a town hall on August 31 that was well attended, and noted that they plan to hold more. LDC approved payment for the cement slab where the Battle Within bench will be placed, near the 9/11

Memorial. The bench will be dedicated on Veteran's Day. Drumstock at Lake Drum brewing will be held on Saturday, the weather should be beautiful for it.

Councilor Moracco thanked the At Large councilmembers and David West for attending the Town Hall, sharing that he wants everyone to know that city council is approachable. He shared that the Town Hall went very well.

Councilor Whitfield thanked councilmembers for the invitation to the Town Hall meeting, and that he's happy to know of the issues that residents want to see addressed. He shared that families on Center St. are appreciative of the Foundary work that was done, but some now have concerns of damage to property from flooding, noting that the issue needs to be tackled before it causes more issues.

Councilor Grimaldi shared that Jim McCormack is the new president of the Geneva Housing Authority Board. The Housing Authority is remodeling more units, and has been awarded more grant funds for additional remodels. He shared that they are also experiencing some tenant issues.

Councilor Pealer shared that the Planning Board did not meet in August. He has received several calls related to weather events and debris, including concerns that the Brook St. and Jefferson St. playgrounds are devoid of woodchips, and that weeds are now growing where woodchips were. He wondered when the woodchips will be replaced, and noted that walking paths are also overgrown in these parks, noting that what we build we have to maintain.

Councilor Lavin is taking a look at how the City handles money after receiving an LNB letter recently. He's looking into how the city is handling \$17 million in a checking account that collects no interest, wondering why the money is being kept out of money market accounts. He thanked HWS campus police and City employees working there for their work, as students returned to campus recently. While Councilor Lavin was on campus, he noticed video was taken of underground infrastructure by a City vendor, and during interaction with the crew he was told that the video that was recorded three years ago was missing, thus the vendor was back doing the work again. He shared his belief that if there was a DPW committee, this could have been handled at that meeting. Councilor Lavin expressed interest in committees, and reminded staff that he's looking for an overtime overview and report. He announced that at the mayor's direction he's arranged a meeting on September 16th with the Town on how the Town and City can work together to save money. The meeting will be held at the Town Hall. He also shared that Barcelona, Spain recently pulled all 700 of its STR's, as they have affected the nature of their community and tourism efforts.

Councilor Brennan shared that there are 50 trees available to City residents to place in the City right of ways, compliments of the Shade Tree Committee. Homeowners would be responsible for maintaining the trees. Tom Burrell donated \$275 from August firewood sales. He further shared that the Zoning Board of Appeals had no quorum at their September 4th meeting, as only three of the four members were present, noting that the board has three vacant seats and lacks a Chair. He shared that the ZBA also needs grooming and coaching to get up to speed, and that he's been networking, looking for good fits to add to the board.

Mayor Valentino complemented GPD's Youth Academy, noting lots of enthusiasm, and the community building aspect of the academy. He complimented Lt. Bielowicz on his efforts spearheading the Academy. Mayor Valentino explained that the City can't do anything about school taxes, as there have been many inquiries directed towards the city related to recently released school tax bills. The

mayor reminded everyone of the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony which will be held next Wednesday, 10am at Long Pier, to remember those who gave their lives and were impacted by events on that day in 2001.

Councilor Whitfield personally thanked Officer Tapscott for his service as SRO and DARE Officer, and Tapscakes program, noting that he's great with kids, including Councilor Whitfield's. Councilor Lavin added that Officer Tapscott was part of the group who handed out ice cream to celebrate the end of summer last week, too. Mayor Valentino recently received a call with positive input from Ms. Fryer, commending staff and DPW for addressing recent issues. The Mayor remarked that it's great to hear the positive in the community as well.

18. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Pealer; seconded by Clr. Gillotte
MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:55pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nicole Tillotson

City Clerk