SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF GENEVA, NEW YORK
September 16, 2024

City Hall
2nd Floor Council Chambers
Geneva, NY 14456

EXECUTIVE SESSION STARTS AT 6:00PM
COUNCIL MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 PM
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1. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Brennan, Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Petropoulos
Absent: Clr. Pealer, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Moracco

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

MOVED THAT council move to executive session at 6:04pm To discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6-3 absent)

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropulos; seconded by Clr. Whitfield
MOVED THAT council exit executive session at 6:53pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6-3 absent)

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Brennan, Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Moracco
Absent: Clr. Pealer, Clr. Grimaldi

4. AMENDMENT TO AGENDA

ACTION TAKEN by Mayor Valentino; seconded by Clr. Gillotte
MOVED THAT the agenda be amended to add a Resolution Adopting the City of Geneva Investment Policy
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-2 absent)

ACTION TAKEN by Mayor Valentino; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos
MOVED THAT the agenda be amended to a Resolution Adopting the City of Geneva Investment Policy
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-2 absent)

5. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #60 – 2024

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY OF GENEVA INVESTMENT POLICY

WHEREAS, New York State General Municipal Law Section 39, entitled "Investment Policies for Local Governments" states that "Each local government…shall by resolution adopt a comprehensive investment policy which details the local government's operative policy and instructions to officers and staff regarding the investing, monitoring and reporting of funds of the local government"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva has written a policy in accordance with New York State requirements for review and adoption by the Geneva City Council; NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Geneva City Council does hereby adopt a policy for the City of Geneva in relation to the investment of public funds in accordance with New York State General Municipal Law § 39.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Gillotte; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos
MOVED THAT this resolution be approved
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-2 Absent)

6. 2025 BUDGET PRESENTATION

The City Manager started the presentation addressing the members of Council, before you is the presentation of the 2025 Budget. At the end of the presentation, you'll be provided your budget books I know you've all anticipated getting your y budget books especially those of you that it's your first year on Council.
It really is a privilege and honor for me to present the budget presentation and be joined with the by the comptroller
this year, when you read the the city manager's message which you'll get at the end of the presentation you will see
I started with a quote from Helen Keller which said: “Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much”. That was a
theme that ran through the budget - is how we use the investments from our city taxpayers wisely to ensure that they're getting the services that they need.
When we dive into the following pages you will see changes in our budget, you will see ways that we want to continue to sustain our city as well as some of the challenges that are ahead for us,
things that we can do but there are a lot of choices that we will make for each part of the budget. It has been developed in conjunction with all of our department heads and others. One of the things that I want to ensure to council is we have many experts that work in City Hall, in all of our departments, in all of our buildings and they know a lot about the various jobs and responsibilities. They take that expertise and they build upon what they know, they continue to learn and grow, and our employees put that into the budget that you will see tonight. Diving into
the budget we start with our mission, vision and values. This
year, members of our leadership team dove into redefining our mission vision and values, making it a little easier to remember than some of the five & seven-page documents that we found, making it clear consistent and concise, to really show that the City of Geneva is here to provide an efficient and responsible local government. A local government those services and allowing everyone to enjoy the benefits of living and working
in our uniquely urban city. Our vision is really to envision the city as a place that is beautiful prosperous, connected, equitable and sustainable - those words may mean something to all of you because they're key in our comprehensive plan. As residents, City staff, appointed and elected officials of the city it's our values, our decisions and actions that will be guided by them.
The values are safety, innovation, caring & respect, integrity & honor and service & stewardship. Instead of waiting till the very end here is where we've come up with for this budget:
there are three budgets that we'll talk about tonight. There is the operating budget, the water budget and the sewer budget.

Operating Budget:

* total appropriations in our proposed budget is just over $22 million
* revenues are around 12 million
* levy total is around 10 million
* tax rate of $13.97 per $1,000
* property tax cap is just over $9 million
  you'll see that the levy total is over that so we would have to

do a tax cap override.
* the price of a median home value is increased in the city from
  $117,000 last year to $143,900 this year, with that being said
  the tax on a median value home would be about $2,010

Water Budget:
* water fund is a little over $3 million
* the spending level is actually a decrease of 6.7%
  we'll get into a little more discussion on that
*impact on the consumer is a slight increase of 1.5%

Sewer Budget:
* sewer fund is at 5.5 million
* spending level has also increased to about 5%
* impact on our consumers will be a 2.5 in% increase that
  they'll see in their bills.

What does this all mean? So, who are we serving? What does it all mean? To tie together some of the things that we've seen between 2021 data and 2022, now when I talk about Census Data, there's a couple caveats here. The American Community survey it's not necessarily as accurate
as the regular census which would come out in 2020 you will see that some of these percentages are based on
when the American Community survey information is from, so a majority of these are from 2022, actually the high school graduation graduates is also from 2022, when you see the increases it's from 2021.The median household income has gone up to 63,000 a family that's a 13.5% increase.
Our gross monthly rent has also gone up, but it's not gone up as much as the income which is a nice thing but it's going up.
High school graduates also an increase number of high school graduates living in the city. Our population has increased slightly and then the number of persons in poverty or living in poverty has not changed that would be a number we' really like to see decrease. When we begin the budget, we look at not just local information but what's going on and why are we seeing what we're seeing and what can we project in the future. One of the things that we looked at is inflation, I will say creating this chart from this year to last year or from last year to this year is very different, the US inflation rate last year was much higher you would even see 8% and 9% on the chart. This is all staying relatively back down to where it was at the pre pandemic level so we're no longer seeing those highs.
Consumer confidence is how people are spending their money and how willing are they to spend their money. There is some piece of seasonal variation in consumer sentiment but I will say that it has stayed fairly consistent the last three months. Overall expectations have strengthened for the both personal finances and the 5-year out economic outlook. That's from the consumer sentiment report and despite the stock market having one of the largest one drop days on August 5th, the sentiment has really remained unchanged, which is a good thing for us it means people are still buying things. The stock market is always one that's just interesting because the stock market reports every day that it's open but this is the one-year trend of the stock market you will see it's staying consistently high. It did experience that early August setback but it recovered very quickly it gained 26% last year and it's up almost 20% more this year so the stock market is feeling very good. I will say with the caveat that the Federal Reserve starts their meeting tomorrow and Wednesday, so while I try to use everything I can, I can only prepare a budget for what I know at the point in time when I present the budget. The comptroller can testify, I try to change the budget

up until the very last moment of printing because I'm trying to keep watching all of those economic indicators. Next year we should probably move it back a week if the fed's going to meet. The unemployment rate in Ontario County is staying below New York state which is a positive. New York State's at 4.3% Ontario County is at 3.2% again this is another chart where has seasonal variables, so winter season summer season you see a difference one of the things about unemployment it's the number of people in labor market that are not employed that want to be employed it's not all people and so that's something we
continue to watch and then sales tax collection. Our sales tax collection is no longer going trending in such high variations it's starting to stabilize. Our sales tax is collected through Ontario County, we have a sharing agreement and then we receive our share. I like to point that out because I love people shopping in the city of Geneva but if they can't shop in the city of Geneva their second choice is anywhere in Ontario County, it just helps all of us continue to benefit from those sales taxes. It's also important to know about our County budget versus our city budget because this all comes back to taxpayer bills, as well as our School District budget, I don't have the full School District budget here for you tonight, but I did request some of those that information and we'll share it when I have more. As far as the county and this city - this is from 2024, the total County Appropriations you can see is 292 million they're slightly larger than us and then their County Levy is 74 million, their tax rate turns out to be $631 per $1,000 of value which also is seen on those tax bills when they go home and then the total City appropriations of last year was $19.5 million, the levy was just over $8.4 million and then the tax rate was $1725. The budget direction - so as we started this process as a council, we discussed budgets and the focus on the budget really was to start with smart spending, connect our work needs and future city needs, review our actual spending and understand what can be done and what we have, how we can move forward with wise Investments. I was not planning on you passing that policy this evening but that's a piece of the investment strategy that we started the discussions on last year. It's not only about
investing money, it's investing in our people and our infrastructure that will last beyond one generation. We want to use data to drive our decisions and when you receive the budget books, you'll see we've added more information and data to the budget book this year. The other piece is stable revenues, so while we want to use wise investments in the financial investment, we also have to understand and that Investments and sales tax while great revenue sources are elastic revenue sources they expand and contract and you cannot always predict what they're going to do u and so when you talk investment strategy or other things like that, we just have to be cautious to know what those are doing. The other piece, taxes and fees make up a significant percentage of our municipal budget the budget also aims to utilize other revenue outside of those investments things like grants and other benefit services.

Tax Rate Review

We know the tax rate in Geneva is much higher than the majority of our peers. Late last week we did a budget presentation 101, the comptroller and I that talked about some of our peer municipalities and what their tax rates are. We do have one of the highest tax rates in New York state. There are some varying ideas behind that reasoning, a large piece of that is we also have one of the largest percentages of property that are not on
the tax role, as well as other exemptions. Those are things we can continue to look at, the budget also has to focus on ways to reduce that tax rate, while still providing the services that are key to our community.

Budget Drivers

Expenditures and revenues, we'll start with expenditures. Labor and benefits is the largest driver. Our staffing levels in 2024 is

at 137 FTE, we'll talk a little bit more about what FTE means. You will see as you look at the budget book that they may change sometimes depending on who is counting them, so full-time equivalent or full-time employee or full employee all are different things. Full-time equivalent numbers could mean you have .5 person, when you're talking about that because you have not half a person but you have a person working halftime, part-time or working between two areas. When we talk about full-time employees that would mean someone that works full-time for the city and then we get into some sharing agreements, where we have a full-time employee who works half-time for the city of Geneva and half-time for the city of Canadaigua, but they still count as a full employee because they're on the Geneva payroll, although we then charge for their services. So I say all that and if you get confused about it in the future, please continue to ask because I think that is going to be one of the confusing
pieces but when we look at this salary and wages just on projected growth have increased from 8.6 million in 2024 to 9.1 million. There is only 1.5 not a half person but a half-position added into our staffing level and we'll talk more about that.

Labor and benefits
We have six unions that we negotiate with and then
employees who are unrepresented. Currently, at the end of
2024 we had four contracts that expired and then at the
end of 2023 four contracts expired, at the end of 2024 two more of the six contracts will expire. Since the end of 2023, two of the six have been settled, so you'll see Municipal Employees and Teamsters command have both been settled. We still have four open contracts that we are negotiating. The other side to labor is the benefits, so things like health insurance, workers comp, other fiduciary responsibilities, our employee and benefits costs have increased about $750,000.

Debt
The other piece that we have here is debt so our debt that you'll see here our total outstanding debt in 2025 is just under $43 million. 20% of our Debt Contracting is exhausted, that means that we can't go above 100%. Our debt service is $2.62 million, that does include our bond issue costs, so while we're paying the debt payments, we also have Bond costs that go in there. Then
2024, the same we were at 2.64 million so that has gone down some there are limits on how much debt a local government or school district can occur for counties, cities and villages, you can see here it talks about the percentage of five-year average valuation and then what the debt is issued for, this is our total.

Capital Projects
There is 11.9 million of capital projects proposed in this budget. They include things like reconstruction and you'll see it mentions what funds because it's not just 11.9 million from the general fund. They go over the three funds so in when you get the book in your capital projects it will divide out where that funding comes from. Things in the capital projects include street reconstruction, the wastewater treatment plant clarifier and the screen bar, replacement radio system, upgrades cellular water meters, Pulteney Street sewers and street construction that ties to the Middle Street Bridge replacement, Lakefront improvements, Lakefront seawell,
sewer infrastructure maintenance and Street resurfacing. You'll also see that there are some of these that have Grant funds tied to them in addition to other funds. Facility maintenance, so often we talk about our infrastructure and our aging infrastructure, which means we have to also maintain our infrastructure, it's not just the things below it's also above, so things, like the window replacement in this building to make sure that we have energy efficient Windows as well as

Windows that close and seal, boiler upgrades and then standard maintenance, in the public safety building a rooftop
unit replacement and standard maintenance, roof repairs for DPW building on North Genesee, the firehouse also needs a roof replacement and has some standard maintenance items, parks and playgrounds at Neer Park basketball court, upgrade Brook Street tennis court, repairs replacement of Park signs throughout our Parks. We are also are looking at a Pilot contract to support additional maintenance to the DRI areas and pocket Parks. We'll that. At the lakefront the glass doors need to be
replaced on that building, the shade structures are in need of repair, the Gazebo took some damage with some of our significant weather events and so we are looking to replace and repair that in partnership with Geneva Community project, who's already donated some funding and some services to get that underway. As far as the Recreation Complex it has no allocation because that complex is still under that study and so there may be additional maintenance efforts needed at that complex again this is 1.2 million of required maintenance projects. Then we have equipment, there is a lot of equipment here. This is in your equipment replacement plan, so there's multiple ways that we fund equipment. This year, one of the things that we have really looked at is moving away from borrowing for equipment and making sure that we're doing current year equipment purchases as well as using what I call Cash for Capital, instead of investing or using borrowed dollars making sure we can do it in the front end.
You'll see two police patrol cars, four self-contained breathing apparatuses, a fire and inspection vehicle, 2 gas meters, and fire simulator. As you go through this in the budget book, which will be available shortly, you will see where all of the funds come from. We are not taking from the equipment Reserve fund this year; we're actually going to ask to put money into the equipment reserve fund. The equipment Reserve fund should allow us to purchase more equipment and have the long standing, with this it's an investment in making sure that fund continues to survive.

Cost increases

So, as we said, the costs increases are not just all of these
pieces but also a lot of the things that we do business with has increased. So, we have employees and we talked about their benefits, just so you're aware our health care plans in 2025 are projected to increase by 14%. We did make a move last year to change our health insurance plan and our provider, I will say that that we realized some savings because it grew much larger last year than this year, and this year it's in alignment with our
previous provider. So, while it's growing, health care across the board is growing and probably if you look at the paper
you can see that everywhere.

Cost of Materials, utilities and supplies

We are projecting a 7% to 15% increase on all of those items, that's what we've seen.

Pension Costs

Mandated pension costs uh we always get a very nice email from the comptroller's office right around this time of year that lets us know that we should project an increase. We are projecting an increase between 2 to 5% depending on the pension unit and that's not something that can be negotiated, that's kind of, a cost of doing business.

Revenues

I do have some good news on the revenue side of things, so we'll dive into that. Sales tax - both the comptroller and I are very conservative with our sales tax projections. I will say we went a little more aggressive this year seeing sales tax stabilize. We feel confident that as long as it remains flat, we should

be able to project at least to the 2023 level. 2024 budgeted sales tax is $4.1 million, currently in our first two quarters we have been able to realize $2.7 million, so we feel confident that next year we could realize $4.9 million. That revenue is now in your budget and you'll see how that plays out, I did put a note here though, because it does make me nervous, is to remind you this is an elastic revenue source. We will continue to look at it and we'll need to monitor it on a quarterly basis. Monthly and quarterly - we get the reports and we'll have to watch and see where we're going.
Assistance Aid and incentives for municipalities or AIM funding, it increased for the first time in 15 years for our 2025 budget. It's an additional revenue of $225,000 and it is something that we greatly appreciate. I would love to say we can expect it to increase again but hopefully it happens before you know 15 years.

Investments
The policy you adopted tonight allows us to really continue to be prudent but aggressive in investing our city resources. These are not additional funds; they are not surplus funds. These are funds that are our liquid assets currently and we'll utilize those current assets to have a higher rate of investment. I mentioned that Federal Reserve meeting, I assume that means our investment rates will go down slightly, but in the meantime, we can realize some of this. We have projected in the general fund, additional revenue of just under $400,000.

Cash for expenses
Our fund balance has to be by the City Charter we have to maintain a positive fund balance. our fund balance rate has to be between 12 and 15% of the recommended budget, our fund balance continues to grow and it's something that we have to be cautious on. I go back to our conservative belief on not overspending our fund balance but also acknowledging that it is taxpayer dollars that we have taxed them from year to year that we then put into that account. this budget is built with a transfer of $924,000 to go towards many of the building maintenance projects that I had talked about, as well as the safety coordinator pilot position. Our safety coordinator pilot position was first funded for three-year funding this current year, that position has not yet been filled. We would encumber the funds from this year and continue with a three-year position, the idea behind that safety coordinator position was that it would be a person that could get our program up and running, and then our program could then go back into the departments. You would not need a long-term position and it has not been filled at this point as I mentioned but it is in and continues to use that one-time funding. So, it does not change your tax levy to remove that or to add it.

Fleet Management
One of the priorities for 2025 is Fleet Management. Currently our departments provide a lot of our Fleet Management Services. We have various vehicles that we're utilizing and we are going to review a Fleet Management policy and priority for 2025. There are several municipalities that have moved to Fleet Management Companies for a variety of reasons. The first being increased purchasing power, which also means the vehicles come to us at a quicker rate. Since the pandemic, it takes longer to get a lot of our vehicles and supplies and they can purchase larger quantities, and it also allows us to look at fuel management. They can diagnose vehicles, they can provide the oversight and understanding of it. They are experts and they draw on our own expertise in house. Overall, we are projecting a cost savings on this because of that purchasing power. They purchase a large

quantity and they can still use utilize our state bids but they can get the best deals possible with the Fleet Management plans. I've had initial conversations with some of our employees.
I want to be clear on a couple of things:

1) We would not reduce employee numbers at this time. Our employees would continue to provide services on our fleet vehicles that we currently have in operation.
2) Our fleet vehicles that we currently have wouldn't suddenly be replaced. I'm not proposing that we replace all of our vehicles, I'm proposing that as we go through our planning, we have more assistance in the planning purchases and
3) We would be able to customize and locally choose our Fleet Management, so if we have a vendor that we work very closely with now, that has already gone through our bid process, we could continue to work with that vendor. We also could choose if we wanted a certain type of vehicle that we know works better for us, we would work with the fleet manager to understand what they believe could work better for us and then make an informed decision. So, it's much more about not just the purchasing power and the cost savings, but also the informed decision- making that can be another tool to our staff and I'm going to turn it over to the comptroller so you can stop listening to me for a few minutes.

General Fund Budget By Department ~ Stefanie Newcomb
Good evening, so I'm just going to do a brief rundown of each of the department budgets. Just to give you a little bit of oversight into the changes that you'll see in our 2025 proposed budget versus what there was for 2024.

City Clerk
The main change you see that they will see a 10.5% increase in the budget. The main driver behind this is Ontario County has changed the way that they are calculating the amount that the city of Geneva owes for the animal control portion. There was a rather significant increase into that amount so you'll see that in your budget book.

City Council & Mayor
The City Council and the Mayor's budget overall there was not a large increase or any changes to either one of these budgets. The only change that we recommended was an increase to the miscellaneous line for an additional $2,000 and this was earmarked for Council projects. So, if there's an idea that Council brings forward that they want to try, Councilor Petropoulos I'm thinking of the hydrant idea, there would be funding already in the budget for some of those projects rather than going through the budget amendment process for the funding.

City Manager
The City Manager budget saw a 9.5 decrease and the main driver behind this is actually a changing in staffing. The 2024 budget reflected a half funding for the community engagement coordinator and in 2025 we did not recommend that position, so the full amount for that was withdrawn from the 2025 budget recommendation. The other minor changes were, we increased the training line by $2,000, just based upon some of the ongoing conferences that City staff members are already attending and much like everything else we've seen an increase in some of those conferences. Then we did a reallocation with a

shared staff member between the HR department and the city manager department so there's a slight change in that percentage.

City Attorney
There was an increase from 2024 and that is a direct result of a change in our primary legal counsel which Council was involved in that when we made the change in the early part of 2024.

Human Resources
Human Resources saw just over a 14% increase in their 2025 recommended budget this primarily is a result as we put in a new line within this budget. We're still working out the name, we have it called Employee Services right now and this line
basically, is there to include all of the costs associated with employee benefit; such as the EAP program Paragon and
other vendor related payments for employee benefits outside of health insurance. This is a change that we made from previous budgets to move these charges under a department, previously
they were non-departmental, just so that we had a little more control and oversight over the cost of them so that
we are aware if we get to a situation where we feel like we should be exploring the cost that we're paying per vendor, we have a better handle on how much the vendors are costing us and we can look into it in the future. This is one of the slides where you'll see the difference between full-time equivalence and full-time positions, so in their key metrics they're talking about full-time people not equivalents I just want to point that out before I get calls about that one.

Comptroller
The comptroller budget saw a 13% increase in our recommended budget and the primary driver behind this is the initial setup cost that we have associated with implementing electronic timekeeping and streamlining that payroll process. We do have some funds in the 2024 budget right now that we would plan to in encumber to also cover the initial setup cost and then roughly between $20 - 25,000 of ongoing cost for that system that we're looking at implementing. In addition to that much like everything else, we also saw an estimated increase in the cost for our audit fees.

Assessor
The assessor office saw one of one of the larger changes just because of how we are are planning to move forward with the assessor's office in 2025. There was a 24% increase in the recommended budget the primary
driver behind this is Staffing so in 2024 we started to work with the city of Canadaigua for an additional shared service position for a tax Clerk and we are recommending that we continue that for 2025, so the additional cost that's reflected in here is related to the extra help line.

Police
The police department saw a 7% increase in our recommended budget from 2024, the majority of the increase is actually a result of contractual obligations for required equipment that
the police department has to have, such as body cameras, tasers the computers that are within their cars, their record management system. I will say that Chief has done extensive research on seeing what other

options are out there. When he was pulling together his budget and then in multiple conversations back and forth, we have looked at not only the best cost for the vendor, but also what other municipalities who's the county using so that we're not basically selecting a vendor purely based upon price but we're selecting a vendor that's also one that we can work collaboratively with other police departments and the sheriff's department around us.

Fire
The fire department remained relatively flat, they saw just a 1.2% decrease actually in the recommended budget, this still allows us by maintaining their budget at a relatively flat level, it still includes in the recommended budget additional investments in equipment maintenance and upkeep. We are trying to get on a replacement schedule, we started in 2024 for the sets of fire protection, rather than having such a large cost every 5 to 10 years to replace all of the fire protection system, we're trying to implement a rolling system. Where essentially, we buy a little bit each year and then you would only have to replace a little bit each year once it's determined that those need to be replaced. so that's the largest o driver in here. As the city manager already mentioned, we did recommend a UTV vehicle and a new fire inspection truck. The fire inspection truck will be utilized to pull the new storm response trailer that the fire department purchased this year and also allow them to go on the fire inspections.

Planning & Economic Development
The planning and economic development department saw an increase in just over 26% in their budget. The main driver behind this is that we included a full-time Grant coordinator position which in the 20124 budget was a split position that was shared 50/50 with the assessor's office. This is full-time in the department of planning and economic development. We also included additional funding for outside contracts, to utilize them as well continue the work with the engineering surveys, assistance with grant writing and other areas of support for that Department.

Recreation
Recreation technically has three departments we've presented them all as one Department. They did see a slight increase in their budget recommendations as well. The main driver behind this increase is increasing rates for seasonal support. We looked at this across multiple different departments and in conversations with our department heads, our HR department and other municipalities seeing what they were experiencing. we've had some lower interest in our seasonal support staff. Our 2025 budget makes a recommendation to increase the minimum rate that we're offering to those positions and then also streamline the increase that we're offering to returning seasonal individuals as well. The big-ticket item in Recreation is also we are recommending the replacement of the van, which is currently utilized to transport members of the summer rec program and any other various programming that they use.

Information Technology
Information Technology this one saw a slight increase as well and this is in mainly as a direct relation to two key factors: one we are recommending an additional half full-time equivalent position. It would be a shared service with the City of Canandaigua again, right now based upon the IT needs of the City of Geneva and the IT needs for the City of Canandaigua, we currently have two staff members that split their time equally between each City. There really is a need for an additional employee that would share their time, so that essentially, we could have somebody in the City of Geneva and the City of Canandaigua could have one

full-time person, then the head of our IT department can be available to assist in both locations with the various projects and additional undertakings that the department is taking on. In addition, we are also recommending as part of exploring the new Fleet Management program, we did set aside some funding for the
Director of IT for his vehicle to be one of the first vehicles that we look at for the Fleet Management program.

Public Works
Engineering
Public Works also has multiple departments so we
tried to break it down, so the first one is engineering. This one saw a somewhat larger increase percentage, it's sitting at just over 52% based upon our recommendations. The main two drivers behind this are we are recommending a second administrative assistant position for this department. The current staffing level and the undertaking primarily related to FEMA and other report request and information that the department is trying to pull together is too much for the current staff to handle. The additional requirements and the additional reporting that will be needed particularly with FEMA again, we're recommending to have a second individual in that office. Amie Hendrix added, for engineering I just want to be clear because there's different divisions under public works, that Administrative Assistant would actually support all of the Department of Public Works areas. So, while engineering this is also where the director sits well engineering is its own bucket of funding, the director oversees all of these additional areas and the administrative staff will support the other areas. One other thing to note, we do have funding recommended in here that is related to the capital projects that we have recommended in the 2025 budget. We have essentially the engineering survey and designs that need to be done we're starting the initial process for some items that will need to be done in 2025 for proposed projects in 2026.

Code Enforcement
The Code Enforcement office saw a just over a 15% increase in our recommended budget. The main driving factor behind this is we are recommending the purchase of Tough Books and software that's related to those. This would allow Code Enforcement Officers to basically do the majority of their reporting out in the field, so it would create efficiencies where they could be out in the field, they could document all their information and send the information back to the office and when
they come back to the office they can already have everything printed and ready to go. That's one key recommendation that we have in here.

Public Works Highway
The highway department saw an increase in just over 22% and this is largely related to our recommendation for the purchase of new equipment within this department. We are recommending
in 2025 the purchase of a salt truck, the purchase of a bucket truck - that is an insulated bucket truck for our electrician. I'm told that the height of our current bucket truck that we have, it
just barely reaches the height that it's needed for the electrical work. This would allow for a larger insulated bucket truck that would allow our electrician and other staff members
to be able to do more of the electrician work that is required
without necessarily having to rent some of the additional equipment that we currently do. In addition, we also recommend an asphalt roller.

Public Works Building and Grounds
The buildings and grounds Department saw probably the largest change from 2024 to 2025, and this related to two key items that the city manager already discussed, so while similar to Recreation we have increased the seasonal rate that we are going to offer positions we have included in the buildings and grounds budget, there is a $200,000 pilot related to a pilot program related to contracting for vegetation control and landscaping related to our popup parks and our DRI. That's one item and then in addition to it, we consolidated all of the one-time maintenance cost that were that was on the previous slide for the 2025 facility maintenance, within the budget buildings and grounds department, so that there was a way to better identify all of the maintenance projects that we've anticipated for 2025 and also allow for coordination of work between our building and grounds department and whatever departments are assisting or might be impacted by the projects that we're suggesting.

Business Improvement District
For the Business Improvement District, we've had had multiple conversations, emails, and phone conversations going back and forth with Katherine and our recommendation is a slight increase from 2024 but it's not the full recommendation that the bid initially asked for, taking into consideration that we included that one-time pilot program for outsourcing the maintenance for the popup parks and the DRI project. We had conversations with the BID about what it would take for them to continue some of the DRI maintenance that they're currently doing and what funding would be required for that and then we also included the same as 2024, the recommendation for the Economic Development payment as well.

Sewer and Water Funds
Water rates and Sewer rates, I'll talk about them somewhat in conjunction so the water rates we are proposing a 1.5% increase from the 2024 rates and this is a result of several things. So, we are anticipating that the demand for our water usage is going to be decreasing in 2025, just based upon some economic factors and other information that we've received and then in addition to that the cost associated with the supplies that are required for the water department, for the treatment and chemicals and all that, continue to increase. While we were able to reduce some areas of the water budget and by reducing some areas of the budget and proposing a minimal rate increase, it should allow us to still balance the water fund budget with a little impact to community members and then the same with sewer rates. We're proposing a 2.5% increase for the sewer rates similar to the water fund, this is related to we are anticipating the usage to decrease, which will result in a reduction in our revenue we were able to decrease the sewer budget in certain areas, but we didn't want to go too drastic with the reduction because there has been several, equipment replacement items in 2024 so similar to the fire department, we were trying to get on a schedule where we are replacing at least one of the various pumps that are needed, there is the waste activated pump, the RAS pump and then the ABS pump return activated sludge, by including three of these pumps, essentially, one of each year or more, our hope is that they won't all give out at the same time. you can start getting on a replacement schedule rather than reacting when one of them or multiples might break.

Putting It All Together

Amie Hendrix continues… it's my turn to kind of put it all together. We provided a lot of information, even more is in the budget books that will be available, but what does it actually mean and how does this play out? One of the things that is a driver this year is the valuation, so our assessment last year was at 78% equalization. What that means is our average home was not valued at its full property value, with that 78% equalization our taxable assess value was just under $5 million, we're now at 100% equalization, which means all of our homes are valued at the proper rate. I know there's some discussions about that, but those are for the assessment side of things. So, at that rate our taxable assess value is just $727 million, that also means 92% of our residential properties increased in value between last year and this year, because of that valuation change, also means that 8% of our properties either stayed or decreased in value. One interesting thing, we also added 10 new parcels to the to the role in this past year. So, they've increased our value and those 10 new parcels, but they also increase the value of the total City. So the valuation, when we go to 100% equalization, is an interesting thing because when you're looking and paying your taxes you don't want it to be at the total value but when you sell your home you want it to be at the total value because that's when you make the money off of it. Valuation is an interesting piece to this and it's controlled completely outside of the budget process for good reasons, when we look at what it does in the budget you saw recommended and unrecombined review them in the future it means that we had to keep all of the concepts of keeping our tax rate lower at the forefront. You'll see that the total appropriations, as I discussed earlier, is $22 million, our revenues is $12 million, our levy is $10 million and our tax rate turns into that $13.97 down from the previous $17.25.

The price of the median home has gone up, the tax on the median value home is $210, which means that for those median value homes they will see a savings in their tax bill of about $17. They'll also see that property increase because last year their property was worth $117,000 but this year it's worth $143,900. Water and Sewer, as we discussed, there are slight increases because of the increases or decreases in demand on those items.

So, from here comes the next part, a public hearing will be held on the budget on October 7th at 7 pm. It's the opportunity for the community to review the budget documents, which will go online tomorrow and bring in their questions and criticism. It is also a holiday for some members of our community and in the past, when we've had budget meetings, we do allow written comments if someone is part of that Community. Work sessions will occur starting on October 9th at 6:00 p.m. and continue every Wednesday until you pass the budget. Members of council will be asked to submit questions or revisions in writing by the Friday prior to the work session. Those questions can be submitted to me, I'll then organize them and work with department heads so they have the information available to you. That doesn't mean that you only can ask those questions in a session but department heads will be prepared to answer your questions. Department heads have also been prepped, that if they can't answer your question in real time to please let you know that they'll come back to the next meeting to answer those questions. Not all of our department heads tend to attend every budget session, so if there's questions for them, they know to be in attendance and be prepared. Budget amendments can be made by a council member on the floor of any meeting during the work sessions. At the end of your work sessions, the budget must be adopted by October 31st 2024 or the budget I presented before you today becomes the budget and I believe that is the end of the formal budget presentation.

Without saying the most important part this budget would not be possible without the staff who took time and effort to come up with it. There are new variables in this budget, you've seen

the key metrics up there, recommended items and they also have included their work projects. So, as you review it, you will see a flavor of what the resources they'll need to move the city
forward and how we're measuring the impact that we have on those key metrics and those work projects continue to get honed and changed. My vision is that eventually the key metrics, that you see not only have quantity metrics but they also have quality metrics and impact metrics, and that your work projects not only have current year but start to outline future year. I know Council and staff will be coming together this fall to hone on some of that even further and we've started to make preparations for that but this document is the starting point and my favorite part is I now present it to all of you and it becomes your document to make modifications and edits. If you have questions not about the format or any of those things I'm always available to assist.
Mayor Valentino:
Thank you so thank you city manager and staff
comptroller for your hard work on this budget. The city manager has asked for input from counselors, if they'd like to modify, change, add to the budget by the first work session
October 9th. I would ask that we kind of share that between each other so that everybody kind of knows what those requests are. In the past it's been good sense, if you're asking to reduce the budget in any one of the line items to kind of have a follow-up on what you would like to do with that money, reduce the tax rate or
put it into a general fund or whatever that might be and if you'd like to add something to the budget to try to give staff some direction on where you would like those funds to come from if you were going to add something to the budget.
Addressing the City Manager, in the past, City Managers have allowed slots of time for counselors to come in, just wondering if you're open to that?

CM Amie replied…yes, I think I actually put it in an email to you guys last week, with slots of time, I'll have to look back through but I think that I did do that, if not I was thinking of doing that but you will have some slots of time. I think the week, not next week the following week I will have time available.

Mayor Valentino: Great, we got a lot to digest. This is a this is a busy time of the season for us. Everybody else set for now, you ready to get your budget books? I know we're all excited, any further comments at this point?

CM Amie Hendrix: I will say when you're done with your budget book if you want to return your binder, but keep the papers we would appreciate it, because it's just easier to recycle those, so just something to consider and before you put you know stickers all over it or something.

7. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Moracco
MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:02 pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-2 absent)

Alicia Jean

Deputy Clerk