

AGENDA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF GENEVA, NEW YORK

NOVEMBER 6, 2024

**City Hall
2nd Floor Council Chambers
47 Castle Street
Geneva NY 14456**

COUNCIL MEETING STARTS AT 7:00PM

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- I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor, Steve Valentino
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. DISCUSSION
 - A. Parking (page 3)
- V. PRESENTATION
 - A. Quarter Three Financial Updates – presented by Comptroller Blowers
- VI. SUPERVISOR UPDATE
- VII. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

This portion of the meeting is dedicated to correction of meeting minutes for the following Council session.

 - A. September 16 - Special Meeting (page 4)
 - B. October 2 - Regular Meeting (page 27)
 - C. October 9 - Special Meeting (page 42)
 - D. October 16 - Special Meeting (page 50)
 - E. October 23 - Special Meeting (page 56)
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

This portion of the meeting is dedicated to receiving comments on any topics. The standard time limit for public comment is three (3) minutes.
- IX. CITY MANAGER REPORT – *This portion of the meeting is dedicated to presentation of a report by the City Comptroller on non-action matters that have not been addressed elsewhere on the agenda.*

X. NEW BUSINESS

This portion of the meeting is dedicated to consideration of matters that have not been previously considered by City Council. These include:

- A. Resolution – Authorizing a Public Hearing for a Local Law amending Sewer Rates – presented by Comptroller Blowers (page 61)
- B. First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 341 of the Geneva Municipal Code – Water and Sewers – presented by Comptroller Blowers (page 63)
- C. Resolution – Setting a Public Hearing for the Adoption of a Local Law Reducing the Number of Members of the Planning Board from Nine to Seven – presented by Clerk Tillotson (page 65)
- D. Resolution – Setting a Public Hearing on Zoning Map Amendment to Increase CB-5 – presented by Director West (page 67)
- E. Resolution – Supporting 2024 Restore NY Round 9 Application, and Setting a Public Hearing – presented by Director West (page 71)
- F. Resolution – Adoption of Ontario County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan – presented by City Manager Hendrix (page 73)

XI. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

XII. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

This portion of the meeting is dedicated to presentation of reports by the Mayor and City Councilors on non-action matters that have not been addressed elsewhere on the agenda

XIII. ADJOURNMENT



Geneva City Council
Agenda Item Briefing

To: Mayor Valentino and City Council

From: City Manager, Amie Hendrix

Meeting Date: November 6, 2024

Item Title: Discussion Item: Parking in the City

Action Required:

Staff members have begun to review the City ordinances related to parking (on-street and in lots). Many of these items can be found through Article IV Parking, Standing and Stopping and Article V Parking Meters. As we have received questions, complaints, and concerns regarding parking as well as trash in parking lots, staff will work over the next several months to revise and update at least these two articles.

During the November 6 meeting, we ask that members of council share areas that they would like staff to review/update as we work towards revising the ordinances to match current practices and update practices for the future.

Background:

A majority of relevant parking information can be found at <https://ecode360.com/10597672#10597672> and <https://ecode360.com/10597726#10597726>.

Alternatives:

The current policies can remain in place if council feels that they do not need to be updated.

Financial Impact:

This is a discussion only.

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
Amie M. Hendrix

CITY HALL- 47 CASTLE STREET- GENEVA, NEW YORK 14456
(315) 789-2603 - FAX (315) 789-0604 - www.cityofgenevany.com

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. Petropoulos; 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 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 seawall,

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

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

October 2, 2024 – 7:00 PM
City Hall – 2nd Floor Council Room
47 Castle Street
Geneva, NY 14456

Presiding – Steve Valentino, Mayor

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Moracco
MOVED THAT council move to executive session at 6:00 to discuss
negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of the civil service law
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6-3 absent)

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Brennan; seconded by Clr. Moracco
MOVED THAT council exit executive session at 6:57pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

2. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Clr. Gillotte

3. PUBLIC HEARING – 2025 Budget

Mayor Valentino opened the public hearing at 7:03pm.

Cassie Snyder introduced herself as a Ward 2 resident, and shared two ideas she had after the initial 2025 Budget presentation. Ms. Snyder shared that 68% of a person's income goes into the economy where they live, including paying for housing, property and sales tax. Ms. Snyder suggests incentivizing staff to live in the City of Geneva. Ms. Snyder, who sits on the flood task force, shared that the success of any program is public education. To that end she recommends that the Community Engagement Coordinator position be added to the 2025 budget, as that staff person could spread the word and work of this task force and many other endeavors.

Cyril Smith offered his remarks on the 2025 Budget next. He explained why he believes that the City should adopt a baseline budget, noting that the only thing that changed this year was the assessment increase, and that there is no requirement for the City to expand services. Mr.

Smith explained that the 21% proposed tax increase is 10 times the rate of inflation. He expressed concern about breaking the tax cap to accomplish the budget as presented. Mr. Smith stated his support of the resolution to reduce the proposed budget by \$2 million. He further expressed his support of a 3.5% levy increase. Mr. Smith shared his belief that the City's taxes will put the City out of business for any sort of economic development.

With no one else requesting to speak, Mayor Valentino closed the public hearing at 7:15pm.

4. PUBLIC HEARING - Amending Levels of Real Property Tax Exemptions for Senior Citizens

Mayor Valentino opened the public hearing at 7:16pm. With no comment offered at this time, he closed the public hearing at 7:17pm.

5. PROCLAMATIONS

- A. Extra Mile Day
- B. Fire Prevention Week
- C. Smith Opera House

6. PRESENTATION - Overtime Overview and Reporting – Lt. Bielowicz, Chief Parrotta, Director Venuti

City Manager Hendrix provided a brief introduction, before handing the presentation over to the departments.

Police Lt. Bielowicz explained that the major drivers of Officer overtime include court, call outs, HWS colleges, special events for the school district, traffic, hold overs, and shift shortages. He further explained that command overtime comes directly from being short two positions while waiting on Civil Service lists to be established.

Fire Chief Parrotta shared that the major drivers of Fire Department overtime include four-hour call back time, shift coverage, emergency incidents, training, special events, apparatus maintenance (which saves the City money by handling in house), community outreach, mandatory in service training, and standby for anticipated events and emergencies, including weather related events.

Director Venuti explained that drivers of overtime costs for DPW, Buildings and Grounds, Water Treatment and Waste Water Treatment are all outlined via collective bargaining and include scheduled shut down work, mandatory maintenance and testing which also must occur on weekends and holidays, Cemetery burials and cremations, parks, plowing, deicing, extreme weather, Water and Waste Water Treatment alarms, and building service failures to name a few. City Manager Hendrix explained that some reimbursement is available for overtime generated by City staff, to include STOP DWI, HWS, some events, Drug Enforcement Task Force, Henkel, and FEMA due to two designated disasters.

Overtime is determined by plant Operators and Supervisors, the Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, and Assistant Chief, Chief of Police, Lieutenants, and Sergeants. Discussion followed around comp time accruals and payouts.

Councilor Lavin thanked Lt. Bielowicz, Director Venuti, and Chief Parrotta for presenting and wondered what kind of reporting there is after an overtime event, noting that these reports don't come to Council. Director Venuti explained internal tracking and approvals. Councilor Lavin then expressed concerns about Police Officers making more than the City Manager, and

wondered if more staff is needed to defray overtime costs, or if the Sheriff or State Police should be more integrated to reduce overtime. Director Venuti explained that the City pays more for additional staff, since there are fringe benefits involved as well.

City Manager Hendrix shared that she has regular conversations with departments, and overtime is communicated regularly. Mayor Valentino explained that all departments reviewing overtime tonight have asked for more labor, which the City can't always provide.

7. DISCUSSION - 2025 Budget

City Manager Hendrix and Comptroller Blowers reviewed slides related to the reassessment, tax rate, full market value, and exemptions. Taxable versus untaxable parcels were reviewed as well. Budget slides were reviewed next to include facts and data related to General Fund revenue (sales tax, property tax, fees, and grants), and expenses (operations, salary, pensions, debt, utilities, contracts, supplies, water plant and line repair, and waste water treatment repairs). City Manager Hendrix explored City debt, explaining the issuance of bonds for building and infrastructure improvements. Fund balance was reviewed next, noting that the City must maintain 12-15% of the total budget in fund balance. Water and Sewer reserves are set at 30%, and the City's working capital/liquid assets fall between \$17 million - \$19 million. Comptroller Blowers explained surplus and liquidity for daily operations. He then reviewed financial trends for the group, and further explored tax levy and tax rate, the City's recommended operating budget and the impact this budget has on homeowners in several different scenarios.

Councilor Lavin opened the discussion by noting that the City will take \$2 million more from tax payers this year, and take away from Economic Development. He suggested taking a breather year and said he believes the City lost money by sitting on money that could have been invested. Comptroller Blowers clarified that the City put liquid funds in CD's and the money market, noting that in 2022 interest rates were quite low, impacting the return on these investments. He further explained that some monies can't be comingled, and that funds do need to be easily accessible, for example capital funds. Councilor Pealer stated that he's alarmed with this budget, noted that all five budgets he's worked on have always lifted the tax cap. He explained that he's more comfortable with increases of 4%, in line with past budgets and encourages management and staff to bring a more reasonable budget. Councilor Brennan agreed, as there's more to cost of living than budget increases, reviewing other signs of economic ill health. He explained that taxation is an impediment to growing the City, forcing more Genevans to leave, the opposite of growth. He noted that school taxes are high, and that the City needs to go down a different road. Councilor Whitfield shared that he hears from people that the budget is preposterous for the middle class, and believes that the City is only for rich people to live in, noting that there is no growth in pushing people out of Geneva.

Mayor Valentino addressed the group, acknowledging that Council is faced with challenging decisions. The City Manager and staff prepared a thoughtful budget, which is now City Council's budget to change. He noted that Council can pick and choose what to change, and that it's a positive change to see an increase in property values, this moves the City in a positive direction. Mayor Valentino went on to say he believes it's misleading to say the tax rate will stop development. He reviewed decision making in the 1990's, investments that have made Geneva a great place to live, and believes that a pause now is not the best move. He went on to explain that saying no to capital improvements, equipment, and 1.5 FTE's is kicking the can down the road, as costs don't go down, putting these items off will only cost more in the long run. The budget is an investment in the City.

Councilor Lavin stated that he's not comfortable with City Council making decisions about reductions, and believes the City Manager should be doing this. He suggested that the mayor was talking about costs and cutting, while he is talking about collaboration and growth, suggesting that the budget is a 23% tax increase. He lamented property tax bills on South Main Street. Discussion followed, and Mayor Valentino reminded Councilor Lavin that the City Manager and staff can come back with recommendations, but City Council has to make the budget decisions. Councilor Petropoulos was glad to hear lots of good points tonight, and agreed that Council needs to look at things, noting that the school taxes increased and encouraged attendance at School Board meetings. He further expressed hope that people are reasonable and can make reasonable decisions, and that he trusts management and staff. Councilor Pealer reiterated that he'd like to see a modest increase, below the tax cap, would like to see what that looks like, and wants to hear creative solutions.

City Manager Hendrix explained that in creating the budget she took information provided by City Council and the community, she took a look at structure, the future, maintaining staffing, and prepared the budget that was asked for. She reminded Council of their directive not to band-aid infrastructure and equipment, and to make additions to vegetation management and BID. At that point the City Manager turns the budget over to council. She explained that if Council asks for a \$2 million reduction she will give the reductions to Council. She reminded Council that they have new investments, and places to look at increasing and decreasing. Councilor Lavin stated that Council can ask the City Manager, as an expert, to bring the budget back with cuts, and further stated that there is \$19 million in surplus funds floating around right now, \$1 million of which should be put against the cuts he's asking for. The City Manager clarified that there is not a \$19 million surplus.

Comptroller Blowers clarified that there is currently \$4.2 million in the general fund that can be used at Council discretion. He reminded the group that those funds need to be available, and some are in short term investments.

8. DISCUSSION - Establishment of a Finance Committee

Councilor Lavin opened the discussion by stating that this is what happens when no professional is overseeing the City's money, noting that a finance committee wouldn't have sat on untapped money for two years. He recommends outside experts and Council on a committee. Councilor Pealer recalled the suggestion of a finance committee already coming to the floor once, having been voted down, and wondered why it's back on the floor. Clarification was made that this is a discussion, not a resolution at this time. Councilor Pealer recommended monthly or quarterly work sessions for finances, rather than diverting authority bestowed on City Council to private citizens. He went on to address non weighted votes.

City Attorney How reviewed what would be involved in changing the City Charter including a public hearing process, and local law, the language of which should be settled upon before there is a public hearing on the matter. He suggested that Councilmembers consider what power the committee would have, would it be advisory, what would the formal process be for items that don't make it out of committee to City Council. He recommends that first, City Council get consensus, then staff and legal can put meat on the bones.

Councilor Moracco wondered if the public would be able to attend work sessions, which they can, as they would be meetings. Councilor Petropoulos likes the idea of an ad hoc committee, rather than changing the charter, believes work sessions are a good compromise. Councilor Lavin shared his belief that work sessions don't begin to solve his immediate concerns, and that

the charter is easily changed. He doesn't envision a committee having a binding role, but sees the value of having experts on the Committee, suggesting that Council needs to find out how much interest income was lost, putting it at \$2 million.

Mayor Valentino commented that the numbers offered are speculation, and Council doesn't know what was lost without any factual information, and cautioned against making statements that aren't true and factual, pointing out that nobody has given a number for what was missed. He went on to explain that the investment opportunities the City is taking advantage of now are new opportunities for municipalities, something that many have not started yet.

City Manager Hendrix explained that in reaction to changes in municipal finance law the City brought in an outside entity to really look at liquidity, a common move for municipalities, to help identify opportunities.

Councilor Lavin shared that the finance committee's first action will be to look at why money was sitting in an account earning no interest for two years, which is a loss. Councilor Brennan shared that ironically, this discussion shows that a finance committee would be helpful, and could provide information to make decisions, expressing that he feels Council may be a little out of touch, and hasn't had many special sessions. Councilor Grimaldi expressed concerns around putting power in people to control what comes before City Council, exploring the idea of a committee killing an idea they don't like that Council should see. Councilor Brennan clarified that he doesn't believe the committee should be made up of private people, and that the intent is to be informed, not to make staff decisions.

Mayor Valentino reminded Councilmembers that legal advised not putting this item on an agenda until Council gets together to see if they're ready to move forward, and that people who don't have municipal finance experience need to be brought up to speed. Mayor Valentino also noted that it would be nice if the City's financial institution had the City's financial best interests in mind.

Councilor Pealer stated that never has adding to bureaucracy solved anything.

9. SUPERVISOR UPDATE

Supervisor Kennedy provided an update on the Landfill, following up on workshops that took place on the future of the landfill, currently set to close in 2028. He noted that Councilor Brennan attended the forum in Geneva, one of three held over the summer, with overall participation of around 100 county residents. A decision is expected to be made by the end of this year on the landfill's future.

Updates from the NYSAC Fall Conference, attended by Supervisor Kennedy include Mental Health hospitalization costs and challenges, and responses to domestic violence, as there were 495 domestic violence homicides in New York State last year. The Ontario County Sheriff's Office is looking at immediate and comprehensive responses to domestic violence calls.

An electronic waste recycling event will be held at the landfill on October 12th, call 585-393-3090 to reserve your spot. The Ontario County Cooperative Extension's fall fest will be held on October 19th at 4H Camp Bristol Hills. Ontario County Soil and Water is holding a Storm Water Management Techniques workshop on October 22nd at noon. County Planning and Economic Development continue to hold housing workshops throughout the County, similar to the one held in Geneva in June.

Supervisor Kennedy shared that Ontario County held its budget workshop on September 19th, and explained that process, including exploring committee structure and the Ways and Means

Committee's role in developing the County's budget, and Supervisors responsibility to read minutes ahead of meetings.

Councilor Brennan wondered how many standing committees the Board of Supervisors has, there are six, operating on a three-week cycle. Councilor Lavin shared with the group that he had just reached out to the County Administrator who advises that the County has had a cash management policy since 1987.

10. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Mayor Valentino
MOVED THAT the minutes of the September 5, 2024 Council Meeting be
approved
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy Salotti greeted Councilmembers and Mayor Valentino. She recalled the article in the Finger Lakes Times about the toxic algal blooms, noting the pea soup water, dead fish, and odor. She explained that fishermen who have fished the finger lakes for years have expressed concern for the lake, as the fish just aren't there anymore, and that they have no place to lay their eggs as grasses and weeds disappear. She reminded Councilmembers that even if people don't fish or have property on the lake, the condition of the lake is impacting the local economy through major fishing tournaments no longer being held in the finger lakes, impacting tourism, shopping, and lodging. She pointed out that our water supply comes from Seneca Lake, and wondered how toxic algal blooms impact our drinking water, and also wondered how the toxic spraying of the lake impacts the water supply as well. Ms. Salotti recalled the hydrilla plant, an invasive plant that arrived in Florida in the 1950's causing disruptions in water flow, drainage in irrigation canals, decreases in dissolved oxygen in the water resulting in fish kill, and crowding out native water plants. The hydrilla is now in the finger lakes as well. Ms. Salotti expressed concerns about using herbicides in lakes that are municipal water supplies. In closing Ms. Salotti asked is hydrilla the problem? Is the lake being sprayed with herbicides the problem? What is the long-term effect of herbicides on the lake? She calls for communication, education, and transparency to solve this problem before it's too late.

12. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Hendrix provided the following report:

City Grants: Welcome to our Grants Coordinator who began on Monday, September 23, Jennifer Sutton. Jennifer is working with our city staff members to prepare an overview on grants as previously requested by council.

Investment Update: With the implementation of our new investment policy, we have invested \$10.85 M in funds with LNB for 6-18 month investment period and an additional \$4.25M with Customers Bank of Rye Brook, NY. We are looking at continuing to expand our portfolio with additional investments in the future.

Lake Tunnel Enhancement Project: Crews continue working on the Lakefront Trail Tunnel under Rtes. 5&20 near Solar Village. This is part of the DRI program. The project includes site demolition of

pavements, installations of drainage features, placement of architectural enhancements, repairs and renovations to the tunnel, and landscape features. Work is expected to take several weeks. Pedestrian and bicycle traffic will be detoured when necessary to the multi-use trail and cycle paths along Rtes. 5&20. Users are encouraged to cross Rtes. 5&20 at Castle Street utilizing the signalized intersection.

Mulching and Grooming Trails in Parks: Buildings and grounds annually places mulch in all parks in the spring and fall of each season. They also groom the trails at these times. As the grass mowing season begins to wind down you will find B&G in the parks providing annual fall maintenance.

Televising Lines: As part of our annual maintenance program, the City has contractors televise sanitary and storm sewer lines for various reasons. We televise lines to diagnose repairs, to perform cleaning services, and prior to slip lining a line. In some cases, these lines are televised multiple times within a few years as each item could call for additional televising. This is not due to loss of video; all videos are maintained not only locally but by the contractors as well.

Planning and Economic Development Strategy: This strategy has been officially launched and is available through the PED office. It is still a draft document and feedback is welcomed.

Storm Water Task Force: The storm task force met again last month and will have a report for council in November. The team has looked at communications to residents during weather events, infrastructure improvements, and wellness and safety items. The Fire Department storm trailer has arrived and is being outfitted with submersible pumps.

Former OEO Site Request for Qualifications: We have heard from at least three developers interested in the OEO RFQ released last month. The deadline to submit qualifications is October 21, 2024. For more information contact David West.

Upcoming Events

October 14th: 9am-12pm at Recreation Complex – Touch-a-Truck Event

October 31st: Trick or Treating in the City

13. RESOLUTION – Adoption of Amended Levels of Real Property Tax Exemptions for Senior Citizens Under Real Property Tax Law Section 467

Director 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 \$18,000 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 the exemption granted to eligible persons, in accordance with subdivisions one and three of section 467 of the Real Property Law; It is hereby

RESOLVED, by the Geneva City Council that that City of Geneva ordinance 318- 31 A1 be modified as follows at the levels enumerated below (*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 \$26,399.99 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%
\$19,999.00	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	and over		0%

City Manager Hendrix explained that the amended exemption levels now align with County levels. Councilor Brennan wondered how many are anticipated to be affected by the updated exemption. City Manager Hendrix expects 30-50 residents to take advantage of the new exemptions, based on County participation. Councilor Grimaldi provided a brief description of the process.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Grimaldi
MOVED THAT this resolution be approved
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

14. RESOLUTION – Authorizing the Execution of Sale Documents for City Owned Property Located at 30 Castle St.

City Attorney Hou presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva owns real property located at 30 Castle Street (104.43-2-3) in the City; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution # 17-2023, the Geneva City Council previously determined that said property no longer served a public purpose, and, after public hearing, authorized the sale of said property to a private party, Castle Peacock, LLC; and

WHEREAS, the City Attorney has prepared documents necessary to effectuate the sale of 30 Castle Street;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Geneva City Council that the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute documents reasonably necessary to complete the sale of 30 Castle Street (104.43-2-3) to Castle Peacock, LLC, subject to the approval of the City Attorney.

City Attorney Hou explained that 18 months ago a public hearing was held for the sale of this property, which then gained City Council approval. However, the 600 square foot parcel has not gotten to closing. Due to the passage of time the resolution to approve the sale is before Council again. Discussion followed related to the location of the parcel.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Pealer; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos
MOVED THAT this resolution be approved
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

15. RESOLUTION – Surplus Equipment, Police Department

Lt. Bielowicz 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 be sold 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.

Police Department Surplus Equipment October 2024

- Duty Belts (5)
- Belt Keeper Sets (10)
- Leather handcuff case (11)
- Leather Magazine Case (6)
- Nylon Handcuff Pouch (3)
- (Nylon Magazine Pouch (1)
- Leather Rubber Glove Pouch (8)
- Nylon Rubber Glove Pouch (3)
- Leather Baton Holster (1)
- Leather Flashing Holster (1)
- Nylon Flashlight Holster (1)
- Nylon OC Spray Holster (1)
- Leather Handcuff Belt Keepers (2)
- Spare Side And Shoulder Velcro Straps (17)
- Misc Spare Belt Keepers (32)
- Honeywell Pentax Takumar Lens
- Polaroid Spectra AF Camera
- Polaroid Close-Up Stand Model 7500
- Sirchie Police Camera
- Canon AE-1 Camera With Case
- Maufrotto Camera Tripod
- Konica Autoreflex TC Camera
- Polaroid 100 EE Special Camera
- Yashica J7 Camera
- (2) Canon T50 Cameras With Case
- (2) Pro Guard Vehicle Gun Locks
- (1) mPower Emergency Light Bar 52"
- (2) nForce Emergency Light Bars 54"

- Computer Dock for Patrol Vehicle Havis DS Dell 422
- Computer Dock for Patrol Vehicle Havis DS Dell 405-3
- 2018 Ford Explorer PIU (1FM5K8AR8JGA84097) with 142,232 miles
- 2016 Ford Explorer PIU (1FM5K8AR2GGB67050) with 140,486 miles
- 2017 Ford Explorer PIU (1FM5K8AR6HGA89325) with 122,288 miles
- 2018 Ford Explorer PIU with (1FM5K8AR6JGA84096) 115,151 miles

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Pealer; seconded by Clr. Moracco
MOVED THAT this resolution be approved
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

16. RESOLUTION – Assessor Shared Services

City Manager Hendrix Presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva and the City of Canandaigua have successfully shared an assessor and an Information Technology Department since 2015 with award-winning shared service intermunicipal agreements; and

WHEREAS, the shared service intermunicipal agreement for Information Technology requires renewal and the City of Geneva and the City of Canandaigua desire to continue; and

WHEREAS, the City Managers' for both municipalities have also been discussing expanding the shared assessor agreement to include sharing of an entire Assessment Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Geneva that the City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to execute Inter-Municipal Cooperation Agreements, substantially in the same form as attached hereto, between the City of Canandaigua and the City of Geneva to continue to share an Information Technology Department and expand to also share an Assessment Department.

City Manager Hendrix explained that there is currently a very successful shared services agreement with IT staff and the Assessor between the City of Geneva and the City of Canandaigua. Councilor Pealer wondered what happened to the previous Assessor Clerk, City Manager Hendrix explained that she resigned in May, and that this is not a new position, only the shared services aspect is new. An addendum to the budget related to this position was discussed.

17. RESOLUTION – Establishing a Public Hearing to Override Tax Cap

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, revenues necessary to fund investments include property tax revenues that may exceed a statutory cap set by the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, override of the property tax cap will require adoption of a local law, and holding of a corresponding public hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geneva City Council, hereby and in due form, does establish a public hearing to receive comment on the property tax cap and use of the override mechanism, and directs the City Manager to schedule the hearing for October 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

ACTION TAKEN by Mayor Valentino; being that there was no second, the motion was not before this Council

18. RESOLUTION – Setting a Public Hearing for the Sale of City-Owned Property Located at 41 Lake Street

City Attorney Hou presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva owns real property located at 41 Lake Street in the City; and

WHEREAS, the Geneva City Council previously determined that said property no longer served a public purpose, is surplus property, and could be conveyed to a private party; and

WHEREAS, City Council entered into a lease with an option to purchase the property with Downtown Winery, LLC, dated August 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Downtown Winery, LLC now wishes to exercise its option to purchase the property in accordance with the terms provided in the parties' lease; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to hold a public hearing with regard to the proposed sale of the property to Downtown Winery, LLC;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Geneva City Council that a Public Hearing shall be had on the 16th day of October, 2024, at 6:00PM, for the purpose of considering the sale of 41 Lake Street to Downtown Winery, LLC, in accordance with its option to purchase said property;

RESOLVED, that the City Clerk advertise for said Public Hearing in a manner consistent with law; and be it further

City Attorney Hou explained that this property was leased in 2012, and that the lease agreement has an option to purchase. The lease holder is exercising that right now, and the City has a contractual obligation to sell.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Grimaldi; seconded by Clr. Pealer
MOVED THAT this resolution be approved
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

19. RESOLUTION – Flexible Work Arrangement Policy

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, a best practice for government operations is to have standard operating procedures and policies, and

WHEREAS, unrepresented and management employees currently are provided informal flexibility in their work arrangements, and

WHEREAS, the attached policy is being requested to formalize this process, and

WHEREAS, Council approval (a formal vote) is required for new policies or for changes to existing policy language, and

WHEREAS, the policy detailed below has been crafted by the respective responsible departments and further offered for review by City staff and leaders of all collective bargaining units, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation, that Policy 03-2024 Flexible Work Arrangements Policy is hereby adopted and shall be added to a City Administrative Policy Manual.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr Brennan; seconded by Clr. Lavin

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

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

MOTION CARRIED

20. RESOLUTION – 2025 City Manager Budget Reduction

Councilor Lavin presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the 2024 reassessment is significantly shifting and increasing municipal tax burdens for many,

BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council order the City Manager to reduce her proposed 2025 budget in ways that will reduce the projected 2025 levy by \$2-million from her original 2025 proposal.

Councilor Lavin introduced the resolution as an effort to redirect budget reviews, and still give flexibility where it's needed. Mayor Valentino stated that he can't support this effort. Councilor Petropoulos indicated that he considers Councilor Pealer's work session plan more realistic.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr Lavin; seconded by Clr. Brennan

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

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

MOTION DEFEATED

21. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

ACTION TAKEN by Clr Pealer; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos

MOVED THAT Paul D'Amico be appointed to the Police Budget Advisory Board

ROLL CALL VOTE: **Aye - Clr. Pealer, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Moracco, Mayor Valentino**

Nay - Clr. Brennan, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Whitfield

MOTION CARRIED

22. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Brennan shared that Tom Burrall donated \$275 in firewood sales this month. The Shade Tree Committee is business as usual, and reached out recently to Drew Rojak, HWS Buildings and Grounds Superintendent who is happy to accept all large trees that the Shade Tree Committee can provide. The Historic Districts Commission did not meet in September.

Councilor Lavin expressed concerns related to a constituent of Ward 1 who made an offer on a City-owned parcel on South Main Street, who's request was rejected during executive session. He expressed concerns about the parcel not going back on the tax role, and wondered how the property team can reject an offer that would put land back on the tax role. Councilor Grimaldi explained that since the parcel hasn't been declared surplus, it's not open to bid. City Manager Hendrix explained the process that occurs when offers are made on property that has not been declared surplus, to include discussion with City Council in executive session, noting that if City Council wants further discussion as a result of executive session discussions, the proposal is moved forward. When City Council isn't interested in moving forward, a letter is sent to the inquiring individual. Councilor Lavin advised that the resident deserves an answer directly from Council of rejection, so they can be informed. Mayor Valentino said that Councilor Lavin's point was well taken.

Councilor Pealer shared that the Planning Board didn't meet, and finds it troubling that nothing is going on with Planning, nothing going on in Geneva. He wants to see development, and shared that Canandaigua held a developer round table with the City and Town and LDC where developers spoke truthfully about how they assess properties from the standpoint of development. Councilor Pealer also shared that he sat in on a Watershed meeting recently where the message around lake health was zebra/quagga mussels absorbing nutrients in the lake ecosystem, as an invasive species that we can't get rid of. He also recalled when the lake had E. coli, and now has toxic bacteria.

Councilor Grimaldi shared that Geneva Housing Authority is the recipient of a \$4.5 million grant to fix heating systems in their units. They currently boast a 95% occupancy rate, are continuing to update a few units at a time, and passed their budget.

Councilor Petropoulos commented on the smell of the lake recently, and recalled the smell of the East River when he was growing up. He also shared that he's joined the Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association, and recently spoke with Assemblyman Gallahan about what the DEC has in

mind, noting that we all drink water from the lake and shouldn't vilify anyone. The LDC endorsed the Economic Development Strategic Plan at their last meeting, and discussed revenue generation since the City isn't in a position to fund at this time. Councilor Petropoulos shared some quality-of-life concerns in Ward 5 related to the Foundary remediation, State Street, and flooding in railway culverts. He also shared that there are some street lamps out on Castle Street and at Lake and Exchange Streets. Councilor Petropoulos invited everyone to the dedication of the Battle Within Bench at Lakefront Park on Veteran's Day at 10am. The Free Masons built the bench, and the LDC donated the cement slab it sits on.

Councilor Morocco shared resident concerns about yard clean up, noting that code violations have been called in with no follow up. City Manager Hendrix explained that the code enforcement process can take months or years. Councilor Morocco said that he'll be discussing with Assemblyman Gallahan to see if the state can change their laws. Mayor Valentino suggested that the City's well-educated staff are a good place to begin a code enforcement conversation as well.

Councilor Whitfield expressed that it's imperative for people to vote, and make wise decisions about who they vote for, citing tonight as an example while looking at budget issues, and with all due respect observed that anyone approving of the budget presented isn't for the people. He shared his belief that the upper class will decide the budget, while the lower class suffers from the decision. Councilor Whitfield shared updates from Recreation to include the Halloween Parade on October 27, annual Touch a Truck event at the Rec Center on October 14 from 9-noon. Councilor Whitfield also shared that oppressed people feel they shouldn't vote at all, they feel that their vote won't matter, and that people are being pushed out of Geneva, as this budget isn't for the poor.

Mayor Valentino welcomed Comptroller Blowers back, and thanked everyone for the September 11th Remembrance Ceremony and its great turnout.

23. ADJOURNMENT

**ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Pealer; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos
MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:19pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Nicole Tillotson
City Clerk

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

October 9, 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 (arrived at 7:04), Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Moracco, Clr. Whitfield

Absent:

2. AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

ACTION TAKEN by Mayor Valentino; seconded by Clr. Pealer

MOVED THAT the agenda be amended to add Resolution 69-2024, Amendment to Resolution 61-2024 Proposing the Adoption of Amended Levels of Real Property Tax Exemptions for Senior Citizens Under Real Property Tax Law Section 467

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

MOVED THAT the agenda be amended to add Resolution 65-2024, Establishing a Public Hearing for a Local Law overriding the Property Tax Cap

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

3. 2025 BUDGET DISCUSSION

City Manager Hendrix opened the 2025 Budget discussion by reviewing the process for relaying questions for Staff, and explained that Councilmembers may make motions to amend the budget at any time by following typical procedures. She reviewed key budget data and information to include 2024 adopted budget, tax levy and tax rates, and 2025 proposed budget, tax levy and tax rates, as well as the amount of funding being utilized from fund balance. She further advised

that the Senior Exemption resolution takes effect on the 2025 roll for the 2026 City budget. The City Manager and Comptroller then provided responses to Councilmember's questions.

Question 1: If the Council is to look to remove funding from the budget to change to 5% levy growth what would need to be removed from the budget? What would this do to the tax rate? City Manager Hendrix explained that the 2024 Levy was \$8,428,837. A 5% increase would be \$421,444. Making the 2025 levy \$8,850,317, a reduction from the proposed 2025 budget of \$1,310,581, making the new tax rate \$12.16 per \$1,000.

Question 2: Where can we look to see areas to reduce the budget? City Manager Hendrix explained that the proposed budget was crafted catching up on maintenance and other efforts, not an expansion, noting that the City hasn't reached a place where we can proactively work towards future efforts or introduce new offerings. She further explained that reductions may reduce the speed of work that can be done, and services provided, and recommended reviewing departmental budget breakdowns for reductions. An example was given was line 1210.4046 in City Council's budget, where an increase was provided to give Council funding for specialty projects, an area that would be recommended for review. Mayor Valentino encouraged Councilmembers to bring forward a motion on the floor to add or take out items live on the floor.

Question 3: What would the reduction be to the proposed budget if we did not surpass the property tax cap? City Manager Hendrix explained that the proposed tax levy is \$10,160,898, while the tax cap limit is \$9,852,787, which would mean a reduction in levy of \$308,111, bringing the tax rate to \$13.54 per \$1,000. She further explained that if Council stays below the tax cap there are minimal challenges to not having the override in place, and the reason Council would pass the override is to ensure that if the budget winds up under, but close to the cap, we would be ok. Councilor Pealer recalled the tax cap override being a contentious topic year after year and explained why municipalities lift it, as the State withholds funding if the tax cap is exceeded, and shared that he has no intention of raising taxes about the tax cap. Councilor Brennan wondered about the value of state aid that could be withheld. Comptroller Blowers explained that roughly \$2.5 million in State funding, not to say that if the City has a problem with the tax cap that the entire \$2.5 million would be withheld. Councilor Lavin wondered if there would be any consequence or loss if the City stays below the cap limit, which Comptroller Blowers explained there is not. Mayor Valentino asked if the budget would have to be reduced to \$9.8 million to guarantee funding. Comptroller Blowers explained that the cap is New York State saying "try not to raise taxes too much," and looks at Council raising the levy as a different equation. He recommended the override resolution anyway, and making it known to the State that the City falls underneath it. City Manager Hendrix explained that some governments will rescind the resolution, and discussion followed around giving extra allowance in the event that a PILOT payment is missed, etc. Councilor Gillotte wondered about PILOT payments this year, and was informed that reduced PILOT payments were coming in for some.

Question 4: What did the Senior Exemption do to the budget? City Manager Hendrix explained that it won't impact the budget until 2026. Mayor Valentino explained that sales tax is calculated with the full levy value, including untaxed property, and City Manager Hendrix shared that an audit of not for profits is occurring for the 2025 tax role, for use and contribution. Discussion followed.

Question 5: What has been the growth of the tax levy over the past ten years? City Manager Hendrix explained that the 2014 levy was \$6.6 million, and the 2024 levy is \$8.4 million. Mayor Valentino wondered what the difference was in other reevaluation years, City Manager Hendrix will come back next week with that data.

Question 6: Why is there such a large increase in the Public Works 7110 budget on page 60? Building Maintenance for specific buildings has been moved from other parts of the budget to Buildings and Grounds as cost centers. These Costs are all one time funded and proposed to come from fund balance. Mayor Valentino noted that there are lots of questions on the topic that will be brought forward next week. Councilor Pealer asked that fund balance transfers into the budget being noted as revenue be highlighted somehow, so Councilmembers can easily identify these items as one-time costs, not recurring costs. City Manager Hendrix explained the regulation behind the fund balance use and its complications when creating the levy, and how it's seen as revenue. Discussion followed.

Question 7: What would the percent change of the budget be if we added the Community Engagement Coordinator to the proposed budget? City manager Hendrix explained that the estimated cost for the position is \$95,000 for 2025, anticipating a mid-quarter one onboarding. The new levy amount would be \$10,255,898, and the new tax rate would be \$14.10 per \$1,000. The change to the overall budget would be 0.42%, change to the proposed levy would be 0.93% Councilor Gillotte wondered if the numbers include fringe, City Manager Hendrix confirmed that they do.

Question 8: What is the estimated fund balance expected to roll over in 2024? Comptroller Blowers explained that is a constantly moving number, and as of October 9, the General Fund sits at \$4,245,582, Water Fund is at \$1,020,471, and Sewer Fund is \$1,262,400. Discussion followed.

Question 9: What are the top five spending increases? Overall? Levy Related? City Manager Hendrix shared that salary and benefits increased by \$746,000 which includes new staff for 2025; increases in the cost of doing business as overall costs for day to day materials like salt, machinery, and technology all trend up between 12-20%; Continuing to catch up on building maintenance and infrastructure maintenance; equipment cost increases like salt trucks, vehicles, and other heavy equipment; and animal control, while not in the top 5 increases is an imposed increase that nearly doubles the previous allocation. Discussion followed around building conditions and repairs and the intention to not just band aid fix, for example do we repair nine times or replace once, and patching versus fixing. Councilor Pealer wondered about phasing some of these projects, capital improvement five-year plan was reviewed and discussed, and the City Manager highlighted Council's direction to use cash for capitol projects, rather than bond and incur debt, noting that fund balance use doesn't increase taxes. Councilor Pealer then wondered about street reconstruction, noting that some residents don't want full reconstruction of their streets.

Question 10: Where are new staff positions located? City Manager Hendrix reviewed the proposed 1.5 FTE's. The .5 FTE is an IT Network Analyst, to be shared with the City of Canandaigua, and the 1 FTE is for an Administrative Assistant for DPW, to assist working supervisors with administrative work including FEMA reimbursement work. The Safety

Coordinator position will continue from the 2024 budget, discussion followed around attempts to fill that position earlier this year. Another change includes the addition of a Grants Coordinator, who is partially funded by grants in addition to local funding, and a .5 FTE in the Assessor's office in a new shared agreement with the City of Canandaigua. Councilor Pealer noted that Geneva carries the full burden of the shared IT positions, and somewhere the budget shows revenue from the City of Canandaigua. He then noted that if the City employed a part time employee without Shared Services, there would be no full time benefits paid out. Councilor Petropoulos wondered how many other municipalities have a safety coordinator, and how does the position help? City Manager Hendrix explained that every municipality must have a safety coordinator at all times, due to PESH requirements. This was formerly a position add on, and when the person in the role retired, they recommended a whole person for this role alone. She further noted that the City works closely with Ontario County on safety coordination. Councilor Gillotte wondered what the City pays for safety coordination now. Currently there are stipends, under \$2,000, and the requirement to have a Safety Committee. It was noted that most members of the Safety Committee do not have a stipend. Councilor Pealer noted that the City has operated forever without this position and has gotten by, allocating funds to existing employees to do the work. Councilor Petropoulos wondered if the City launched a search to fill the role and didn't find someone to fill the role. The City Manager confirmed that was the case, and noted that other municipalities were hiring for the same role at the same time, with higher pay.

Question 11: Where did ONI go? City Manager Hendrix explained that Planning and Economic Development is now the overarching department for ONI, and the budget code for this department remains 8689.

4. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DISCUSSION

Mayor Valentino explained that the last comprehensive plan was done in 2018, noting a lot of discussion and references recently to it. Councilor Pealer finds it highly ironic that Council is trying to trim the budget, and this would be spending more, wondering if it's for 2024. Mayor Valentino explained that this motion is for the 2025 budget, and paid from fund balance, with no impact to the tax rate. Councilor Brennan wondered what prompts this initiative, Mayor Valentino explained that since 2018 the nation and the community has experienced a lot of change, noting the impact the pandemic had on the community, and that the comprehensive plan is future focused. Councilor Gillotte agreed that the update is needed. Councilor Lavin shared that he sees this as more paralysis by analysis while facing tax increases, this isn't the year to do it. He further suggested that the City Manager point out \$75,000 elsewhere in the budget not to fund instead. Councilor Pealer voiced his support for the plan, with no impact on the budget, noting that the City should have 13-15% fund balance, and is sitting on 19%. He asked Comptroller Blowers if the Comprehensive Plan would bring fund balance in line with where it should be, estimating it to land around 14.9%, Comptroller Blowers agreed that yes, it would be very close. Councilor Pealer further noted that the fund balance does need to be spent down, and if the overall budget is increased, then the amount allocated for fund balance would also need to increase, again voicing support for the Comprehensive Plan if it's paid for out of fund balance. Mayor Valentino reminded Councilmembers that they may bring forward motions as well. City Manager Hendrix shared that she talked to some consultants, and the price is close, also noting that this will position the City for the next DRI initiative as well. Councilor

**ACTION TAKEN by Mayor Valentino; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos
MOVED TO add in Comprehensive Plan Update for 2025 - \$75,000 in City
Manager's budget – as a onetime request with the full amount coming from Fund
Balance**

MOTION CARRIED

The Mayor also shared that next week he will be making a motion to remove \$10,000 from line 6326.4062 for the Cornell Ag/Food Tech Park next week.

Amendment to Resolution 61-2024 Proposing the Adoption of Amended Levels of Real Property Tax Exemptions for Senior Citizens Under Real Property Tax Law Section 647

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 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 \$18,000 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 the exemption granted to eligible persons, in accordance with subdivisions one and three of section 467 of the Real Property Law; It is hereby

RESOLVED, by the Geneva City Council that that City of Geneva ordinance 318- 31 A1 be modified as follows at the levels enumerated below (*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 \$26,399.99 ~~\$18,000~~ 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	and over		0%

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

6. RESOLUTION – 65-2024 Establishing a Public Hearing for a Local Law Overriding the Property Tax Cap

Mayor Valentino presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, revenues necessary to fund investments include property tax revenues that may exceed a statutory cap set by the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, override of the property tax cap will require adoption of a local law, and holding of a corresponding public hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geneva City Council, hereby and in due form, does establish a public hearing to receive comment on the property tax cap and use of the override mechanism, and directs the City Manager to schedule the hearing for October 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Councilor Lavin expressed concern for the vote to increase spending tonight, and for taxes being 30% higher than in surrounding communities. He shared that four houses were put on the market this week on South Main Street, and believes this is a result of seniors being unable to pay their taxes, restating his position to keep below the tax cap for the 2025 budget. Councilor Brennan wondered if it's too early to hold a public hearing when Council just said it doesn't want to raise taxes. Mayor Valentino explained that there is still the rest of the month to work on the budget. Councilor Grimaldi reminded the group that this resolution is simply to set the public hearing, and it should be passed just in case.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:24 pm

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nicole Tillotson
City Clerk

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

October 16, 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 (arrived at 7:49), Clr Gillotte, Clr. Petropoulos,
Clr. Moracco, Clr. Whitfield

Absent: Clr. Grimaldi

2. PUBLIC HEARING – Sale of City Owned Property – 41 Lake Street

Mayor Valentino opened the public hearing at 7:00pm. With no comment offered at this time, he closed the public hearing at 7:01pm.

3. RESOLUTION – Authorizing the sale of 41 Lake Street to Downtown Winery, LLC

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva owns real property located at 41 Lake Street in the City, which was previously deemed to be surplus property no longer serving a public purpose that could be conveyed to a private party in furtherance of the City's Economic Development Strategic Imperatives; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance thereof, City Council entered into a lease with an option to purchase the property with Downtown Winery, LLC, dated August 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, during its tenancy Downtown Winery redeveloped the subject property and now wishes to exercise its option to purchase the property in accordance with the terms provided in its lease with the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Geneva City Council approves of the aforementioned option of Downtown Winery to purchase the property, and that the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute any documents reasonably necessary to complete the sale of 41 Lake Street to Downtown Winery, LLC, in accordance with the terms in the subject lease, and subject also to the approval by the City Attorney of the terms of the purchase/sale contract terms, including but not limited to, provisions relating to the limitation of the City's liability relating to past environmental contamination.

City Manager Hendrix explained that this property was a long-term lease, which is coming to an end. The arrangement was a partnership between the City and the IDA. Councilor Brennan wondered how much the sale amount would be. Mayor Valentino shared that it is around \$175,000.

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

4. 2025 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Councilor Petropoulos opened by advising Council that Councilor Pealer would be arriving late, and Councilor Grimaldi would be absent, sharing that he'd be speaking for them in their absence tonight. He further stated that all Councilmembers want to see the levy go down, and solicited Council to direct the City Manager to provide a budget with a 5-6% reduction. Mayor Valentino shared that he'd like to see the budget just below the tax cap, and asked Councilors if they're agreeable.

City Manager Hendrix explained that the ask is a \$1.3 million reduction, and looked for direction about what services and programs Council would direct her to remove. She further noted that the original direction from Council was a lower tax rate and increased services. Mayor Valentino shared that a 4-5% reduction would bring the 2025 budget in at between \$8-\$8.9 million.

Councilor Brennan wondered about using money in the fund balance. City Manager Hendrix explained that fund balance is sitting at 14.5% currently in the 2025 budget, and she doesn't recommend going much below that number. Councilor Lavin stated that he didn't recall direction to lower the tax rate, and that his direction is for the City Manager to use her professional skill to reduce, not throw the budget back to Council to make reductions. Mayor Valentino reminded Council that fund balance currently sits at \$4.425 million, and in the proposed 2025 budget will sit at \$3.246 million. Councilor Lavin then wondered how much cash is sitting at Lyons National Bank. Comptroller Blowers explained that the General Fund Balance is \$4.2 Million, Water Fund Balance is at \$1 million, and Sewer Fund Balance sits at \$1.2 million. He further explained that the remainder is capital funds assigned to budgets expenses for the remainder of the year. City Manager Hendrix further clarified that in an April Strategic Plan meeting there was no uniform direction by Council. The decided focus was smart funding, and tax rate. She advised Councilmembers that they will need to decide what the City doesn't maintain, and have critical conversations. She reminded Council that this budget maintains current services.

Councilor Gillotte recalled the levy coming up later, and that the City Manager is doing her job, she'll have to take out line items, and Council will have to make the decisions, which will affect residents. He agreed that Councilor Petropoulos' suggestion is a good place to start, and he

doesn't think Council can get to zero increase. Expenses will continue to come up. He further shared that Councilmembers have similar goals, with different numbers, and when the budget reductions come back, Council will have to decide what they think they can operate the City with. City Manager Hendrix committed to working with departments, especially public safety and public works where most cuts will come from. Councilor Brennan suggested playing with the numbers more, and is supportive of using fund balance, so long as it stays in the target range. City Manager Hendrix reminded Councilmembers of open contract negotiations, and lawsuits, and reminded Council that Fund Balance is also a rainy-day account that is now within, not over the target range. Councilor Brennan encouraged Council to agree on a number to land on. Mayor Valentino reminded Council that the Fund Balance range is set by City Council, not the State. He asked Councilmembers what happens if the City Manager comes back with reductions following their direction, and wondered what would happen if when the budget comes back if Council still doesn't agree with what will and won't be provided to the City. Councilor Petropoulos noted the caution, expressing his confidence that Council will come to an agreement. Councilor Gillotte wondered when the budget would revert back to the City Manager if Council can't make a decision. City Manager Hendrix advised that the budget would revert back on November 1. Councilor Brennan noted that can't happen without the State limit override. The City Manager explained that it would go to a default budget that the City Manager would set.

Mayor Valentino explained that the City Manager and Comptroller will come back with a reduced budget, noting that City Council isn't in agreement, noting that he expects to see some options so the majority of Council can agree. Councilor Lavin stated that staff is paid for their expertise in this area, and it's up to them to figure out how to run the City with what Council gives them. He further noted that Geneva is one of two cities in the County with a Recreation budget deficit. After some discussion Mayor Valentino offered some clarification, as he is in his seventh term on Council to include reduction in Police and Fire never comes from the City Manager, it always comes from City Council; Council is asking the City Manager to change her professional presentation on how we run the City, noting that the in depth budget addresses issues Council talk about all of the time including weeding, and infrastructure that is beginning to be addressed, in a well thought out manner, and that it's painful to decide what to take care of or cut. Councilor Lavin then stated that the mishandling of interest funds cost the City a significant amount of money, and that the City of Geneva is the highest taxed in the area. Mayor Valentino stated that with the proposed cuts that will not be the case. Mayor Valentino then pointed out that the Recreation comment was not accurate. Councilor Lavin argued that it's not clear, and it may be cheaper to hand the keys over to Hobart. Mayor Valentino wondered if Councilor Lavin had talked to Hobart, noting that he has, and it's not a simple hand off. Councilor Lavin suggested that if the City told the college they were no longer doing ice next year, they'd have no choice, and they don't want to be seen as stealing the rink from the City. Councilor Gillotte called a point of order to stay on track with the budget discussion.

Councilor Brennan reminded Council that this budget is only good for 12 months, and things will continue to get more expensive. He went on to compliment City Manager Hendrix and previous Comptroller Newcomb on their budget, noting that salaries and cost of living played a part. He reminded the group that if Council is going to cut anything, it will hurt. He also noted that residents are supporting a lot of institutions that aren't on the levy paying taxes, and that he'd like to see the budget land well below the tax cap.

City Manager Hendrix reviewed the question process and deadline to make next week's meeting. She then reviewed City Council's direction and 2024 Adopted, and 2025 Proposed

budget information. Comptroller Blowers explained that the City's 2024 financials are in the budget binders, noting that the budget is in the correct range through quarter 3. Councilor Lavin requested that anything 10% over or under plan be brought to Council. He then wondered if debt service is part of the levy. Comptroller Blowers confirmed that it is.

Question 1: Please provide Grant Revenue Breakdown from City Manager Metrics. City Manager Hendrix referred to page 28 of the Budget Binder, explaining that the City is awarded grants alone and with partners. 2023 Grants include Clean Energy Communities, MAP Grant, Recreation Trails Program, Compost and Food Waste Diversion, Police Traffic Services, Child Passenger Safety, Ontario County STOP-DWI, Food Waste Diversion, and High Visibility Enforcement Coordination. 2024 Grants include Bridge NY, LE Tech for Police, Restore NY, and Police Traffic Services. The City receives just under \$3 million in grant funding, and some include a 15% administration fee.

Question 2: Fleet service for the City's vehicles. What is the approach we are taking to this and how was this developed for the 2025 budget? Who is involved in this decision? City Manager Hendrix explained that the Comptroller is starting to look at a fleet program, and will include staff who would likely participate. She referred to page 81 which outlines the equipment replacement program, noting that the fleet management program would also maintain vehicles. She noted that there is a long-term cost savings with this type of program. Comptroller Blowers shared that he's met with some vendors, and explained that these programs are data based. He added that the fleet would be monitored for efficiency, and that fuel would be part of the program, leading the City to not require a pump. Councilor Lavin wondered about mechanics, City Manager Hendrix explained that the fleet program will include maintenance, and noted that the City will still require mechanics for heavy equipment and fire trucks.

Question 3: What staff is included in the City Manager budget vs. the Human Resources Budget? How has this changed? City Manager Hendrix explained that within the CM's budget is 10% of a staff person, that is shared with HR, the City Manager and the Safety Coordinator. In the 2024 the share was 25% with HR and Safety Coordinator, and in 2023 there was a City Manager and an Executive Assistant. Councilor Petropoulos wondered when the Safety Coordinator would be re-posted. The City Manager explained that it will be posted again after the budget.

Question 4: What is in the contractual services line? Why has it increased? City Manager Hendrix referred to page 9, and page 34 for the break down of line items. She explained that anything that isn't salary and benefits is contractual services in the budget, and commonly referred to as .4's. Comptroller Blowers explained that there is an increase due to electronic time keeping for payroll. Councilor Pealer asked for a breakdown of computer supplies increase of \$13,000. Comptroller Blowers explained that expense is the electronic timekeeping. Discussion followed around software, noting that the annual maintenance cost of the initial purchase is \$1,000. Councilor Pealer then had questions about increases approaching 10% in some areas, and 36% in Planning and Economic Development. Comptroller Blowers explained that Buildings and Grounds sees the biggest increase due to maintaining buildings, which was in department budget lines, but shifted to B & G for the 2025 Budget. City Manager Hendrix added that improvements and repairs at the Lakefront and Gazebo are part of the increase as well. Discussion followed around contracting out services and the Public Safety Building being in

need of a new roof. Councilor Petropoulos wondered if the Sheriff's Office should pay for part of that roof since they use space in that building. Discussion followed about good partners, including the Court, who take up space but don't have to pay for it.

Question 5: IT vehicle; why the need for a second vehicle? If a person is remote do they get mileage? How do the equipment lines and vehicle lines relate to one another? IT Director Premyslovski explained that the ask is to replace the current IT vehicle, a 2014 Ford Focus. He explained that he doesn't get reimbursed for mileage, because of the vehicle, but the IT Network Technician does claim mileage, for travel within the City for work, but not for travel between cities, aside from two emergencies in the past five years. Canandaigua pays for the car through the Shared Services contract as well. Councilor Pealer wondered if there is a contractual obligation for the vehicle, there is not, as Director Premyslovski is management. City Manager Hendrix also added that there is an expectation that Director Premyslovski is available in the event of an emergency 24/7.

Question 6: What is in the IT equipment line? Why has this changed over time? Director Premyslovski explained that any technology equipment not related to the network, including printers, scanners, security, audio/video needs, etc. Recent increases have included funds for downtown security cameras, added lakefront cameras, and City Hall cameras. Discussion followed about connectivity of cameras downtown.

Question 7: What is the public access line? Director Premyslovski explained that public access was removed in 2020, the line now pays the stipend for televising council meetings by IT staff. This service is above the job descriptions of the staff and can not be made to fit into their normal schedule.

Question 8: Why is there an increase in network security costs? Microsoft licensing upgrade fees are a key driver, Director Premyslovski explained that the City usually skips one upgrade, then purchases the next one. An upgrade will have to happen in 2025. Discussion followed around overbudgeting.

Question 9: why is there an increase in Civic Plus? Director Premyslovski explained that Civic Plus hosts the City's website, and increased their cost for 2025. He further explained that each department is responsible to maintain their own pages. City Manager Hendrix also explained that if the City migrates to a different vendor, costs would likely increase. Director Premyslovski explained that hosting includes domain registration, 1,000 users for text notifications, and unlimited email notifications. Councilor Pealer recalled the migration from Go Daddy to Civic Plus occurring on ongoing security issues, which were resolved with Civic Plus. Discussion followed around allocation of staff time to maintain department pages. Councilor Moracco wondered about the subscriptions line, noting a \$20,000 increase. Director Premyslovski explained that the City has no control over subscription costs, he further explained that the City only gets the minimum of what is needed, and no extras to control costs.

5. MOTION – Remove \$10,000 from line 6326.410 for funding to Cornell Ag and Food Tech Park

Mayor Valentino presented a motion to remove \$10,000 in funding from line 6326.410 for funding to Cornell Ag and Food Tech Park. Councilor Lavin wondered what this funding is for. City Manager Hendrix explained that the funding has been provided over time since the Tech Farm inception to support its general operations. She noted that over time the amount has been reduced. Mayor Valentino explained that he's looking for more for the City with the funding; there have been no new jobs, and this is a business incubator. He's open to reconsidering in the future. Councilor Brennan wondered if the Tech Farm is tax exempt. The City Manager explained that it depends on the use of the Tech Farm. Councilor Pealer then wondered if the Tech Farm is in an Empire Zone, wondering how to get them to pay taxes. Comptroller Blowers advised that they have been paying taxes for quite a while.

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

MOVED TO remove \$10,000 from line 6326.410 for funding to Cornell Ag and Food Tech Park

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Aye -	Clr. Brennan, Clr. Pealer, Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Moracco, Mayor Valentino
Nay -	Clr. Lavin, Clr. Whitfield

MOTION CARRIED

6. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:59pm

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nicole Tillotson

City Clerk

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

October 23, 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

Absent:

PUBLIC HEARING – Property Tax Cap Override

Mayor Valentino opened the public hearing at 7:00 pm. With no comment at this time, he closed the public hearing at 7:01pm.

2. AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

ACTION TAKEN by Mayor Valentino; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos

MOVED THAT the agenda be amended to include a resolution overriding the property tax levy limit

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. DISCUSSION – 2025 Budget

City Manager Hendrix distributed and explained proposed cuts to the 2025 Proposed Budget bringing the levy increase to 6% to include:

- \$5,000 reduction in funds for staff training
- \$52,100 to remove the position of Safety Coordinator, and return to the previous system of providing a stipend to a central staff person to take on the responsibility
- \$25,000 to delay electronic time keeping to late 2025
- \$30,000 Lakefront Building Shade Structure replacement. DPW will continue to repair as able.
- \$200,000 Remove vegetation management planning funds.
- \$16,500 Code Enforcement software
- \$85,000 Tree Inventory
- \$45,000 DPW Relocation Study
- \$72,000 DPW Admin Position
- \$50,000 DPW Asphalt Roller
- \$75,000 Replacement of Police Car

- \$25,000 Improvements to the firing range
- \$16,200 Fire Department Turn Out Gear replacement – reduced by three sets
- \$17,000 Fire extinguisher simulator
- \$25,000 Jaws of Life
- \$10,000 eliminate City funding of Cornell Agri-Tech
- \$5,000 Grant writing support
- \$54,000 Recreation Department Van replacement
- \$16,800 Remove senior programming partnership with the YMCA
- \$90,000 x 2 = \$180,000 Reduce workforce by attrition, hold two vacancies all year
- \$15,000 Reduce BID maintenance services, no weed eating, hardscape, no mowing
- \$15,000 Remove economic support provided to the BID
- Revenue increase \$200,000 sales tax revenue increase, based on projection change

City Manager Hendrix then offered two more reductions that would bring the 2025 Proposed Budget to 5% levy increase:

- \$62,500 DPW tree removal – limit tree work occurring city wide, will be responsive and complaint driven only.
- \$34,000 IT position – remove shared position with City of Canandaigua

Discussion followed related to some items to include implementing a regular rotation of fleet vehicle replacement, the implication of range repairs being put off, the condition of GPD's Durango's, implications of reducing fire turn out gear replacement, fire extinguisher simulator, Jaws of Life, positions left vacant, planned retirements, and sales tax projections.

Mayor Valentino thanked the City Manager, Comptroller, and staff for the budget work they were asked to complete in the last week, and asked council for direction between the 5% and 6% options, or if they'd rather choose individual items to remove from the proposed budget. Councilor Pealer appreciated the options and accepted all of them. Councilor Brennan accepted all, but wondered if grant writing should be brought back in, as it promotes economic development. Councilor Lavin thanked staff for the reductions, and noted that answers are far beyond "cut, cut, cut," collaboration, consolidations, including school district consolidations, are long term answers to government costs; further noting that the Town survives with services they don't have to pay to get. Councilor Grimaldi offered to go through levies and equalization with Councilmembers, noting that the problem that exists is more than 50% of the City's property being off the tax roll. Councilor Gillotte acknowledged that it's a hard decision to make this year, and that this is a year to regroup and move forward, he encouraged council to stay engaged with the budget and not to leave the City Manager on an island by herself, he also noted that he prefers the 6% option. Councilor Petropoulos shared that he's fine with the 5% option, and suggested adjusting fire after the fact, and encouraged council to stay engaged. Councilor Morocco had no preference or comments. Councilor Whitfield prefers 5%, which he sees as better than 20%, which would cause a lot of turmoil, he further shared that he's not worried about friends, he's worried about the people.

Mayor Valentino asked Councilmembers if there were any comments on the Water, Sewer, and Workers Comp budgets before a brief recess. There were none. Councilor Lavin would like to require management to bring any requests to increase water or sewer usage from the town be brought before council for approval.

Council recessed from 7:01 to 7:12

4. LOCAL LAW 1-2024 – Overriding the Property Tax Levy Limit

Comptroller Blowers presented the following local law:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Geneva, New York, that the Sewer Fund Budget as presently presented be and it hereby is adopted, and that a copy of the Sewer Fund Budget as hereby adopted be set forth in the minutes of this meeting, and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the several sums in the Sewer Fund Budget for the year 2025 as appropriations for expenditures, in the total amount of **\$5,534,798** and the same hereby are appropriated in the amounts and for the several purposes therein specified in the attached Chart of Accounts.

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

8. RESOLUTION – Approving Workers’ Compensation Fund Budget for the Year 2025 and Appropriating Monies Therefore

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

9. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Pealer; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos
MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:20pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nicole Tillotson
City Clerk



Geneva City Council Agenda Item Briefing

To: Geneva City Council

From: Adam Blowers, City Comptroller

Meeting Date: November 6, 2024

Item Title: Resolution Establishing a Public Hearing for a Local Law Amending Sewer Rates

Action Required:

Sewer rates must be amended by local law, and by an affirmative vote of a majority vote of Council.

Background:

As part of the 2025 budget adoption process, City Council directed staff to make at 2.5% rate increase to the Sewer Rates.

Alternatives:

N/A

Financial Impact:

Any adjustment would require a budget amendment.

Attachments:

Resolution

Comptroller's Office

CITY HALL- 47 CASTLE STREET- GENEVA, NEW YORK 14456
(315) 828-6582 - acblowers@geneva.ny.us

RESOLUTION # 75 - 2024

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PUBLIC HEARING FOR A LOCAL LAW
AMENDING SEWER RATES**

WHEREAS, a public hearing is required pursuant to the General Municipal Law for the purpose of establishing a local law for sewer rental rates.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Geneva, New York that a public hearing shall be held on December 4, 2024 at 7:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as it may be held, which public hearing shall be for the purpose of receiving comments on a proposed local law establishing sewer rental charges for the use of public sewers; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that notice of said public hearing shall be posted in accordance with law.



Geneva City Council Agenda Item Briefing

To: Geneva City Council

From: Adam Blowers, City Comptroller

Meeting Date: November 6, 2024

Item Title: First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Water Rates

Action Required:

Water rates must be amended by ordinance, and by an affirmative vote of a majority vote of Council on two readings.

Background:

As part of the 2025 budget adoption process, the water rates will increase 1.5%. The impact of this rate change is shown in the proposed ordinance.

Alternatives:

Council may elect to seek alternate sources of revenue to address cost increases. This would require a budget amendment.

Financial Impact:

The rate adjustment results in new revenue to the Water Fund to support operations.

Attachments:

Ordinance Amending Water Rates with Rate Table

Comptroller's Office

CITY HALL- 47 CASTLE STREET- GENEVA, NEW YORK 14456
(315) 828-6582 - acblowers@geneva.ny.us

ORDINANCE # 3 – 2024

AMENDING SECTION 341 of the GENEVA MUNICIPAL CODE—WATER AND SEWERS

WHEREAS, the City's Comprehensive Plan charges us with financing necessary infrastructure and service delivery in a fiscally responsible manner; and

WHEREAS, a robust water treatment and distribution system is critical to attracting and retaining residents and industry; and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain the highest level of service possible for the best value, City Council needs to adjust water rates from time to time to reflect changes in costs of treatment and distribution.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geneva City Council, hereby and in due form, does amend Section 341-17 and 341-18 to affect the changes to water rates for residents and non-residents, as is outlined on the schedule below. This change to become effective upon two readings of this Ordinance.

Water Rate Table

2025 Water Rate Table			
Size of Meter in Inches (In)	Water Allowance in Gallons	Minimum Charge	Per Gallon Over Min.
5/8	4,000	\$33.29	\$0.00603
3/4	8,000	\$66.57	\$0.00621
1	15,000	\$124.85	\$0.00639
1.5	34,000	\$282.96	\$0.00659
2	60,000	\$499.34	\$0.00678
3	120,000	\$998.69	\$0.00698
4	184,000	\$1,531.31	\$0.00720
6	371,000	\$3,087.60	\$0.00741
8	634,000	\$5,276.38	\$0.00763
Size of Meter in Inches (Out)	Water Allowance in Gallons	Minimum Charge	Per Gallon Over Min.
5/8	4,000	\$57.84	\$0.01000
3/4	8,000	\$115.68	\$0.01000
1	15,000	\$234.33	\$0.01050
1.5	90,000	\$531.15	\$0.01050
2	105,000	\$937.33	\$0.01102
3	120,000	\$1,874.63	\$0.01102
4	210,000	\$2,446.76	\$0.01102
6	419,000	\$4,933.40	\$0.01102
8	715,000	\$8,430.66	\$0.01102



GENEVA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

To: City Council

From: Nicole Tillotson, City Clerk

Meeting Date: November 6, 2024

Item Title: Establishing a Public Hearing in connection with a Local Law reducing the number of the City Planning Board from nine (9) to seven (7)

Action Required:

An affirmative vote by City Council to set a Public Hearing for a Local Law reducing the number of the planning board from nine to seven.

Background:

This legislation was approved by City Council on August 2, 2023. Due to a clerical error during the transition of Clerks last year, the local law was not filed with the Department of State. This effort will correct that error.

Alternatives:

Financial Impact:

None

Office of the City Clerk

Nicole Tillotson

CITY HALL- 47 CASTLE STREET- GENEVA, NEW YORK 14456
(315) 789-2603 - FAX (315) 789-0604 - ntillotson@geneva.ny.us - www.cityofgenevany.com

RESOLUTION # 76 - 2024

RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING IN CONNECTION WITH THE ADOPTION OF A LOCAL LAW REDUCING THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE CITY PLANNING BOARD FROM NINE (9) TO SEVEN (7).

WHEREAS, Section 13.3 subdivision 1 of the Geneva City Charter, approved by referendum, effective January 1, 1974, as amended thereafter, states that the Geneva City Planning Board shall consist of nine (9) members, and

WHEREAS, reaching a quorum of five (5) members in attendance at meetings of the Geneva City Planning Board has been difficult, and

WHEREAS, General City Law Section 27 subdivision 1, authorizes creation of a City Planning Board consisting of five or seven members.

WHEREAS, reducing the number of members of the Geneva City Planning Board from 9 to 7 would facilitate the operation of the Planning Board and align its membership with General City Law Section 27 subdivision 1.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a public hearing be held on December 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law concerning proposed local law # 2-2024 submitted herewith.



Geneva City Council
Agenda Item Briefing

To: Geneva City Council

From: David West, Director of Planning & Economic Development

Meeting Date: 11/6/24

Item Title: Schedule Public Hearing and Declaration of Lead Agency for Zoning Map Amendment Expanding CB-5

Action Required:

Schedule a Public Hearing on ordinance adopting edits to the City Zoning Map in Chapter 350 of the City Code and Declare Lead Agency to start the SEQR process with involved and interested agencies.

Background:

In the review of development opportunities downtown there are a variety of locations where additional flexibility could increase the potential value of development/redevelopment of parcels. Following on the last discussion with Council the Department of Planning and Economic Development is recommending amendments to the City Zoning Map adding several new parcels to the CB-5 zone, the zone that currently allows the most development potential with new buildings being allowed up to 5 stories.

The SEQR Process is required for any municipal action that could have an impact on the environment, the first step in that process is declaring lead agency which starts a clock for other agencies to provide feedback and/or request lead or involved agency status.

Alternatives:

Without a public hearing Council could continue discussion on this topic but can not move forward on the map amendment. City Council could suggest another agency to act as lead agency including the City Planning Board or the County Planning Board.

Financial Impact:

None if not pursued, pursuing a zoning amendment will take some staff time but can be done with current resources. If rezoning enables additional value in development the potential for increased tax revenue is likely and substantial.

ORDINANCE # 3-2024

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 350 OF THE GENEVA CITY CODE

Be it **ENACTED AND ORDAINED** by the Geneva City Council, as follows:

Section 350 of the Geneva City Code be amended to reference the attached map extending the boundaries of the CB-5 Zone to include additional properties within Downtown in recognition of the area's important and historic contribution to downtown Geneva's walkability and accessibility and to increase the value of future development for the benefit of all Genevans;

and it is further

ENACTED AND ORDAINED that the attached map shall be the authoritative document defining the boundaries of Zoning Districts in the City of Geneva, that interpretation of this map shall conform to Geneva City Code Section 350-1.3 Interpretation of District Boundaries;

and it is further

ENACTED AND ORDAINED, that this amendment to the Geneva City Code is adopted pursuant to the New York State Constitution, Municipal Home Rule, General City Law, and the City of Geneva's police power to regulate the use of land and structures for the protection of the health, safety, welfare, comfort, peace and prosperity of the City and its inhabitants,

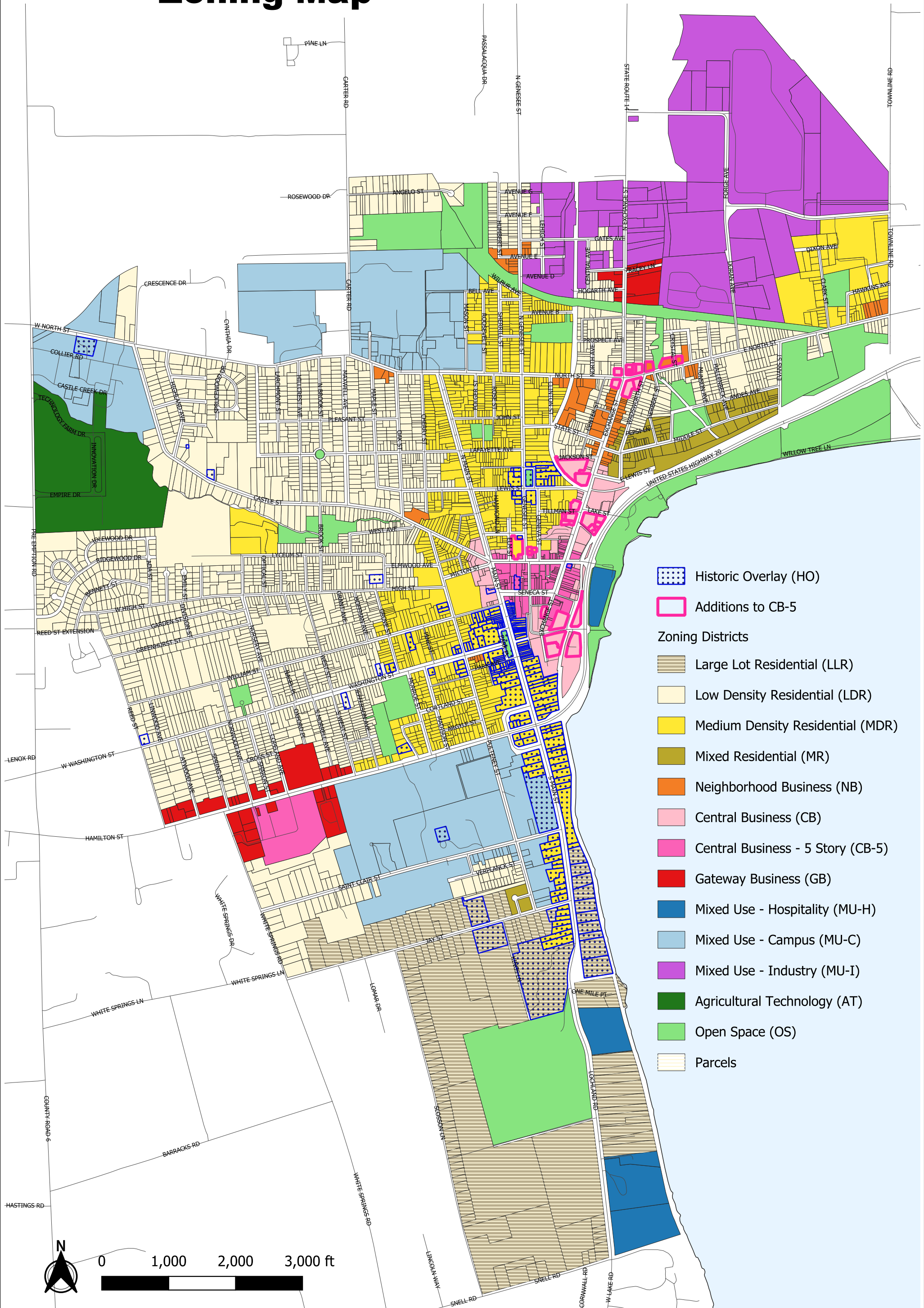
and it is further,

ENACTED AND ORDAINED, that this amendment to the Geneva City Code is adopted in conformance with the Geneva City Comprehensive Plan in furtherance of the City's values--which include stewardship of natural resources, a strong economy, its "uniquely urban" setting and sense of community, multicultural heritage and the local arts, architectural and recreational assets--with its vision of being a "Beautiful, Prosperous, Equitable, Connected, and Sustainable" City.

Effective Date

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the City Council.

Zoning Map



RESOLUTION # 77-2024

**RESOLUTION DECLARING GENEVA CITY COUNCIL
AS LEAD AGENCY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF ZONING MAP AMMENDMENT EXPANDING
CB-5 AND SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING**

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva City Council did direct the Department of Planning & Economic Development to review parcels within downtown for development potential to efficiently use limited downtown land and maximize the benefit of future infill development; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Planning and Economic Development has recommended amending the zoning map to expand the CB-5 zone to parcels where infill buildings up to 5 story would fit within the existing urban context and contribute positively to the future of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Geneva has expressed its interest and intention to undertake an environmental assessment of the proposed adoption under the auspices of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City Council of the City of Geneva declares it's intent to act as Lead Agency in the review of the Zoning Update for the purposes of State Environmental Quality Review, and directs staff to publish appropriate notifications and notice to potential involved and interested parties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Geneva, New York that a public hearing is set for 7pm on December 4, 2024, for the Zoning Update and appropriate notification and publication shall be made by the City Clerk.



Geneva City Council
Agenda Item Briefing

To: Geneva City Council

From: David West, Director of Planning & Economic Development

Meeting Date: 11/6/24

Item Title: Schedule Public Hearing and Support of Restore NY Round 9

Action Required:

Schedule a Public Hearing on grant application through Restore NY Round 9

Background:

The DeSales School project was a component in the City's unfunded Restore 8 application along with several other projects. Feedback from NYS reviewers recommended that the City resubmit this project on it's own because it is extremely shovel ready and a good candidate for the program. Usually Restore NY is offered once per year, this round is an unexpected bonus. Funding is much smaller than usual but we are hopeful that with the support of the review team we can craft a successful application and get this project completed soon. Restore NY is one of the only funding opportunities that puts money toward market rate projects.

Alternatives:

Without a public hearing this application can not be submitted and the resolution of support is a required component for a successful application. This project currently has a financial gap that is unlikely to be closed by any other programs as there is limited state support for projects that don't include "affordability" restrictions.

Financial Impact:

Pursuing this application and administering the grant if awarded will require City staff time. The developer will pay for consultant support but the City Grant Coordinator and Director of Planning & Economic Development will expend time and effort completing the application process and managing the funding and compliance if awarded. Effort would be covered within current staffing levels.

RESOLUTION # 78-2024

SUPPORTING 2024 RESTORE NY ROUND 9 APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva is eligible for funding under Round 9 of the Restore NY Communities Initiative Municipal Grant Program, and

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva has considered proposals that qualify for funding under the program and selected a project to be included in an application that will be submitted to Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC); and

WHEREAS, the project to be included in the application will be a redevelopment of the DeSales High School located at 90 Pulteney Street, Geneva, NY 14456, which will renovate the vacant and abandoned 25,376 square foot property into a mixed-use building containing 17 market-rate units on the upper stories and 4 commercial offices in the basement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva submitted to Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) an Intent To Apply letter for this project which was officially accepted by ESDC on October 28, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that this project is a priority project that will contribute to the renewal of this downtown area, strengthen the local economy, and increase the quality of life for residents; and

WHEREAS, the City has worked with the property owners/developers to ensure that this project is aligned with local development plans and is seeking ways to find funding avenues to complete this project with public and private funds; and

WHEREAS, the funding is a 10% minimum equity match grant program and the City is working with the relevant property owners to meet that match requirement;

WHEREAS, this project is consistent with all existing local plans, the proposed financing is appropriate for the project, the project will facilitate effective and efficient use of existing and future public resources so as to promote both economic development and preservation of community resources, and the project develops and enhances infrastructure and/or other facilities in a manner that will attract, create and sustain employment opportunities in Geneva; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby supports and will sponsor an application for Restore NY funding for the property at 90 Pulteney Street and will administer the grant in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations established by ESDC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Geneva supports this Restore NY application submission and the \$250 application fee that is required for the application which will be reimbursed by the developer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Geneva schedules a public hearing for December 4, 2024 obtain citizens' views and comments relative to the submission of an application to Empire State Development for financial assistance under the Restore NY Communities Initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized to sign the applications and any agreements required by ESDC for grant funding that results from the application.



GENEVA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

To: City Council

From: Amie Hendrix, City Manager

Meeting Date: November 6, 2024

Item Title: Adoption of the Ontario County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan

Action Required:

Affirmative vote of City Council adopting the Ontario County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Background:

The Ontario County Hazard Mitigation Plan has been approved by DHSES and is in the final stages of review by FEMA. NY DHSES asks that each participating jurisdiction provide a resolution to begin adopting the Ontario County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Ontario County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan addresses risks including extreme cold, extreme heat, hail, lightning, tornado, thunderstorm wind, snow storm, ice storm, landslide, drought, flood, wildfire dam failure, fire, infestation, hazardous materials, and terrorism.

Click [HERE](#) to view the Ontario County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Financial Impact:

None

Office of the City Manager

Amie M. Hendrix

CITY HALL- 47 CASTLE STREET- GENEVA, NEW YORK 14456

(315) 789-2603 - FAX (315) 789-0604 - ahendrix@geneva.ny.us - www.cityofgenevany.com

RESOLUTION # 79-2024

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GENEVA ADOPTING THE ONTARIO COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within the City of Geneva; and

WHEREAS, the County of Ontario has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as Ontario County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Ontario County Hazard Mitigation Plan, identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in the City of Geneva from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS, adoption by the City Council demonstrates their commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the Ontario County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Geneva, New York, adopts the Ontario County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan. This plan, approved by the community, may be edited or amended after submission for review, but will not require the community to re-adopt any further iterations. This only applies to this specific plan and does not absolve the community from updating the plan in 5 years.