

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

December 4, 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. Gillotte
MOVED THAT council move to executive session at 6:00 to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of civil service law
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-2 absent)

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Gillotte; seconded by Clr. Pealer
MOVED THAT council exit executive session at 6:40pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Moracco, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Pealer
(arrived at 6:04), Clr. Lavin
Absent: Clr. Brennan

3. AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

ACTION TAKEN by Mayor Valentino; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos
MOVED THAT the agenda be amended to add a resolution establishing a public hearing for sale of city owned property, and a resolution in support of continued and increased state aid for local governments
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

4. PUBLIC HEARING - Amending Sewer Rental Rates

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

5. PUBLIC HEARING - Zoning Map Amendment

Mayor Valentino opened the public hearing at 7:02pm.

Clerk Tillotson read comments provided by resident Jannette Gayle via email:

Dear City Councilors,

I'm writing to you regarding the proposed zoning changes that are on the agenda at tonight's meeting. Specifically, I am concerned about the proposed change for buildings on the east side (lake side) of Exchange Street to be permitted up to 5 stories (of course subject to a developer actually wanting to build to max height). Given our wonderful natural -- and therefore lower elevation -- lakefront, adding buildings of this height on the east side of Exchange will significantly impact the character of the transition to the lake, and, of course, from certain places, the view to the lake. I think there are some areas where 5-story buildings would have less of an impact, so I am not opposed to this zoning change in its totality, but I am opposed to changing it in the places where it would be most impactful to Genevans (namely, in my opinion, east of Exchange).

As someone who owns a building on South Main St. with a view that would be impacted by some of these changes, I am of course writing from a space of personal investment. The current zoning would allow a 3-story building; the revision to zoning that you are being asked to approve would allow a 5-story. Given that many of the buildings in this area are apartment buildings, this would impact a significant number of Genevans and change the character of those properties. When the Planning Board was approving combining parcels at the OEO site, Charles King did significant research about the impact of a larger building at that site. I urge you to reach out and speak to him if he has not contacted you.

To be clear, I'm not opposed to building on that part of Exchange, I am in favor of it. I think it would be wonderful to bring those spaces back into productive use. I just don't think that we need to change the zoning to allow buildings taller than what are currently neighboring that space. I think that we can develop those areas while having a minimal impact on the existing other parts of the city. The zoning was written as it currently is for a reason: to allow for development while maintaining the infrastructure character. I know that there are some larger buildings in downtown, like the Seneca Apartments building, which are already above 5-stories. I think you would likely agree with me that that building is aesthetically very out of character for most of downtown. I do not think we should use the existence of other outlier properties to encourage us to zone higher.

I do have a suggestion that I would like you to consider. I think that best building practice would be to add new projects without decreasing the value of existing properties. Decreasing the value of the South Main Street buildings will lower those buildings' assessments and therefore their taxes. If we can build in a way that doesn't do that, it is better for everyone.

I encourage you to revise the zoning resolution to remove all parcels east of Exchange Street. Thank you for your time and attention.

Best,

Janette Gayle

With no one else requesting to speak, Mayor Valentino closed the public hearing at 7:05pm.

6. PUBLIC HEARING - Restore NY Round 9

Mayor Valentino opened the public hearing at 7:05pm. With no comment offered at this time, he closed the public hearing at 7:05pm.

7. PROCLAMATIONS - Thomas Cunningham 50 Year Member of Hydrant Hose Company

8. DISCUSSION - Water and Sewer Rates

City Manager Hendrix reviewed water and waste water agreements with the Towns of Waterloo and Geneva. Currently the City is operating in good faith with expired agreements. She explained that expansion costs are shared with partner municipalities, and further explained that the Headworks and Rate Studies coming up will help craft new agreements. The City Manager also shared that Ontario County will host a strategic infrastructure meeting on the east side of the county in the near future. City Manager Hendrix then asked Council what they'd like to incorporate into these discussions.

Councilor Lavin stated that the timeline for the RFP to get the study puts action into 2027. He stated that these resources are a great asset and gives the city a reason to discuss development issues. He then explained that the Town of Geneva charges for sewer based on assessment, not water use leading wealthier people and businesses to pay more, and average residents to pay less for the services. He then stated that the Town of Seneca pumps sewage to the Town of Geneva, then to the City. He wondered what the Town of Seneca pays the Town of Geneva, and called the arrangement a package of inequity. Councilor Lavin then explained that the City can't wait three years to tell the Town of Geneva that we want to know who our customers are so we can bill them. He then noted that we should be talking about fire consolidation, and suggested that there could be litigation. He then stated that 139 homes are planned for a development on Carter Road, and should be addressed more quickly, not after a three-year study. City Manager Hendrix clarified that per the provided briefing the study is not three years out, it will occur in 2025. Councilor Lavin expressed concern that the study measures how much the city can do, not how much it should do. City Manager Hendrix clarified that Councilor Lavin was referring to the capacity study, not the rate study which is being done now. She further clarified that a new agreement will come before council in 2025.

Councilor Pealer thanked City Manager Hendrix for the good background and voiced concern that new agreements have specific verbiage about new construction and water retention, and expressed interest in exploring a higher debt share in the new agreement, as a theme for negotiations. City Manager Hendrix agreed, noting the water retention strategy also recommended by the Storm Task Force. Discussion followed around water retention.

Councilor Gillotte noted a lot of discussion around value for city services, and wondered if there is a constant revenue share. City Manager Hendrix clarified that is the purpose of the rate study, noting certain limitations on the sale of the city's product, as the city can't earn revenue from other municipalities. Discussion followed around shared costs including shared debt for improvements and expansion. Councilor Grimaldi wondered why not annex the project into the city.

Mayor Valentino reminded Council that when the current agreement came into play there was a lot of heated back and forth between the city and town, and reminded everyone that the city cannot charge the town more than it charges city residents. He recalled a judgement leading to

sharing of equity. The Mayor further explained that the city is in a good position to be as heavy handed as possible, while keeping it legal, advising to keep legal expenses down this time. He reminded Council that as surrounding communities grow, their residents come to the City to shop and dine, and that the alternative is an imposed water sewer district where everything would be out of the city's hands.

City Manager Hendrix reviewed direction from council to include equity among partners, heavy handed as the resource is the city's, while working with partners; work on water retention; debt sharing; and moving as quickly as possible.

9. SUPERVISOR UPDATE

Supervisor Kennedy recognized Councilor Brennan for attending two county standing committee meetings recently. He also thanked Councilor Petropoulos for the wonderful bench dedication event on Veteran's Day. Supervisor Kennedy shared that the Humane Society reports 16% of their calls last month were for the City of Geneva, which had 19 calls. He also shared that Ontario County Economic Development has been awarded a \$2 million grant for rental property improvements, and reminded everyone that the landfill vote will be taking place tomorrow, December 5th. Discussion followed.

10. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

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

MOVED THAT the minutes of the November 6, 2024, November 16, 2024, and November 20, 2024 Council meetings be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy Salotti, a member of the Storm Task Force, thanked Council for addressing the issue. She shared information she recently learned related to sump pumps, and the need to educate residents on their proper use. She recommended creating a brochure instructing residents on how to prepare before, respond during, and what to do after a storm incident, and encouraged everyone to be part of the solution.

12. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Hendrix provided the following report:

Council and Department Head Strategic Thinking Session

On December 3, 2024, Council and Staff met to discuss strategies for moving forward in 2025 and beyond. The members of the City Leadership team confirmed, pending final wordsmithing, the five areas of focus as set by council earlier this year:

- Fiscal and Organizational Stewardship: The responsible management of resources to achieve specific goals and ensuring long-term financial health for the City of Geneva.

- **Economic Development:** The city processes improve the economic and social well-being of City of Geneva residents through programs, policies, and activities.
- **Intergovernmental Relations:** The management of interactions and relationships between the different levels of government, businesses, and community partners.
- **Communications:** The processes of sharing information about government actions with the public while collecting information from the public to enhance policies, practices and services.
- **Quality of Life:** The provision of access to essential services, amenities, and opportunities, such as recreation services, infrastructure, and neighborhood engagement.
- **Population Performance Metrics for the City of Geneva:** Quantifiable data points that reflect the health and well-being of our community. These metrics can be used to evaluate the efficiency of all providers of a community, beyond those provided by government, and can also be utilized to identify disparities based on socioeconomic status, race, and ethnicity.

The council and department leaders also reviewed 2024 and 2025 department work programs as well as the available resources provided in the 2025 budget.

A second meeting will be held in Q1 of 2025 to further discuss the Planning, Do, Check, Act processes used by staff, Results Based Accountability metric inclusion, and to continue to build the City leadership team of staff and council.

A similar strategic thinking retreat will be held in April 2025 to begin the project planning for 2026.

Storm Task Force Report

The storm task force report was presented earlier this month, and the team has begun to rank the priorities outlined in the report. The ranking will be provided to council at the next council meeting. The storm task force report will be available on the City Manager's page.

Shared Services: Town and City Resource Recovery Park

I have met with the Town Supervisor to discuss our continued partnership related to the Vermiculture trench as well as the USDA grant shared by the Town and City. The Town currently operates a transfer station for town residents together we have developed a proposal to share resources and create a resource recovery park in the City to be used by City and Town residents. This pilot program would allow City residents the ability to drop off all waste in one location and would reopen the trenches. Staffing would be provided by a town employee that would be paid for by grant funding that we have received jointly with the town to increase sustainability in the region. This project will look to commence in January/February 2025 with the support of both municipalities.

Community Emergency Management Plan

Ontario County has created a Community Survey that they are sending out to AS MANY residents as possible. Please fill out the survey at the link below, all responses

will be continuously tracked and compiled, and will help tremendously with both the Community Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) updates/rewrite, and will our County partners a “temperature” on how people in Ontario County feels about their level of preparedness and where we need to do better as a whole community. PLEASE share this link to ANYONE you’d like (family, friends, neighbors, etc.) that live in Ontario County so we can get as many responses back as we possibly can. Link: [Ontario County Community Survey \(2024\)](#)

Shade Tree Committee Re-Appointments

Jay Freer, Tom Burrall, James Engel are confirmed for City Manager appointment to the Shade Tree Committee for terms through 12/31/2027.

13. ORDINANCE – Second Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 341 of the Geneva Municipal Code – Water and Sewer Rates

Comptroller Blowers presented the following resolution:

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

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

MOVED THAT this ordinance be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

14. LOCAL LAW- Establishing Sewer Rates

Comptroller Blowers presented the following resolution:

Be it enacted by the City Council of the City of Geneva as follows:

Section I. The purpose of this law is to establish sewer rates for the use of public sewers as set forth in Article #14 of the General Municipal Law.

Section II. Article #14 of General Municipal Law is hereby amended to establish sewer rates based on metered water consumption. The rates established are as follows:

Sewer Rate Table

Size of Meter in Inches (In)	Water Allowance in Gallons	Minimum Charge	Per Gallon Over Min.
5/8	4,000	\$60.19	\$0.01003
3/4	8,000	\$120.37	\$0.01032
1	15,000	\$225.71	\$0.01064
1.5	34,000	\$511.59	\$0.01095
2	60,000	\$902.81	\$0.01129
3	120,000	\$1,805.62	\$0.01162
4	184,000	\$2,768.64	\$0.01198
6	371,000	\$5,582.40	\$0.01233
8	634,000	\$9,539.74	\$0.01270

Size of Meter in Inches (Out)	Water Allowance in Gallons	Minimum Charge	Per Gallon Over Min.
5/8	4,000	\$99.92	\$0.01044
3/4	8,000	\$199.82	\$0.01077
1	15,000	\$374.67	\$0.01108
1.5	34,000	\$849.25	\$0.01142
2	60,000	\$1,498.67	\$0.01175
3	120,000	\$2,997.35	\$0.01211
4	184,000	\$4,595.92	\$0.01247
6	371,000	\$9,266.79	\$0.01284
8	634,000	\$15,835.97	\$0.01324

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geneva City Council, hereby and in due form, does amend Chapter 341-19B and 341-21C of the Geneva Municipal Code to reflect changes in the sewer rate table, as illustrated above.

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr Pealer; seconded by Clr. Gillotte

MOVED THAT this Local Law be approved

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

Nay - Clr. Whitfield

MOTION CARRIED

15. ORDINANCE – First Reading of an Ordinance Amending the Zoning Map Expanding CB-5

Director West presented the following resolution:

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.

Director West explained that there would be one more reading of the ordinance, which is also going to the County Planning Board.

Councilor Petropoulos noted that he doesn't want to see anything big and ugly downtown, and requests architectural drawings. Director West reminded him that all projects of this scale would have to go before the Planning Board for review, with the exception of 1-3 resident dwellings.

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

MOVED THAT this first reading of the ordinance be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

16. RESOLUTION – Setting a Public Hearing for the Adoption of a Local Law Reducing the Number of Planning Board Members from Nine (9) to Five (5)

Clerk Tillotson presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Section 13.3(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, Geneva City Code Section 350-19.2(B) also provides for the Planning Board to consist of nine (9) members; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the Geneva City Council believes that reducing the number of members of the Planning Board from 9 to 5 would be in the best interest of the public, facilitate the operations of the Planning Board, and align its membership with General City Law Section 27(1); and

WHEREAS, a proposed local law to amend the City Charter and to amend the City Code to reduce the membership of the Planning Board to five members is hereby introduced and is on file with the City Clerk's Office for public review;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a public hearing be held on January 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law concerning proposed local law # 1-2025 submitted herewith.

Councilor Pealer mentioned concerns about quorum. City Attorney How explained that for a board of five members a quorum would be three members. Councilor Grimaldi wondered about alternates on the board. City Attorney How shared that City Law has no position on alternate board seats, and can look into it.

17. RESOLUTION – Relevy of Water Account Balances and Code/DPW Fees onto Property Tax Bills

Comptroller Blowers presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City Comptroller has annually provided a list of properties in which there are certain accounts for housing inspections, grass cutting, rubbish removal and water charges, and in accordance with the City Charter must direct that a lien be placed upon these properties in order to allow the City to collect these bills in the same manner as taxes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Geneva, New York, that a lien be placed against the properties listed herein in the amount set forth and the City Comptroller levy, enforce and collect these liens in the same manner, at the same time and with the penalties as City taxes.

Comptroller Blowers noted that there was one additional sidewalk repair added to the list, increasing the total to be relevied by \$3,700.

18. RESOLUTION – Amending the 2024 General Fund Budget for Equipment Plan

Comptroller Blowers presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva Police Department has an equipment plan for 2024; and

WHEREAS, the approved 2024 Budget document does not include the purchase of a Records Management System (RMS) but staff would like to add it to the plan and use the remaining funds for the RMS;

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

2024 Police Equipment Fund - Original

One (1) Patrol Car	\$70,000
One (1) Patrol Car	\$98,000

2024 Police Equipment Fund – Amended

One (1) Patrol Car	\$60,193
One (1) Patrol Car	\$60,902
Records Management System	\$46,905

Councilor Grimaldi wondered if the funds were budgeted, Comptroller Blowers explained that funds are coming from Equipment Reserve. City Manager Hendrix explained that the Records Management System cost is still being negotiated with the County, the City doesn't have a final cost yet. Councilor Gillotte shared that the current system will crash and needs to be replaced.

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

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

19. RESOLUTION – Authorizing Addition of Avenue G Extension to the City's Local Highway Inventory

Director Venuti presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on or about October 23, 2024, the City of Geneva extended Avenue G for the purpose of being a dedicated as public right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the official map and road listing for the City of Geneva has been updated by the Department of Public works to reflect such extension of Avenue G; and

WHEREAS, the total mileage for the section of Avenue G being added is 0.06 miles, with the centerline mileage calculated at 0.06 miles;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the extension of Avenue G from North Genesee St to Lehigh St is hereby added to the City's local highway inventory; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the official map for the City of Geneva is hereby incorporated into this resolution by reference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby instructed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution and the accompanying map to the New York State Department of Transportation for their records.

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

20. RESOLUTION – Setting a Public Hearing for the Adoption of a Local Law Reducing the Number of Zoning Board of Appeals Members from Seven (7) to Five (5)

Clerk Tillotson presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Section 13.6(1) of the Geneva City Charter, approved by referendum, effective January 1, 1974, as amended thereafter, states that the Geneva City Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) shall consist of seven (7) members; and
WHEREAS, Geneva City Code Sections 59 and 350-19.3 each provide for the ZBA to consist of seven (7) members; and
WHEREAS, reaching a quorum of four (4) members in attendance at meetings of the ZBA has been difficult; and
WHEREAS, General City Law Section 81(1), authorizes a city ZBA to consist of three (3) or five (5) members; and
WHEREAS, the Geneva City Council believes that reducing the number of members of the ZBA from 7 to 5 would be in the best interest of the public, facilitate the operations of the ZBA, and align its membership with General City Law Section 81(1); and
WHEREAS, a proposed local law to amend the City Charter and to amend the City Code to reduce the membership of the ZBA to five members is hereby introduced and is on file with the City Clerk's Office for public review;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a public hearing be held on January 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law concerning proposed local law # 2-2025 submitted herewith.

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

21. RESOLUTION – Setting a Public Hearing for Sharing the Results of the MAP Program

Director West presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva is currently implementing a Microenterprise Assistance Program (MAP), and
WHEREAS, the program requires a second public hearing to receive feedback about the impact and administration of the current program when it reaches 75% of grant funds expended; and
WHEREAS, the City of Geneva has reached the milestone of expending 75% of grant funds, and
WHEREAS, the City recognizes that this project is a priority project that is contributing to the renewal of this downtown area, strengthening the local economy, and increasing the quality of life for residents; and
WHEREAS, this project is consistent with all existing local plans, the project facilitates 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 supports local businesses in a manner that will attract, create and sustain employment opportunities in Geneva; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council schedules a public hearing for Jan. 8, 2024 at 7pm in the City Hall Council Chamber for the purpose of hearing public comments on the City of Geneva's current Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project, the City's Economic Development and Community Development needs, and the administration of the current and future programs, and Council directs City staff to take all necessary action to provide proper notice of the public hearing.

Director West explained that 76% of the program budget has been distributed, and noted that the grant includes \$20,000 for the City to run the program.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr Lavin; seconded by Clr. Whitfield

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

22. RESOLUTION – In Support of Continued and Increased State Aid for Local Governments

Mayor Valentino presented the following resolution:

Whereas, until 2024, cities, villages and towns had not received an increase in unrestricted state aid (AIM funding) in 15 years, significantly impacting their ability to provide essential services to their residents; and

Whereas, after a prolonged period without financial support, local governments finally received an increase of \$50 million in unrestricted state aid; and

Whereas, local officials express their gratitude for the \$50 million increase in unrestricted state aid, recognizing it as a positive step towards addressing long-standing funding challenges; and

Whereas, the State has referred to this new aid as Temporary Municipal Assistance, suggesting that such increase may not continue, jeopardizing the sustainability of crucial municipal programs and services; and

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

Whereas, increased and ongoing state aid for local governments is vital for maintaining infrastructure, public safety, housing and other municipal services; and

Whereas, the challenges of inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid only accentuate the need for consistent and predictable funding to effectively plan for the future and meet the growing needs of their residents;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the City of Geneva calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to commit to continuing the additional \$50 million in unrestricted state aid in the 2025-26 State Budget and beyond, and

Be it further resolved, that the members of the Geneva City Council urges state officials to recognize the need for a long-term plan that ensures consistent and predictable increases in financial support for local governments that keep pace with inflation.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr Grimaldi; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

23. RESOLUTION – Establishing a Public Hearing for Sale of City Owned Property

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva owns 1.87 acres of real property located adjacent to CCN International Inc. Properties on Lehigh Street (90.15-4-66); and

WHEREAS, the Geneva City Council has deemed that a portion of the property of 0.568 acres no longer serves a public purpose and should be sold to a private party; and

WHEREAS, staff has reviewed private interest in this property and is in the process of subdividing the property via the Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, if a proposal is determined to be in the best interest of Geneva residents, City Council anticipates the sale of the property to the longstanding City partner CCN International, Inc. at a cost of no more than \$19,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a public hearing for the sale of the above reference property be held at the regular City Council meeting on January 8, 2025.

Councilor Petropoulos wondered if this parcel is near the Cracker Factory, it is, and wondered if it is developed, which it is not. City Manager Hendrix explained that it serves as a parking area, and will continue to be utilized as such. Councilor Pealer wondered if the parcel is improved by paving will the assessment be bumped up. City Manager Hendrix confirmed that it will.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr Gillotte; seconded by Clr. Grimaldi

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

24. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Valentino thanked outgoing Fire Commissioner Wheeler for his service.

City Manager Hendrix added that an interview panel has been assembled for Comptroller interviews to include city staff, and partners at the LDC, IDA, and BID.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr Gillotte; seconded by Clr. Pealer

MOVED THAT Debra Wright be reappointed to the Board of Assessment Review; Geoffrey Geiger be reappointed to the Board of Ethics; Victoria Lehman and Jerry Buckley be reappointed to the Historic Districts Commission; David D'Amico and Anne Nenneau be reappointed to the Planning Board; Amaris Elliott-Engel and Paul D'Amico be reappointed to the Police Budget Advisory Board; Richard Hoyt and Elyse Nepa be appointed to the Police Budget Advisory Board; Robert Meyer be reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Marc Rodriguez be reappointed to the LDC; and Jay Fitzgerald be appointed Fire Commissioner (Hydrant Hose Company)

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

25. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Lavin requested an update on Short Term Rental activities and participation.

Councilor Pealer had no Planning Board Report, and reminded everyone to come out to the Mayor's Tree Lighting at 5:30 this Friday.

Councilor Grimaldi shared that there was no Housing Authority report, shared that new state regulations will require sprinkler systems in new homes, discussion followed.

Councilor Gillotte shared that BID reviewed the 2025 draft budget, and will present the final proposal at their December meeting. He further shared the Dove Block ribbon cutting on November 6, and three new businesses downtown to include South Paw Grooming, Jinx Ink, and Total Recall. Holiday decorations are up, BID will be on Ted Baker Friday morning promoting Jingle in Geneva, and the NYSTA conference will be held in Canandaigua next year, Cathrine Price will attend, and organize a tour of downtown Geneva. He also shared that the Police Budget Advisory Board is full after tonight's appointments.

Councilor Petropoulos welcomed three new downtown businesses, and shared the LDC and IDA's financial support of the BID. He shared that a neighborhoods meeting was held recently at the Bozzuto Center, that Wards 4, 5, and 6 will host another Town Hall soon, and thanked Supervisor Kennedy, Councilor Brennan, and Councilor Gillotte for attending the Talking Bench dedication.

Councilor Moracco thanked Councilor Whitfield for the invitation to the Geneva 2030 event at Club 86, and noted that constituent complaints are being forwarded to staff and being handled in a reasonable amount of time.

Councilor Whitfield voiced concerns regarding getting people to listen to difficult topics and wondered if the noose incident had been thoroughly investigated. He also voiced concerns about a church damage incident in 2019 being put on young women and swept under the rug, encouraging others to speak up about systemic racism. Councilor Whitfield shared that he is being told that when he speaks, he sounds angry or too loud, and that he's not shown on YouTube. He expressed concerns about black and Latino families being told when they complain about issues that they should just move, money management not being taught in schools, and a Dunkin being built in a food desert, observing that the city is only being developed for a certain kind to live, grown and succeed.

Recreation updates include skating hours posted on the website, and Thanksgiving open skates were well attended. The Green Committee is looking for volunteers to help with waste disposal at the Tree Lighting Ceremony, Daddys Do Care is accepting outerwear donations at Lattimore Physical Therapy and the library. Ibero, an agency helping African American and Latino entrepreneurs, ribbon cutting was a success.

Mayor Valentino thanked staff for their efforts this year, and thanked council for their effort and collaboration to accomplish a lot in 2024. He reminded everyone that the Mayor's Tree Lighting Ceremony will be this Friday beginning at 5:30 and will include a Fill the Cruiser toy drive

benefiting Toys for Tots. The mayor shared that he will attend the regional mayors meeting on December 18, and wished everyone a happy new year.

Councilor Pealer recommended that families purchase a family pass to the rink, noting that it pays for itself in three visits.

26. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:30pm

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

Nicole Tillotson

City Clerk