

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

February 5, 2025 – 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. Brennan; seconded by Clr. Moracco

MOVED THAT council move to executive session at 6:01 to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of civil service law, and to discuss the proposed sale of real property
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

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

MOVED THAT council exit executive session at 6:57pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Moracco, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Gillotte (arrived at 6:05), Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Pealer, Clr Lavin, Clr, Brennan

Absent:

3. AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

ACTION TAKEN by Mayor Valentino; seconded by Clr. Pealer

MOVED THAT the agenda be amended to include a resolution setting a public hearing for the sale of City Owned Property
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. PUBLIC HEARING - CDBG Grant Application Supporting Liquid Orchard

Mayor Valentino opened the public hearing at 7:02pm

Director West explained that Liquid Orchard plans to locate on the Cornell AgriTech campus. They've engaged a consultant to draft the CDBG application, for which the City is the applicant. 10-15 new jobs will be created, and Liquid Orchard will occupy a new building on the campus. Councilor Pealer wondered about the company.

Director West explained that they are a new food-based business born out of the Cornell Center of Excellence, and explained that they are developing a new juice product. Discussion followed about food-based businesses starting out in Geneva, then either failing or leaving the City. Director West also explained that CDBG funding originates with Federal funds that are passed to the State, who then distributes to municipalities, who disperse funds.

With no one else requesting to speak, Mayor Valentino closed the public hearing at 7:07pm.

5. PUBLIC HEARING - CDBG Grant Application – BEST Program

Mayor Valentino opened the public hearing at 7:07pm

Director West explained that funding for the BEST program originates with HUD, leading to lots of requirements to qualify. Director West shared a list of all program awardees since 2010, noting that the City used to disperse funds through many smaller grants, but recently moved to larger awards. He also explained the requirement of job creation tied to this funding, and that the LDC, IDA and MRB worked to administer the last grant round. Councilor Petropoulos wondered how City Council could have more oversight of this process, suggesting a committee, and expressing concerns about favoritism and conflict of interest. Director West explained that City Council could choose the businesses who receive the grant awards, however he recommends non-elected, non-biased decisions. Councilor Petropoulos then voiced concern that there are too many of the same type of businesses in the City, citing dispensaries, explaining that some council involvement and oversight would take away the existence of too many of the same types of businesses. City Manager Hendrix explained the review committee and scoring rubric utilized for the process of awarding these funds. She further explained that only businesses who apply appropriately can be awarded funding, noting State and Federal requirements involved. She further clarified that the program is for businesses City-wide, not just downtown. Councilor Gillotte wondered what stipulations and oversight exist for awardees in this program. Director West explained that there is no oversight of business operations. Discussion followed around small business stats, including the fact that most small businesses fail within the first five years, and noted that businesses enrolled in this program see higher than average success rates. City Manager Hendrix shared that businesses are reimbursed for expenses; they are not given cash up front through this program. Councilor Whitfield thanked Director West for his work, and wondered if BEST is a better, smoother program this year than it was last year. Director West explained that it is better, smoother, and faster this year, thanks to being fully staffed. Jennifer Sutton, the City's Grant Coordinator is trained, up to speed and has a great relationship with the City's state rep, leading to more efficient administration of the grant. Discussion followed around a lull in grant activity between 2018 and 2024, related to staffing and the pandemic. Discussion followed around how many small businesses went through the last round of program funding, where twelve applications were reviewed and seven businesses were supported, however one business stopped responding during the process, leading to the ultimate completion of the last round by six businesses. Councilor Whitfield then wondered what can be done to better broadcast the opportunity, so more businesses apply. Director West suggested being consistent, and explained how the City worked with Ibero, who gave great classes for applicants who needed help formulating a business plan. Discussion followed around adding a member of City Council to the panel awarding funds. Discussion then followed around the target grant award, between not being too much money, and so little that businesses can't do much with it, and the turn around time between grant programs.

With no one else requesting to speak, Mayor Valentino closed the Public Hearing at 7:29pm.

6. PROCLAMATIONS

- A. Black History Month
- B. David LaVoie
- C. Michael Stramandinoli

7. PRESENTATION - 2024 Year in Review, City Manager Hendrix

City Manager Hendrix shared 2024 Success by Goal Areas, Challenges Ahead, Metric Review, and 2025 Plans and Services, beginning with a review of the City's mission, vision, and values statements. Council Goals were

reviewed, to include: Ensure Fiscal and Organizational Stewardship of City Resources, Promote Economic Development within the City, Increase and Sustain Intergovernmental Relations with City Partners, Develop and Implement Strategies to Create and Continue Dynamic Communications Regarding City Communications, Enhance the Quality of Life for City Residents, and Collect and Work Collaboratively with the Community to Deliver Positive Population Performance Metrics for the City of Geneva. Challenges were reviewed, as well as departmental metrics, 2025 departmental plans, and Fiscal and Organizational Stewardship.

8. DISCUSSION - Bonding in 2025, Comptroller Blowers

Comptroller Blowers reviewed the issuance of \$4,425,000 in Bond Anticipation Notes (BAN) based on the approval of the 2025 Capital Plan in the annual budget. He explained that the BAN would create annual debt service payments, starting in 2025 with an interest only payment, with principal payments beginning in 2026 adding approximately \$400,000 in annual debt service. He explained that the total BAN amount is split between the General, Water, and Sewer Funds based on projects.

Councilor Pealer indicated that he likes project-based bonding, and wondered how much the Town of Geneva shares in water and sewer bonding. Comptroller Blowers explained that the Town is responsible for 12% of total sewer, waste water treatment, and miscellaneous debt. Councilor Lavin wondered what the marina will cost. The project is out for BID currently. He then wondered what total City debt is currently, Comptroller Blowers put that number at approximately \$32 million. He further explained that more debt is coming off than going on for 2026 annual payments, and that 15-20% of tax revenue goes to debt. More discussion occurred around the marina project and what obligation Council has to move forward after receiving Bids. Comptroller Blowers explained that once the City has the cost for the project, Council can choose not to move forward. City Manager Hendrix explained that the marina is tied to some grant funding, which the City may be able to reappropriate if Council chooses not to move forward with the project. Councilor Petropoulos wondered what the Sewer Maintenance Program entails, specifically wondering if it will alleviate some of the excess water. Director Venuti explained that the program funds cleaning catch basins, manholes, and laterals as well as lining and televising. He noted that \$250,000 doesn't go very far when the cost is \$80-\$90 per foot. More discussion occurred around the marina project, and Director Venuti noted that bids are being accepted on February 20, with an extension currently being negotiated. Councilor Grimaldi wondered what is coming off debt service, City Manager Hendrix directed him back to the 2025 budget book, while Mayor Valentino explained that the City is well below the debt limit.

9. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

ACTION TAKEN by Clr.; seconded by Mayor

MOVED THAT the minutes of the January 8, January 17 and January 25, 2025 Council Meetings be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Catherine Price, Executive Director of the Geneva BID shared details of the Winter Arts Fest happening this weekend, to include a Film Festival and Art Walk, noting that this event is growing every year. She shared Art Walk maps, and noted that the Film Fest began in 2022, and this year brings 17 film makers to Geneva for three days.

Catherine Haynes, Ward 1 resident, began by asking neighbors to clear snow and ice, observing about 50% compliance, and expressing the need to keep sidewalks clear and safe during and after winter weather events. Ms. Haynes applauded the January 20th Martin Luther King Jr. march and service, sharing that the chorus will

also be performing this Friday evening. She also noted that its uplifting to see the community coming together to help in light of recent fears of detention of undocumented people. She further complemented city staff working hard on resident's behalf, noting the CDBG housing repairs program, and urged neighbors to attend the Founders Square neighborhood cookie exchange this Saturday.

Judy Salotti, of Ward 5 thanked Councilors from Wards 4, 5, and 6, as well as the others who attended the recent Town Hall at the Library, noting very good dialogue and conversation. Ms. Salotti wondered if Council has plans to move on any of the information or suggestions brought forward by the Storm Task Force, after prioritized action items were presented recently at Council's request. Mayor Valentino committed to having a response at the March meeting.

Jim Laws, Ward 2 resident, spoke of his concerns related to proposed improvements to the West Street School and how the new traffic flow would affect traffic and drainage in the area. He cited various traffic studies over the years, and wondered if the City will cut the curbing for the project. Mayor Valentino explained that a lot of the school project is out of the City's hands, and recommended bringing concerns to the School Board as well.

Pat Schiller, of Ward 1 commented on traffic congestion around the West Street School, commending Crossing Guards for doing a great job. She expressed the importance of having someone there to direct traffic, with eight lanes coming together in a tight corner, and expressed concerns that the Crossing Guard was told he can no longer direct traffic. Ms. Schiller noted that the Police Department sends an officer to direct traffic 2-3 days per week, stressing the importance of this service being provided daily for safety, and hoping the Crossing Guard can come back on duty and direct traffic.

11. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Hendrix provided the following report:

Warming Center

- A City sponsored warming station was created at 79 Geneva Street from 7a/7p during the cold weather events in January.
- This will be a future offering as needed.

Streetlight Outages

- Our single City electrician continues to battle failing drivers in the LED lights.
- These drivers are failing at an alarming rate. We are working closely with the vendor to utilize warranty wherever possible.
- For safety reasons, we are utilizing outside support when necessary to make repairs as we only have one employee designated for this.
- For street light outages please encourage the use of compalints@geneva.ny.us or the report a streetlight outage form on city web page.

Shared Services

Fire/Regional Volunteer Units

- Chief Parrotta and I hosted the Fire Departments of White Springs, West Lake Road, Northside, and Border City along with Mayor Valentino, Supervisor Venuti, Supervisor Trout, and Councilwoman Salone, to discuss enhancing operational efficiencies, fortifying community services, minimizing costs, and mutual support for each agency.
- The groups talked about the number of current volunteers, average response time by each department, number of events in 2024, specialty equipment or services provided by the department, and mutual aid.
- Chief Parrotta is collecting this data for the group to review.

- Other discussion items included the challenges with volunteerism, especially during the 7a-7p time frame.
- The data collection is the first step for understanding the overlaps, strengths and challenges of the departments.

Water and Sewer

- The RFP for the Water and Sewer rate study will be released in the very near future.
- We are utilizing an outside expert for this study with a goal of allowing them to bring an objective perspective, specialized expertise in complex rate structures, and the ability to analyze data comprehensively, ensuring the rates are fair, financially sustainable, and aligned with community needs while mitigating potential conflicts of interest between the City and outside municipalities.

Town

- Director Venuti and I met with the Town of Geneva and BluePrint Geneva to discuss the grant funding available to create a transfer station in the City.
- As previously reported the City transfer station will be staffed by a Town employee. The anticipated start date for this pilot project will be the end of April 2025.

Vacancies

As part of the 2025 budget process Council enacted a rolling vacancy process. Throughout the year two vacancies must be maintained monthly in an effort to save ~\$200,000.

- We currently have four vacancies (with three conditional offers), three vacancies are at the Police Department and one vacancy is at the Department of Public Works, which will soon be filled.

Tax Bills

- Our City Tax Bills are correct.
- There was an error with Ontario County printed bills. We do not utilize Ontario County for printing our bills, and ours are correct.
- The 2025 City of Geneva Tax Rate is \$12.16/per thousand.
- The reason that people are seeing increases in their taxes is due to the increase in value of their property. Should they want to discuss their property values please encourage them to speak with our Assessor.

12. RESOLUTION – CDBG Program Application Supporting Liquid Orchard

Director West presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Geneva City Council supports programs and projects that align with the 2016 City of Geneva Comprehensive Plan, and

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva, New York, is committed to promoting economic vitality within the community; and

WHEREAS, New York State offers funding under the Community Development Block Grant Program which supports economic development projects; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with Liquid Orchard, Inc., the City has identified a project that aligns with the objectives of the CDBG Economic Development Grant, including establishing a facility for the production of fruit and vegetable beverages at the Cornell Agriculture Technology Park (Tech Farm) in the City of Geneva; and

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva believes that securing the CDBG Economic Development Grant would provide necessary financial resources to further this project and positively impact the City's economic development goals;

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva acknowledges the importance of collaboration with local, regional, and federal partners, including Liquid Orchard, Inc., to maximize the impact and success of economic development initiatives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Geneva, as follows:

1. **Support for the Application:** The City of Geneva fully supports the submittal of an application for the CDBG Economic Development Grant to provide funding for Liquid Orchard, Inc.'s establishment of a fruit and vegetable beverages production facility at the Cornell Agriculture Technology Park in the City of Geneva.
2. **Authorization to Apply:** The City of Geneva hereby authorizes the City Manager and appropriate City staff to submit and manage the application for the CDBG Economic Development Grant, including any necessary documents, reports, and follow-up actions required.
3. **Authorization to Accept:** The City of Geneva hereby authorizes the City Manager or Mayor to accept the grant, if awarded, and sign any grant-related contracts.

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

13. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 335 "Vehicles & Traffic" of the City of Geneva Municipal Code

Director Venuti presented the following ordinance:

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Geneva, New York that Chapter 335, entitled "Vehicles & Traffic" of the City of Geneva Municipal Code be amended:

WHEREAS, the current section 335-17, entitled "Parking, standing and stopping restrictions " Indicates the following:

High Street

On the north side: No parking between Pulteney Street and Elmwood Place.

North Street, East

On the north side: No parking or standing from the east curbline of Exchange Street for a distance of 210 feet easterly.

On the south side: No parking between Wadsworth Street and a point 150 feet east of the Marsh Creek Bridge

Wadsworth Street. North

On the east side: There are currently no restrictions.

Washington Street

On the north side: No parking from the west curbline of Nursery Avenue to a point opposite the west curbline of Copeland Avenue

On the south side: No parking from the east curbline of Copeland Avenue to a point 60 feet easterly therefrom.

WHEREAS, the City Director of Public Works recommends that amended no parking distances be established in these areas.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS ORDAINED, as follows:

Section 335-17 of the Geneva City Code, entitled "Parking, standing and stopping restrictions." be and the same is hereby amended to include the following:

High Street

On the north side: No parking between Pulteney Street to a point opposite the west curbline of Grove Street.

North Street, East

On the north side: No parking or standing from the east curbline of Exchange Street for a distance of 500 feet easterly.

On the south side: No parking or standing from the east curbline of Exchange Street for a distance of 500 feet easterly.

Wadsworth Street, North

On the east side: No parking from the north curbline of East North Street to a point 45 feet northerly.

Washington Street

On the north side: No parking from a point opposite the west curbline of Copeland Avenue 200 feet easterly.

On the south side: No parking from the east curbline of Copeland Avenue to a point 175 feet easterly.

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

MOVED THAT the first reading of this ordinance be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. RESOLUTION – Amending the Shade Tree Committee Appointing Authority

Councilor Pealer presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Section 327-2 of the City Code of the City of Geneva creates and establishes the Shade Tree Committee, which states that its members shall be “appointed by the City Manager and approved by the City Council”; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that amending Section 327-2 to provide for members of the Share Tree Committee to be appointed by City Council, upon the nomination of the City Manager, would be more consistent with how other City Council committees are appointed and would therefore be in the best interest of the public.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council authorizes an amendment of the relevant portion of City Code § 327-2 to read as follows: “The Committee shall consist of six to nine members, nominated by the City Manager and appointed by the City Council.”

Councilor Pealer explained a discrepancy discovered in the Shade Tree Committee Ordinance, where members are appointed by the City Manager. After legal review he recommends revising for clarity, proposing that the City Manager nominate Shade Tree Committee members, while City Council appoints. Councilor Lavin asked for clarification, wondering if members of the committee would be reconsidered at this meeting, with Councilor Pealer responding that no changes to the Committee will be brought forward tonight. Councilor Petropoulos wondered if this would align the Shade Tree Committee with the appointment process for other committees. City Manager Hendrix explained that nominations aren’t consistent across all boards and commissions. Discussion followed around why the Shade Tree Committee appointment process is being changed, but not others. Councilor Brennan shared that the Shade Tree Committee is one of the highest functioning committees the City has. Councilor Lavin expressed concerns of back-channel chat regarding a councilmember being upset with a member, whom he wants to remove from this committee. Discussion followed.

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

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

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

MOTION CARRIED

15. RESOLUTION – Setting a Public Hearing for the Sale of City Owned Property

Mayor Valentino presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva has identified surplus real estate that is not serving a city goal, and
WHEREAS, the City of Geneva's adopted policy for Purchasing Geneva City-Owned Real Property calls for quarterly review of offers for city property by the Property Acquisition and Disposition Committee; and
WHEREAS, the Property Acquisition and Disposition Committee did meet on Feb. 3, 2025 to review offers received; and

WHEREAS, the Property Acquisition and Disposition Committee recommended proceeding with offers on 29 Jackson St. from Home Leasing, Middle & Hallenbeck from Cook Properties, and Crystal St. from Habitat for humanity of Greater Rochester; 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 March 5, 2025 at 7pm in the City Hall Council Chamber for the purpose of hearing public comments on the sale of city property as described above and in purchase offer forms submitted to the City.

ACTION TAKEN by Mayor Valentino; seconded by Clr. Pealer

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

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

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Whitfield shared that Black History Month is not just a footnote in history, noting that those who have fought for this country continue to be sidelined by symbolic measures. He expressed concerns about the Mayor and other Councilmembers marching on January 20, but not attending the service later that morning, expressing concerns about a lack of leadership. He went on to remind council that black Americans built this country, and now executive orders are threatening DEI, expressing concerns that this may be the last official Black History Month. Councilor Whitfield also explained that ICE raids are not a form of justice, rather cruelty. He further expressed concerns that the noose incident is being attributed to a mental health incident, and urges everyone to hear and vote wisely, while witnessing history repeating itself. He encouraged Genevans to be the city, for us to be a nation that refuses to erase black history. Councilor Whitfield shared that Rec will be holding a Spring Break camp at the rink, and will be offering extending skate hours February 17 through February 21.

Councilor Morocco complemented the march on January 20, and thanked Chief Eveland for presenting at the Town Hall meeting on January 25th. He shared that the Dunkin project was delayed, and is continuing with work. He also noted that Director Venuti is continuing to work on traffic concerns at East North Street and Herbert St.

Councilor Petropoulos shared that the LDC Neighborhoods Together group is holding a cookie swap this Saturday at 1:00 at the Presbyterian Church, and hosting the next planning gathering at the Bozzuto Center at 7:00 on February 12. Also, from the LDC meeting, Drumstock is looking to expand, and has teamed up with the newly created Geneva Rising Artists Fund (GRAF) to expand the event. Councilor Petropoulos thanked councilmembers, Chief Eveland, and the community for attending the January 25th Town Hall, noting that it will be a quarterly event featuring a different department head each time. He also shared an event being held on June 8th at Pulteney Park reenacting Mark Lafayette's speech 200 years ago in Geneva, at 10am, and noted that America turns 250 next year, and hopes to add enhancements to the Fireman's Parade to celebrate. Councilor Petropoulos also noted the Storm Task Force short term plans, that he will meet with Director Venuti about, as well as suggesting mucking out the Elm St. tunnel to the lake, and suggested sand bags. He mentioned utilizing the County's Day Reporting Program to pull weeds and clean up Castle Creek, and reminded everyone to get out and vote for the school capital improvement plan tomorrow, in the small gym. Councilor Petropoulos also shared that he was honored to attend the MLK Day events.

Councilor Gillotte shared that the NYS Tourism Alliance will convene in Canandaigua, and that Catherine Price has arranged to bring a group to Geneva for a tour. He also shared that the County's Day Reporting Program, which organizes and supervises community service meets each Wednesday, with workers available between the hours of 9:30-2:00. He explained that they can water, weed, clean up, and perform unskilled maintenance. The crew is supervised, and needs to be scheduled in advance. Councilor Gillotte lamented comments made about attendance at the Martin Luther King Day program on January 20, explaining that he was able to march, but unable to stay for the program after, and that his heart and thoughts were there, even when he couldn't be. He also encouraged residents to reach out via email with any concerns or comments, as the best way to keep in touch.

Councilor Grimaldi shared that the Geneva Housing Authority is 94% occupied, with voucher utilization at 83% currently. The board approved the sale of five homes from scattered sites, which will put them back on tax rolls. He also shared that the firehouse needs about \$25,000 in repairs that the City is responsible for.

Councilor Pealer shared that the Planning Board didn't meet, and that he's working on Recreation Advisory Board interviews. He reminded everyone that the school capital project vote is tomorrow from 11:00-8:00, noting that he's received lots of complaints about the proposed project, explaining that the project would not serve the full community, and bringing students from all over the district to the little bottle neck at the West Street School when there's plenty of room at the North Street School to develop and accommodate traffic, isn't the best solution.

Counselor Lavin complemented the City Manager for changing the size of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, suggesting that the same potential may apply to City Council, and wondered what the process to move from 9 to 5 Councilors and Mayor would entail. City Attorney Hou said he would look into it. Councilor Lavin went on to explain that in this time of federal overreach the Boys and Girls Club is delivering groceries at a drive through that is open to everyone each Thursday morning at 9:00 where fresh, good food is distributed. Councilor Lavin let Councilor Whitfield know that he fell two days before the MLK march, and was happy to be there, however he couldn't stay for the ceremony, noting that it was a great day in Geneva, and thanked him for his efforts.

Councilor Brennan shared that the Shade Tree Committee met, and are still quite busy, with lots of ideas for 2025. Tom Burrall's firewood contribution this month was \$475, and he has now donated \$14,267 to the City from firewood sales. The Zoning Board didn't meet as it should have last month, and Councilor Brennan and Neal Braman are working to make corrections to this board.

Councilor Whitfield clarified that it was disappointing when the City Manager had to hold the fort down for Council at the Martin Luther King Day program, noting that it was disheartening and discouraging when the Mayor was called to speak, representing the whole council, and no one was there.

Councilor Gillotte added that the Police Budget Advisory Board met, where hiring a mental health professional, staffing issues and challenges were discussed.

Mayor Valentino shared that the Rail Corridor Phase 2 meeting was held, and the goal of economic development opportunities was established. There will be a public session at the Welcome Center soon, no date has been set yet. A report with recommendations will be made as well. He explained the challenging time frame moving tracks from Middle Street to the Lake Front. He further explained that Norfolk Southern Line can't be moved, they won't come to the table for discussion. It is the group's strong recommendation to improve the area near the lake. Councilor Lavin noted major tax breaks given to the railroads, and wondered why not creating economic development isn't under more scrutiny. Mayor Valentino explained that there is no PILOT, as economic development remains the focus, and this is not an actionable committee. Mayor Valentino shared that he met with Board of Ethics Chair Victor Nelson, and that their Tenants may be revised, and that the board is working to fill a vacancy. Mayor Valentino complemented the Martin Luther King Day event, thanked the committee for the invitation, explained that he didn't know he was on the agenda to speak, and happened to have a conflicting cardiologist appointment at the same time.

18. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Pealer; seconded by Clr. Moracco
MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:19pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nicole Tillotson
City Clerk