

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

February 12, 2025 – 5:30 PM
City Hall – 2nd Floor Conference Room
47 Castle Street
Geneva, NY 14456

Presiding – Steve Valentino, Mayor

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Gillotte (arrived at 6:17), Clr. Grimaldi (arrived at 6:00), Clr. Pealer (arrived at 5:43), Clr Lavin, Clr. Brennan
Absent: Clr. Moracco

2. DISCUSSION – Comprehensive Plan

Mayor Valentino reviewed the history of the current Comprehensive Plan, noting that it is in the approved 2025 budget. He recalled some members of Council wanting to update the plan themselves. Mayor Valentino recommends input from the community, and explained why this is best achieved with a consultant. The Mayor asked Councilmembers to review the plan ahead of time, and come to this meeting prepared with items to address.

Discussion followed around the plan being created pre-COVID, and not aligning well with the post- COVID environment. The incomplete 2020 Census was discussed related to how it may impact a plan update. Housing quality was discussed, along with what Code can do to help.

Utilizing a professional consultant was debated, as well as how generic or specific the plan should be. Areas of the plan to focus on updating were discussed. Direction to a consultant was proposed to include updating numbers, and include more text on how to move forward. Discussion followed around crafting the plan for the ease of development. Lakefront development was briefly discussed, including renting property for development, rather than selling to a developer. Several economic development strategies were discussed. Mayor Valentino reminded Council that the plan is a guide, not specific direction, and that community input is critical.

Discussion occurred around the value of an entirely new Comprehensive plan versus refreshing the current plan. It was suggested that developing what is important as a council first, to guide a consultant and/or facilitator is important, followed by holding public hearings to gain community input on certain areas and topics. Mayor Valentino commented that the priorities in the current plan may not be the priorities the community wants. The Mayor also reinforced the importance of Council coming to a consensus, and explained that he is against moving forward with the plan without community input. Creative ways to solicit community engagement were explored. It was recommended by Councilor Gillotte that Council get input from Director West, since the plan is tied to zoning. Successes, challenges and opportunities were discussed, as well as tying the reanimated Neighborhood initiative led by the LDC into Comprehensive Plan development. It was also recommended by Councilor Lavin that County Economic Development be involved.

It was decided that Council will meet not more than two more times to determine how to proceed with the Comprehensive Plan, and determine what they would and wouldn't like to see in the plan.

3. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Lavin; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos
MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:39pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nicole Tillotson

City Clerk