

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 3, 2025
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Geneva City Council met in regular session on March 3, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council room at City Hall. Members present were Mayor David Hayes and Council Members Rufus Lee, Freddy McCoy, Kim Gillespie, Ryan Tidwell, Rich Bixby, Mike Fountain and Daniel L. Coleman. None were absent. Also present were City Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Johnson, City Attorney Jeff Gray and various department heads and employees.

Mayor Hayes called the meeting to order.

Council Member Lee gave the invocation and Mayor Hayes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Gillespie moved to dispense with the reading and approve the February 18, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Mayor Hayes stated there has been concern by citizens regarding speeding on thoroughfares, specifically on Trinity, Hillcrest and Woodland Streets. Mayor Hayes informed Council he has been out and measured the streets and observed the traffic flow. He presented and reviewed a list of recommended area for stop signs and speed humps on the three streets. He asked Council to review the recommendations and consider action at the next meeting.

Council received a request for the use of Fowler park and a parade permit application for the annual River Festival. Council discussed the proposed parade route and the need to establish a regular route for all parades.

Council Member Tidwell moved to approve the parade permit for the River Festival parade. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gillespie and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Council Member Tidwell moved to approve the request by the River Festival Committee, Inc. to use Fowler Park for its annual festival. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gillespie and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Mayor Hayes reported on the following:

- Interest from two small businesses about locating in Geneva
- Engineers have determined a portion of the American Legion building is on airport property and the fence line will have to be adjusted to avoid the building
- He has been contacted by the state about the possible availability of funding for certain infrastructure projects

- There has been a large attendance at court and the new Council room is serving its purpose
- The bids for the new park have been advertised and will be opened in a couple of weeks
- State prisoners have been out cleaning along road sides
- Meeting with car club and having a downtown show
- Clean up along county roads by Mayor, street and recreation departments
- Planning for new recreation projects

Mayor Hayes read a thank you note from Gail Whitehead to the City and City personnel for work on the drainage ditch along her street.

City Clerk Johnson requested approval to host a District VII Clerk's meeting with the City providing lunch. Council Member Tidwell moved to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gillespie and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

City Attorney Gray reported on court. He updated Council on the airport buyout project stating the property owners have met and the things appear to be moving forward.

Council Member Fountain stated an old dilapidated building on the property of the old church at the intersection of Fleming and Morris needs to be abated and residents of the area are asking when something will be done.

He also inquired about the status of a trailer that was placed at 300 N. Cherokee Street near Hart Street that did not meet requirements and when it will be moved.

Council Member Tidwell stated he has received complaints about the condition of a portion of Ridgecrest Avenue. He asked Street and Sanitation Superintendent Brewer to check and see if the portion of the road in question was part of the City Street and if so see if he can address the issues.

Council Member Tidwell asked Recreation Director Adams about lights that were removed from behind field five at the ballfield, and if they are going to be repurposed, the nets for the little league field, and about the plans for the fence behind the batting cage.

Council Member Tidwell stated a constituent had discussed with him about Sunday sale of alcohol. He stated with surrounding towns offering Sunday sales that it is time to consider if for Geneva and asked about the process to make it possible.

Council Member Tidwell stated he has met with a couple of groups about using the Junction for river type activities. He asked if that was something the Chamber could assist with, especially with promotion of the event. He outlined his meeting with Rock-a-Dock and read a list of things he proposes the City assist with and offer to the group. Council Member Tidwell stated he will see if Senator Chesteen could assist with funds for showers and bathrooms for the event. He also discussed the fee of \$1,000.00 for rental of the park.

City Attorney Gray stated anyone using the park for a public event needs to have an insurance policy with the City listed as an additional insured.

Street and Sanitation Superintendent Brewer reported on projects. He stated the Johnson Street project cost around \$7,000.00 which was lower than originally estimated. He also reported on an upcoming landfill inspection.

Council Member Coleman reported on the Lion's Club pancake supper and thanked everyone that participated.

Parks and Recreation Director Adams requested approval to host a Parks and Recreation meeting with the City providing lunch. Council Member Coleman moved to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gillespie and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining. He reported on recreation programs, opening day, trial run for disc golf and gave an update on all-star teams.

Water Works and Sewer Board Manager Austin reported on the DEVCO sewer project.

Rescue Director Creamer reported the City's application to participate in Florida Medicare/Medicaid has been rejected. He informed Council there is a company that can assist with the department's enrollment for a one-time cost of \$1,100.00. Council member Tidwell moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the company to enroll the City in the Florida program. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Police Chief Mock reported the auction date has been rescheduled to April 18th and gave an activity report for the month of February. Council Member Tidwell asked the Chief if he foresees the numbers for crimes, etc. going down in the future.

Mayor Hayes called for public comments.

Chamber President Carl Cory reported on the Chamber.

Council Member Tidwell moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member McCoy and was unanimously approved. Council adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk