

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 20, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING  
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Geneva City Council met in regular session on January 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council room at City Hall. Members present were Mayor Hayes and Council Members Rufus Lee, Zack Dodson, Ronnie Baine, Sarah Tinsley and Scott Stough. Council Members Junior Mixon and Rich Bixby were absent. Also present were City Clerk Lisa Johnson, City Attorney Jeff Gray and various department heads and employees.

Mayor Hayes called the meeting to order.

Recreation Director Howell gave the invocation and Mayor Hayes led the pledge of allegiance.

Council Member Dodson moved to dispense with the reading and approve minutes of January 5 and 15, 2026, as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Tinsley. Council voted four (4) to zero (0) with Mayor Hayes and Council Member Lee abstaining, to approve the minutes of January 5<sup>th</sup>. Council voted five (5) to zero (0) with Mayor Hayes abstaining, to approve the minutes of January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Jacqueline Johnson, a new resident to Geneva, appeared before Council to introduce herself.

Council Member Lee moved to adopt the 2026 holiday schedule as presented (only change to previous year, no day after Christmas due to it being on the weekend). The motion was seconded by Council Member Dodson and was approved by a five (5) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Council Member Dodson moved to approve the Financials for the month of November 2025 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Stough and was approved by a five (5) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Mayor Hayes reported on the following:

- Contract extension on property for the industrial park
- Scheduled walk-through for the new park
- Need to set a fee for a property lease at the airport
- A new restaurant will be announcing their intent to locate to Geneva and recognized Council Member Stough as being involved in the process
- Gas Company sales during cold weather
- Reorganization of the Chamber of Commerce

City Attorney Gray presented and reviewed the following ordinances for first reading and consideration:

**ORDINANCE NUMBER 01-2026-01**

**AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR THE USE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UTILITIES WITHIN THE RIGHTS-OF-WAY**

**ORDINANCE NO. 01-2026-02**

**AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE TO FIBER UTILITY NETWORK INC. D/B/A ALABAMA FIBER NETWORK, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS (“FRANCHISEE”) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING A FIBER-OPTIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY WITHIN THE CITY OF GENEVA, ALABAMA**

City Attorney Gray reported on the need to adopt an ordinance regulating the sale of consumable hemp products. He also reported on court.

Council Member Lee requested a larger sign on Mulkey warning traffic to slow down due to an autistic child living in the area. He requested the Water Department Manager to have employees slow down when driving in the area.

Council Member Lee expressed concern that some Geneva rehab patients are not being directed to services in Geneva upon release from larger hospitals in the area and wants citizens to know they have the right to request where their service is provided.

Council Member Dodson inquired about the responsibility of local retailers in reporting vape tax due to the City. City Clerk Johnson explained the process. He inquired about the current moratorium on tiny homes. Attorney Gray outlined what needs to be done to finalize regulations on tiny home construction. Council Member Dodson expressed appreciation for having the right-of-way obstruction abated that was requested last meeting. He reported he did a ride along with the police department and was able to observe the department work. Council Member Dodson reported suspicious activity on Franklin Avenue and asked for increased patrol in the area when possible.

Council Member Baine expressed his interest in the park at the Junction and stated he would like to be included in any review committees.

Council Member Tinsley requested the Mayor to appoint a committee to study the services at the Junction and to review ordinances. She reported on her attendance along with Council Member Dodson and City Clerk Johnson at a Main Street meeting. She stated there was a lot of good information presented and she would like to work with the business owners downtown to understand the program and assess their interest in the program.

Council Member Stough thanked the Mayor for making the recruitment of the new restaurant a smooth process. He informed a citizen in the audience that the building inspector is

going to look at her street light request. He also encouraged citizens to be positive on Facebook as places looking to relocate to Geneva may see the posts and it have a negative impact on their decisions to relocate.

Council Member Dodson reported that the Dollar General south of the river is scheduled to open on February 8<sup>th</sup> and it will be a DG plus store.

Street and Sanitation Superintendent Brewer reported there is a pine tree on Glendale avenue that needs to be removed and ownership of the property it sits on needs to be established. He stated there is another situation with a tree needed removing on Purvis Street. Council Member Lee reported there is one on Mulkey also. Superintendent Brewer stated it has been determined the tree on Mulkey is not on right-of-way, it is on private property.

Recreation Director Howell reported on sports programs and plans for this year's opening ceremony for the baseball/softball season.

Police Chief Mock reported on recruits for three of his open positions.

Mayor Hayes called for public participation.

Ms. Tewanna Marks reported on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. walk and thanked the City for their support. She thanked the rescue squad for assisting in a situation with a family member.

Council Member Stough moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dodson and was unanimously approved. Council adjourned at 7:05 p.m.