

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING &
WORK SESSION
MAY 20, 2024

MINUTES

The Geneva City Council met in work session on May 20, 2024, at 4:30 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 absent. Also present were City Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Johnson, City Attorney Jeff Gray and various department heads.

Conversion of employee leave at time of retirement and how holiday pay is compensated for various departments was discussed.

Work session adjourned and regular session began at 6:00 p.m. 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 absent. Also present were City Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Johnson, City Attorney Jeff Gray and various department heads and employees.

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 minutes of May 6, 2024, as presented. Council Member Coleman seconded the motion which was approved by a six (6) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes and Council Member Bixby abstaining.

Council Member Tidwell moved to award a contract for asbestos inspections to Southern Earth Sciences, Inc. in the amount of \$825.00 per structure for the 2022 CDBG Project. Council Member Gillespie seconded the motion which was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Attorney Gray reviewed an Attorney General's opinion regarding Council Members who are employees of the City School system voting on City School Board appointments. The opinion stated - Council Members who are also employed by the City School Board may not vote on the appointment of City School Board Members.

Council Member Tidwell addressed the AG Opinion and gave his opinion stating he disagreed and why.

Mayor Hayes called for nominations for appointment to the Geneva City School Board. Council Member Tidwell nominated Mrs. Katie Mote. Council Member Fountain nominated Mr. Ricky Brackin. Council Members spoke about each candidates' qualifications for nomination. Mayor Hayes called for the vote on Ms. Mote who received 1 vote from Mayor Hayes. Mayor Hayes called for the vote on Mr. Brackin who received three votes from Council Members: Lee, Fountain and McCoy. Council Members Gillespie, Tidwell, Bixby and Coleman abstained from the vote.

Council Member Gillespie moved to adopt a resolution authorizing entering into a grant agreement with the State for two new vans for the Senior Citizens Center. Council Member Lee seconded the motion which was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

City Clerk Johnson explained to Council she has received a request from an individual to bury a family in an old section of the cemetery where there appears to be open spaces that is not marked by headstones. Clerk Johnson expressed concerns about the lack of records in the old section of the City Cemetery regarding ownership, where individuals may be buried and not marked. She explained that it was her understanding that plots may not have been sold in that section of the cemetery and were given on an as needed basis to indigent individuals. Council Member Fountain moved to close the old section of the cemetery unless ownership could be determined through documentation from the individual requesting the approval. The motion was seconded by Council Member Coleman and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Police Chief Mock reported on the Chaplin program for the department, purchase of the Tru-Narc device, Valor Class, Jr. Police Academy and River Festival overtime figures.

Council Member Gillespie moved to approve the financials for the months of February and March 2024, as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bixby and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Mayor Hayes reported on the following:

- Splash pad update, proposed opening on May 31st, and that the portable bathroom was temporary.
- Questions on property lines at the park
- Meeting with the CEO at Johnson Controls
- EV Charger grant project
- Warranty on the soccer project
- Meeting with the FBO at the airport and plans for a having an opening ceremony and press on the opening
- City Hall project
- Drainage issues
- Meetings with State Officials
- Upcoming meeting with DOT and the possibility of seeking funding for drainage instead of paving

City Attorney Gray reported on Court, old dilapidated bill boards and cars on Park Avenue.

Council Member Fountain requested the drainage issue on Forrest Street be looked at.

Council Member Bixby requested the street department check on condition of Lakewood Loop.

Council Member Tidwell requested the drainage issue on Glendale Avenue and Hospital Drive be looked at.

Council Member Lee reported on his attendance at the annual convention for the Alabama League of Municipalities.

Fire Chief Latimer reported the cost to repair the rescue truck exceeded the initial estimate, with an actual cost of \$9,835.29. Council Member Coleman moved to authorize repairs. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Mrs. Tewanna Marks McElway spoke on flooding and drainage on N. Morris Street.

Attorney Gray stated an executive session was in order as discussion met the criteria of good name and character. He estimated executive session to last approximately 20 minutes. Council Member Coleman moved to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee. Mayor Hayes called for a roll call vote with the following results:

Ayes: Council Members Lee, McCoy, Gillespie, Tidwell, Bixby, Fountain, Coleman
Nays: None

The Mayor declared the motion passed and executive session approved. Executive session began at 7:48 p.m. with the Mayor, all Council Members, City Clerk and City Attorney in attendance.

Council Member Coleman moved to adjourn executive session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bixby and was unanimously approved. Executive session adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Council Member Gillespie moved to uphold a recommendation from a due process committee on the termination of an employee of the rescue department. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bixby and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Council Member Fountain moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee and was unanimously approved. Council adjourned at 8:15 p.m.