

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

MINUTES

The Geneva City Council met in regular session on April 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, Junior Mixon, Ronnie Baine, Rich Bixby, Sarah Tinsley, and Scott Stough. None 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.

Council Member Dodson gave the invocation and Mayor Hayes led the pledge of allegiance.

Council Member Stough moved to dispense with the reading and approve minutes of April 6, 2026, as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Mixon. The motion was approved by seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

City Attorney Gray reported the well permit application from Mr. Ira Barker to service his home and garden at 459 Skyline Avenue presented last meeting, did not meet ordinance requirements for issuance. Council Member Dodson moved to deny issuance of a permit. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bixby and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Mr. Larry Hacker appeared before Council with several complaints about his stolen identity, water service and meter location, an easement at his property, code enforcement, the police and court. Mr. Hacker was advised to attend a Water Board meeting regarding some of his issues. Council Member Lee recommended Mr. Hacker obtain an attorney as some of his complaints are civil in nature.

Ms. Melanie Bryan appeared before Council to request the use of Fowler Park by several church organizations to hold a community wide lunch for the homeless and those in need. Council Member Stough moved to authorize use of the Junction. 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 asked potential candidate for the appointment to the Geneva City School Board to come before Council and introduce themselves and outline their qualifications. Mr. D. C. Coleman and Mr. Russell Clausell presented themselves as candidates.

Mayor Hayes called for nominations. Council Member Mixon nominated Mr. Clausell. Council Member Baine seconded the nomination. Council Member Lee nominated Mr. Coleman. Council Member Bixby seconded the nomination.

Mayor Hayes called for the vote on the nomination of Mr. Clausell. Council Members Mixon, Baine, Dodson, Tinsley and Stough voted in favor of the nomination. Mayor Hayes called for the vote on the nomination of Mr. Coleman. Council Member Lee voted in favor of the nomination. Mayor Hayes and Council Member Bixby abstained from the vote.

Mayor Hayes announced the vote for appointment of Mr. Russell Clausell carried by five (5) to one (1) and that Mr. Russell Clausell was thereby reappointed to the Geneva City Scholl Board.

Council Member Bixby moved to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Stough. Attorney Gray announced that the executive session met requirements of the open meetings act as it covered a subject under possible pending litigation. He estimated the meeting would last 10 minutes and there would be no announcement after. Mayor called for the vote to go into executive session. Council Members voting to go into executive session were: Lee, Dodson, Mixon, Baine, Bixby, Tinsley and Stough. Mayor Hayes declared the motion carried. Mayor Hayes requested the City Clerk attend executive session and Attorney Gray requested the Chief of Police attend.

Executive session began at 6:29 p.m. and was moved to the Mayor's conference room. The Mayor, all Council Members, City Clerk, City Attorney and Police Chief were all present. Executive session adjourned and regular session resumed at 6:43 p.m. No announcement was made

Council Member Lee moved to table action on an alcohol license request for Crazy Elks, LLC. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dodson and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

City Attorney Gray presented and reviewed a draft dog ordinance. Questions arose about banning dogs from city parks and if it included the Junction, the number of allowed animals, individuals moving to town that own Pitbulls and enforcement. Some Council Members expressed concern because it banned Pitbull breeds. Attorney Gray asked Council to mark up the ordinance with recommended changes and he would redraft the ordinance. Council Member Tinsley moved to table action until some of the concerns could be addressed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

City Clerk Johnson stated several cities are using their America250AL grants to fund banners and signage throughout town and asked Council if they would like to apply for grant funding and use them for banners. Council Member Tinsley moved to authorize an application for an America250AL grant citing the City's project as advertising and 4th of July event. 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 reported on the following:

- Senior Citizen Spring Fling
- Application for Congressionally Directed Spending funds for a water tank for the industrial park
- Power pole replacement project by Alabama Power

- Cable outage due to lines being cut
- Handicap parking for David B. Hayes Park
- State paving project
- Sidewalk project
- Upcoming League convention
- Trip to Nashville was cancelled
- Growth at the airport
- Innovate Alabama grant application

City Attorney Gray reported on court. He also reported an arrest has been made on the recent dog attack incident.

Council Member Lee requested the code enforcement officer look at the holding pen located on Martin Luther King, Jr. Street for compliance with fencing as only a partial fence has been installed.

Council Member Dodson stated he has had several complaints and asked if the State could be contacted about the long wait time between light changes, on the traffic light at the intersection of Magnolia and Hwy 27 South. He asked if a deaf child at play sign could be installed on Latimer Street facing back toward Ward Street.

Council Member Bixby thanked the water department for help on a project and thanked the City Attorney for his work on the dog ordinance.

Council Member Tinsley stated she liked the ordinance the Attorney drafted and thinks it is headed in the right direction. She requested the appointments for the Board of Adjustments and the Council appointment to the Planning Commission be placed on the next agenda.

Council Member Stough thanked Reverend Russell Clausell for his service on the City School Board.

Street Superintendent Brewer reported the Corps of Engineers had conducted the annual levee inspection.

Recreation Director Howell reported on opening day at Chapman Park.

Mayor Hayes reported he is going to get the Rescue Director to train all employees on CPR and first aid. He stated the Rescue Director has informed him that Enterprise Rescue bought an ambulance with a brand-new power load stretcher they do not need and is offering it to the City for \$15,000.00. Council Member Lee moved to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to look at the budget to determine if funds are available and if so to purchase the stretcher. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bixby and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Fire Chief Latimer reported on an active county wide burn ban.

Police Chief Mock reported on a drug search at the City schools, Children's of Alabama fundraiser, job shadowing program, purchase of radios with Wiregrass RC&D funding and upcoming River Festival.

Council Member Lee stated there may be a deaf child at play sign on Mulkey that is no longer needed as the young man has grown up and just graduated college.

Mayor Hayes called for public participation.

Ms. Tewanna Marks inquired about insurance requirements on Pitbull under the proposed ordinance.

Council Member Stough moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dodson and was unanimously approved. Council adjourned at 8:03 p.m.