

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 18, 2024  
6:00 P.M.  
MINUTES

WORKSESSION  
4:30 P.M.

The Geneva City Council met in regular session on March 18, 2024, 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, 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 Fountain gave the invocation and Mayor Hayes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Coleman moved to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of March 4, 2024, with corrections as to those present and March 11, 2024, as presented. Council Member Gillespie seconded the motion which was approved by a six (6) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes and Council Member Tidwell abstaining.

Police Chief Mock presented a Life Saving Award to Lieutenant Ryan Moore and Corp. Brandon Rodgers was promoted and pinned to the rank of Sergeant.

Mayor Hayes presented estimates for a security system for the new City Hall in the amount of \$79,000.00 and a quote to run wiring for IT/communication functions at the new City Hall estimated a little under \$15,000.00. Council Member Gillespie moved to approve the cost for security and IT/communication services. Council Member Fountain seconded the motion which was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Mayor Hayes reported he will be meeting with the Director of ALDOT in April and asked Council if they would like for him to seek funding for another street resurfacing project. He stated the City would have to contribute matching funds to the project. He asked Council to review their districts for a list of streets that need to be resurfaced.

Council Member Gillespie moved to approve a well permit for Rollie Barber at 721X E. JP Jones Street. Council Member Fountain seconded the motion which was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Mayor Hayes reported on the following:

1. Meetings with companies about public-private partnerships
2. Meeting regarding lighting projects
3. Light on the water tank to illuminate Geneva emblem
4. Industry sites
5. Meeting with Senator Chesteen regarding needs and funding
6. Curbing at the soccer/baseball complex
7. Closing of the soccer project
8. Splash pad contractor
9. Recommitment of monies from a local bank and individual for projects
10. Meeting with Wiregrass Economic Development Director
11. Discussion with new leadership at Johnson Controls/Ruskin Company about their desire to be apart of the city and assist with projects
12. Closing of the local newspaper
13. City Hall project
14. Senior Citizen Spring Fling

City Clerk Johnson reported on the Govdeals online auction.

City Attorney Gray stated he had no report but may ask for a public hearing at next meeting.

Council Member Fountain reported the ditch behind 121 E. Fleming needs to be cleaned out and the mouth of the pipe for the ditch that runs from Morris street to 123 E. Hart is clogged up. He inquired if the lighting at Fowler Park had been looked at and if it will be repaired any time soon. Council Member Fountain also reported a nuisance complaint at 702 N. Whitney Street.

Council Member Lee asked if monies for resurfacing could be used at the the west end of Mulkey and if a price for improvements had been received. He reported at the east end at the intersection of Trinity and Mulkey there were drainage issues that need to be addressed. Council Member Lee asked the Mayor if he had been able to discuss an issue with the power company regarding trees growing up in power lines.

Council Member Gillespie asked the Mayor if he had an opportunity to meet with a contractor regarding the pier project and how the meeting went. She also inquired about comments at a previous meeting by the Rescue Director regarding contracts for service, she asked if the contracts had been reviewed by the City Attorney and reminded everyone employees couldn't enter into contracts without Council approval.

Council Member Gillespie asked about the trial for the 4-day work week for the street and sanitation department. Council Member Gillespie moved to grant a 60 day trial period for the 4-day work period Monday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. with 30 minutes for lunch beginning the first pay period in April. Council Member Lee seconded the motion which was approved by a five (5) to two (2) vote. Those voting for the motion were Council Members Gillespie, Lee, McCoy, Bixby and Coleman. Council Members Tidwell and Fountain voted against the motion. Mayor Hayes abstained from the vote.

Council Member Gillespie stated she has received several complaints regarding lack of restaurants in town.

Council Member Fountain stated he has received several complaints about lighting coming into town and asked how lighting works on State highways.

Police Chief Mock reported on the upcoming prom and safety, locking of basement doors at City Hall.

Recreation Director Adams reported on allstar competition and that the 8U girls were runner ups in basketball. He reported changes to opening ceremonies for baseball/softball season and the Chapman Park dedication. Director Adams also reported on repairs and upgrades to the road going over the creek at Chapman Park and light pole replacement.

Street and Sanitation Superintendent Brewer reported work to the ditch on Mulkey is complete, stop sign replacement is underway, and road repairs from recent rains. Superintendent Brewer reported he has received a request from Josh Spicer on Camellia Avenue for curbing or building up the road.

Fire Chief Ben Latimer reported he would like to increase the amount of grant monies being requested on the FEMA grant by \$2,000.00 to cover freight. The amount would increase the City's match by 5%.

Mayor Hayes opened the public participation portion of the agenda.

Chamber President Carl Corey gave a report on Chamber functions. He reported on a volunteer clean up program utilizing Ft. Novosel soldiers and asked Council to canvas their districts for those constituents in need of assistance and let him know by next meeting.

Pastor Russell Clausell reported on the upcoming Holy Week.

Council Member Coleman called for an executive session for Attorney Gray to make a report. Attorney Gray stated an executive session as requested by Council Member Coleman was in order as discussion met the criteria of pending litigation. He stated there would be no announcement after executive session which was estimated to be 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: Mayor Hayes, 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 7:30 p.m. with the Mayor, all Council Members, City Clerk and City Attorney in attendance.

Council Member Bixby moved to adjourn executive session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee and was unanimously approved. Executive session adjourned at 7:40 p.m. There was no announcement following executive session.

Council Member Gillespie moved to adjourn regular session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bixby and was unanimously approved. Council adjourned at 7:41 p.m.