

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2025
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Geneva City Council met in regular session on February 18, 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.

Mayor Hayes called the meeting to order.

Pastor Russell Clausell gave the invocation and Mayor Hayes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Hayes welcomed those in attendance to the new City Hall. He discussed the need for the new facility.

Council Member Gillespie moved to dispense with the reading and approve the February 3, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee and was approved by a six (6) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes and Council Member Bixby abstaining.

Council Member Lee moved to adopt the following ordinance introduced and considered at last meeting:

ORDINANCE 02-2025-01

AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SALARIES OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ELIGIBLE BENEFITS; REPEALING ANY PRIOR ORDINANCES RELATING TO SALARIES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Council Member Lee moved to adopt Ordinance 02-2025-01. The motion was seconded by Council Member Tidwell and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Council Member Gillespie moved to adopt resolution authorizing the Mayor's participation in the Retirement Systems of Alabama as defined by Act 2023-236. The motion was seconded by Council Member Tidwell and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Council Member Tidwell moved to adopt a resolution ratifying the City's current millage rate of 12 mills. 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 discussed request for speed bumps. He informed Council there is a company currently doing work in town that has quoted a price of approximately \$650.00 per speed bump. He asked if Council would like to proceed with the list of the streets he is aware of. Council Member Tidwell moved to table action until the next meeting to give Council time to review their districts and submit their request list. 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 the Geneva City Planning Commission met on February 4th and heard a request from Hunter Ward to rezone property on Sizemore Highway from R-3 to B-2 General Business. The Commission voted to hold a public hearing on the request.

City Attorney Gray explained the process for rezoning.

Mayor Hayes reported on the following:

- Interest from a sporting goods company about locating in Geneva
- Discussions with a potential industry
- Discussions with a developer about housing for Geneva
- Open House
- Meeting with property owners for the airport project – need executive session
- New park project
- Meeting with car club and having a downtown show
- Clean up along county roads by Mayor, street and recreation departments
- Planned meetings in Montgomery with ADECA, ALDOT and other agencies to seek funding for projects
- Moving to new City Hall

City Clerk Johnson requested approval to destroy old records that were no longer needed and meet requirements of the state for disposal. Council Member Gillespie moved to adopt a resolution authorizing destruction of old records. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

City Attorney Gray reported on court. He stated an executive session was needed at the end of the meeting to discuss an issue that is part of litigation and is allowable for executive session.

Council Member Lee stated he has three more areas for speed bumps to be added to his list. He commended everyone involved with open house and he was proud of how well it presented. He stated this administration has worked well together and in all his terms of office there has not been an administration that has worked together any better than this one.

Council Member McCoy reported the new sewer system project for DEVCO is almost complete.

Council Member Tidwell reported he has met with Tripp Smith regarding brining the Rock-A-Dock event back to Geneva this fall for a six-day event. He stated they had made a list of items that would be needed. Council Member Tidwell stated he would meet with the Mayor to discuss ways to help make this event successful and to start the planning process.

Council Member Coleman inquired about the status of the drainage projects at the high school and Johnson Street. He reported on the Lion's Club pancake supper. He inquired if the police department had any youth community service workers.

Mayor Hayes reported there was interest by the Kiwanis Club to start a chapter in Geneva and they would be utilizing one of the rooms a City Hall. He invited Council to a seminar being held in the Council room by Wiregrass Economic Development Group. Mayor Hayes also reported he had attended and presented a Mayor's Certification of Recognition to Saint Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church at their recent cornerstone celebration.

Librarian Mishelle Hidle gave a report on changes, policies, usage and programs for the library.

Senior Citizens Director Robbie Owens gave a report on programs and events for the center.

Building Inspector Ray Wuest reported on repairs to lighting at Fowler Park and presented a \$1,500.00 check from the Geneva River Festival Committee to assist with the project.

Street and Sanitation Superintendent Allen Brewer gave a project report.

Rescue Director Creamer reported he has received the first check for delinquent account collections.

Police Chief Mock reported on an upcoming training seminar being held at the in the new Council room. He reported on an upcoming auction for abandoned and confiscated property.

Mayor Hayes stated he has not received notice of availability of congressional discretionary funds but that he will contact Senator Tuberville's office to see when applications are due. City Clerk Johnson recommended Council adopt a resolution authorizing application in the event the deadline is before next meeting.

Council member Tidwell moved to authorize the Mayor to select a project and to adopt a resolution that authorizes the selected project. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee and was approved by a six (6) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining and Council Member McCoy temporarily away from the meeting.

Mayor Hayes called for public comments.

Chamber President Carl Cory reported on the Chamber and DAV.

School Board Chairman Russell Clausell reported the Board would like to use the Council room to conduct interviews for the new superintendent and other meetings for public input.

Mayor Hayes called for an executive session to discuss a matter covered under pending litigation. Attorney Gray stated an executive session as requested was in order as litigation met the criteria under public meetings laws. He stated there may be announcement after.

Council Member Tidwell moved to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gillespie. 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 7:20 p.m. with the Mayor, Council Members, City Clerk, City Attorney and Police Chief in attendance. Executive session was moved to the Mayor's conference room adjoining Council Chambers.

Council Member Bixby moved to adjourn executive session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gillespie and was unanimously approved. Executive session adjourned at 7:40 p.m. and regular meeting reconvened in the Council room.

Council Member Gillespie moved to authorize Mayor Hayes to negotiate a settlement for the purchase of property needed for an airport improvement project. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Council Member Tidwell moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee and was unanimously approved. Council adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk