

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2024  
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Geneva City Council met in regular session on September 3, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council room at City Hall. Members present were Mayor David Hayes and Council Members Rufus Lee, Kim Gillespie, Rich Bixby, Mike Fountain and Daniel L. Coleman. Council Member Freddy McCoy and Ryan Tidwell 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.

Council Member Fountain gave the invocation and Mayor Hayes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Lee moved to dispense with the reading and approve the August 19, 2024, minutes as presented. Council Member Gillespie seconded the motion which was approved by a four (4) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes and Council Member Bixby abstaining.

Council Member Coleman moved to amend the agenda to allow Mr. Bill Jones to address Council as second item on new business on the agenda. Council Member Gillespie seconded the motion which was approved by a five (5) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Mr. James Sullivant appeared before Council to make allegations of animal cruelty.

Mr. Bill Jones registered complaints about neighbors living without utilities, homeless persons in the neighborhood and dogs.

Council member Lee moved to adopt a resolution declaring certain properties as contributors to slum and blight and authorizing the use of CDBG to abate the properties. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bixby and was approved by a five (5) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Bids received for the demolition of blighted property located at 127 E Campbell Avenue were as follows:

Hooper-Moore, Inc.	Harrison Earthmovers	Shiver & Sons
\$12,880.00	\$14,750.00	\$17,500.00

Council Member Gillespie moved to award the bid to the low bidder Hooper-Moore, Inc. in the amount of \$12,880.00. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bixby and was approved by a five (5) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

City Attorney Gray explained the need to grant an easement to a property owner off Buck Williams Road at the airport as the owner is landlocked with access to his property. He explained the process and stated he will seek concurrence from FAA. Council Member Coleman moved to table the issue until FAA concurrence is granted. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fountain and was approved by a five (5) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Council Member Lee stated Mr. Monroe Brown was present and wished to speak but was not on the agenda. Mr. Brown was allowed to address Council. He stated that he lives at 804 E Westville Avenue and that someone has cut limbs from trees on his property located inside his fence without permission. He asked if the City could find out who was responsible for cutting the trees. He also complained about speeding.

Mayor Hayes reported on the City Hall project and stated that he would like to upgrade the flag pole at City Hall and that he would like the monument sign to be digital. He stated the upgrades would require a change order in the amount of \$36,000.00. Council Member Lee moved to authorize the change order. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fountain and was approved by a five (5) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Mayor Hayes reported there is a grant opportunity for purchasing land for an industrial park. He explained that to apply for the grant the City has to have an option to purchase on suitable land. He advised he has identified potential property and the owner is interested in working with the City. Council Member Lee moved to grant the Mayor the authority to negotiate a price on the property to establish an option to purchase to qualify the City for the grant. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fountain and was approved by a five (5) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Mayor Hayes stated he was proud of our football team and they will only get better. Mayor Hayes also reported on the park project and airport.

City Clerk Johnson reported she has a proposed budget and ready for work sessions. A work session was set for September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30. Clerk Johnson stated she would also give a report and presentation on the redistricting list.

City Attorney Gray reported on Court.

Council Member Coleman reported a hole in the street near 602 Azalea Street. He reported businesses have received information regarding a downtown historical district designation. He stated there were questions by business owners and the City Clerk called to get answers to several questions and clarification regarding the designation, but that no one with the City has tried to stop the project it is moving forward.

Council Member Gillespie stated she was glad to see the new paper and publication starting. She inquired about the time frame for court dates being pushed so far out. She stated she is getting complaints from individuals that have received citations about it taking too long for them to be able to appear in court and get matters resolved.

Council Member Lee presented a notice he had received regarding rail banking the old railroad corridor.

Council Member Bixby asked that the City continue to seek funding sources to resurface and extend the walking trail on the levee.

Police Lieutenant Moore was present and stated the Chief has been contacted by the American Legion about holding a turkey shoot on the old golf course property. Attorney Gray stated he felt the ordinance regarding a permit under the noise ordinance sufficiently addressed the Chief's authority to grant permission. Lt. Moore also gave an activity report for the month of August.

Council Member Gillespie expressed concerns regarding a domestic incident she witnessed and reported to 911 only to find out from officers on duty the incident was never conveyed to them.

Rescue Director Creamer gave an activity report for August and reported the new ambulance has been delivered.

Council Member Coleman reported the gutters on the cook house at the Junction need cleaning and that purchase of the portable bathroom needs to move forward.

Mayor Hayes reminded everyone of the upcoming 911 ceremony.

There were no public comments.

Council Member Bixby moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Coleman and was unanimously approved. Council adjourned at 7:50 p.m.