

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2024
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Geneva City Council met in regular session on February 20, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council room at City Hall. Members present were Mayor David Hayes and Council Members Freddy McCoy, Kim Gillespie, Ryan Tidwell, Mike Fountain, and Daniel L. Coleman. Council Members Rufus Lee and Rich Bixby 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.

City Attorney Gray 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 February 5 and 12, 2024, as presented. Council Member Fountain seconded the motion which was approved by a three (3) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes and Council Member Gillespie and Tidwell abstaining.

Council Member Tidwell moved to authorize use of Robert Fowler Park by the Geneva River Festival Committee to hold its annual festival. Council Member Gillespie seconded the motion which was approved by a five (5) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Council Member Tidwell moved to adopt a resolution committing a 20% match for the Congressionally Directed Spending Grant application to purchase cars for the police department that was approved at a prior meeting. Council Member Fountain seconded the motion which was approved by a five (5) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Council Member Gillespie moved to amend the manning document to reclassify the Librarian position from salary to hourly. Council Member Fountain seconded the motion which was approved by a five (5) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Recreation Director Adams asked that position titles for his department be renamed to Recreation Specialist I and II and presented updated job descriptions. Council Member Tidwell moved to amend the manning document to update position titles and job descriptions for the recreation department. 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 he has a pledge of a donation to help with pickleball courts. Council discussed previous action to stripe the tennis courts for pickleball and the need to possibly refurbish the tennis courts.

A work session was set for March 11, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Mayor Hayes reported on the following:

1. Meeting for elected officials to be held by Wiregrass Economic Development, Corp.
2. Bridge project
3. Splash pad project
4. City Hall project
5. Airport projects
6. Meeting with hospital board
7. Ft. Novosel working in the community
8. Sr. Citizens Valentine party
9. Engineers for the new park project
10. Meeting with ADECA regarding a turn lane

Clerk Johnson reported personnel from GovDeals will come next week to upload items for auction. The old recreation trail was discussed as there have been offers on the building. Council Member Gillespie moved to declare the building no longer needed for public purpose and authorize the sale by online auction. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fountain and was approved by a five (5) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

City Attorney Gray reported on court and trials.

Council Member Coleman reminded everyone of the Lion's Club pancake supper. He reported he has received complaints regarding issues with person in the elementary school car line getting in line early and blocking the street for long periods of time. He asked if an ordinance could be adopted to regulate time individuals can park in the street.

Council Member Gillespie inquired about information from Geneva Rescue regarding billing. She stated she has spoken with code enforcement regarding complaints that need to be abated and people residing in campers.

Council Member McCoy inquired about a start date for the sewer project to begin.

Council Member Tidwell stated he has complaints regarding a drain box in his district and he would discuss it with the Street Superintendent.

Council Member Fountain reported someone is living in a camper at 117 E. Hart Avenue. He reported he has spoke with code enforcement regarding dumping of trash and debris. He also reported he spoke with Street Superintendent regarding the drainage ditch that runs from Morris Street to Whitney Street that is backing up.

Mayor Hayes reported an issue with the drainage on Hemlock and Trinity.

Street and Sanitation Superintendent Brewer reported on projects. He asked if Council has made a decision on recycling and if they want to sell the 2018 garbage truck on Govdeals.

Council Member Gillespie moved declare the garbage truck no longer needed for public purpose and authorized listing on GovDeals. 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 Coleman moved to discontinue recycling effective March 20, 2024. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gillespie and was approved by a five (5) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Recreation Director Adams reported soldiers from Ft. Novosel had assisted with work around parks and the community center, tournaments and the community center renovations.

Building Inspector Wuest reported on lighting upgrades by Alabama Power.

Code Enforcement Officer Owens reported on a house being torn down by the owner. He reported on two properties where he has contacted the owners regarding cleanup.

Rescue Director Dorminey reported that an agreement with the medical center has been secured to always provide them a truck, transports have increased, last month saw record billings. She requested to be allowed to put on a second 24 hour truck using part-time labor on a trial basis to see if it will fund itself. She also reported the department was working on partnering with Enterprise Rescue to assist with their transports and are working on a mutual aide agreement.

Council Member Tidwell moved to authorize a second truck on a 90 day trial basis. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gillespie and was approved by a five (5) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Fire Chief Latimer reported on an evaluation interview with ISO. The AFG grant for 15 sets of new turnout gear. He brought up disposal of old SCBA packs and air tanks. Council Member Fountain moved to authorize application for funding. Council Member Coleman moved to declare the equipment no longer needed for public purpose, make them inoperable by removing the valves, list them on GovDeals as scrap or training use only with a liability disclaimer. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gillespie and was approved by a five (5) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fountain and was approved by a five (5) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Mayor opened the floor to public comments:

Chamber President Carl Corey gave a report on Chamber of Commerce and DVA.

Ms. Beth Meeks was present and complimented work on JP Jones Road and asked questions about dumping.

Council Member McCoy moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fountain and was unanimously approved. Council adjourned at 7:29 p.m.