

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 17, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING  
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Geneva City Council met in regular session on February 17, 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, and Sarah Tinsley. Council Member Scott Stough was 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 Lee gave the invocation and Mayor Hayes led the pledge of allegiance.

Council Member Lee moved to dispense with the reading and approve minutes of February 2, 2026, as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Tinsley. The motion was approved by a six (6) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Mayor Hayes explained that at the end of the year safety meeting, he presented employee of the year plaques to employees chosen by each department. He explained the employee selected as the recreation employee of the year was absent from the meeting and he wanted to recognize him for his achievement. Mayor Hayes presented recreation employee Dan Ellison with a plaque as recreation employee of the year.

Ms. Ellen Baum appeared before Council and reviewed plans for a trap, neuter and release program for the cats at the Junction. She requested permission to implement the program and place signs regarding the program in the controlled feeding and trapping area. Mayor Hayes stated he was not opposed to individuals implementing a program but the cats did not belong to the City and the City could not be a sponsor in the efforts due to liability issues. City Attorney Gray stated he needs to draft a release for participants to sign before the program begins.

A request for issuance of an alcohol license for Rodeo Geneva, LLC, was brought before Council for final approval. Council Member Bixby moved to authorize issuance of the license. The motion was seconded by Council Member Tinsley and was approved by a six (6) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Council heard a request from representatives of Dollar General Store 31471, for issuance of an alcohol license which was applied for through the City Clerk. Council Member Lee moved to consider issuance of the license. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bixby and was approved by a six (6) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

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

## **ORDINANCE NO.02-2026-03**

### **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE MUNICIPAL CODE TO INCLUDE LICENSING APPROVAL FOR CONSUMABLE HEMP PRODUCTS**

The motion was seconded by Council Member Bixby and was approved by a six (6) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Council Member Dodson moved to adopt a resolution declaring approximately ten (10) deteriorating and/or dilapidated structures as contributors to slum and blight within the Hart/Campbell Avenue Target Area, and authorize the expenditure of 2022 CDBG funds to demolish and clear the said properties.

Mayor Hayes reported on the following:

- Meeting with an engineer to review roads
- Status of a punch list and final walkthrough of the new park
- Street resurfacing project
- Public hearing for application for CDBG Urgent need funding
- Planned visit to Geneva by Senator Tubberville
- Meeting with hospital and county officials regarding rural health care funding
- Taxiway project at the airport
- Need for a work session

A work session was scheduled for Tuesday, February, 24<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m.

City Attorney Gray reported on court. He presented and reviewed the following ordinance:

## **ORDINANCE NUMBER 03-2026-04**

### **AN ORDINANCE TEMPORARILY CLOSING A PORTION OF WEST PROMENADE AVENUE AND REPEALING ANY OTHER ORDINANCE IN CONFLICT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE, AND TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Attorney Gray explained that a public hearing was necessary for adoption of the ordinance and it would be scheduled during the next Council meeting.

Council Member Tinsley stated she was ready for a work session to be set for the issue of tiny homes.

Council Member Bixby thanked the recreation department for keeping the gyms clean during their use for rec league basketball. He reported a request for a street light on Lakewood Loop and informed the building inspector he would provide him with the necessary information for review. He reported that he has received complaints about the condition of Westmont Street. Mrs. Angie Braswell was in attendance and described the issues with the road.

Council Member Baine requested if bigger one-way signs could be placed on the road between the cemetery and park.

Council Member Dodson requested a section of Pinecrest Circle be looked at where the storm damaged recent repairs creating washing issues. He reported he has received complaints about the grading of a portion of Franklin Avenue. He also stated he has a request for a street light on the pole near 904 E. Park Avenue as residents of the area feel there may be criminal activity being conducted in the dark areas of the street.

Council Member Lee asked if a tree on Greenwood street could be looked at and determined if it was on right-of-way and could be removed or hanging limbs cut.

Police Captain McDuffie informed Council personnel has located a grant for a ballistic vest for the department's K-9. The grant is a 100% grant with the conditions the department will participate in two press releases, picture of the K-9 in vest can be used in advertising and the vest returned or replaced if it is ever damaged or the department no longer participates in a K-9 program. There were no objections to the application for the grant. Captain McDuffie also reported on damage to the radio tower and equipment from the storm.

Water and Sewer Manager Austin reported on issues with Woodland. Mayor Hayes asked if she has information ready for a new sewer ordinance.

Recreation Director Howell reported on programs, registration, all-stars, upcoming Geneva hosted 8U tournament and opening day.

Building Inspector Wuest reported on needed repairs to underground electrical utilities at the Junction and presented a \$1,500.00 donation from the River Festival Committee to help with expenses.

Council Member Lee inquired about individual assistance from FEMA.

Mayor Hayes called for public participation.

Mr. Danny Coleman, President of the Lions Club, reported on the club's annual pancake supper and invited Council to help cook for the event.

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