

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL  
MAY 18, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING  
& PUBLIC HEARING  
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Geneva City Council met in regular session on May 18, 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, Sarah Tinsley, and Scott Stough. None were 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 Dodson gave the invocation and Mayor Hayes led the pledge of allegiance.

With due public notice being sent by certified mail to property owners, along with publication in the *Geneva County Journal* and posting in public places, a public hearing was held at this time to address abatement for violations of ordinance number 04-2021-02 on the following property:

410 South Commerce Street

Attorney Gray gave an overview of the property and violations that exist. Attorney Gray stated photographs, an inspection sheet and engineering report were available as evidence of the violations. City Attorney Gray reviewed the Dangerous Building Checklist and items noted on the inspection sheet, which were part of the notice to the property owner(s), and asked Building Inspector Wuest if he inspected and completed the form, if it was his signature on the form and if the property was deemed unsafe and a public nuisance. Building Inspector Wuest confirmed completion of the form, verified it was deemed unsafe and a nuisance and verified it was his signature. He asked Code Enforcement Officer Byrd if he took the photos of record and if the pictures reflected the condition of the property. Code Enforcement Officer Byrd stated he took the photos and they reflected the condition of the property.

Mayor Hayes called on participation by the property owner(s). They were not present to speak.

Mayor Hayes called on public participation. Tewanna Marks inquired about who would bear the cost of demolition and Donna Enfinger asked questions if the grant could be used for demolition. Mayor Hayes explained that no grant monies could be spent on any private cleanup, it could only be used for City damages.

Council discussed the issue with Attorney Gray answering questions and explaining the timeframe and procedures relating to the ordinance the violation was cited under

There being no further discussion the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Council Member Dodson moved to approve the minutes of May 4 and 11, 2026. The motion was seconded by Council Member Stough. Council voted seven (7) to zero (0) with Mayor Hayes abstaining on the approval of the minutes the 4<sup>th</sup>. Council voted six (6) to zero (0) with Mayor Hayes and Council Member Lee abstaining on the minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Lee moved to go forward with requiring the abatement of the violation at 410 S. Commerce Street as discussed in the public hearing. Council Member Mixon seconded the motion. The motion carried by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Council Member Lee moved to adopt the following resolution:

### RESOLUTION

**A RESOLUTION ORDERING THE DEMOLITION OF A BUILDING OR STRUCTURE LOCATED AT SOUTH COMMERCE STREET, GENEVA, ALABAMA 36340 ALABAMA, PARCEL ID# 1809291101019000(Osceola Hotel Property) IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTIONS 11-40-30 THROUGH 11-40-36, SECTIONS 11-53B-1 THROUGH 11-53B-16, INCLUSIVE, OF THE CODE OF ALABAMA, AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH ORDINANCE NUMBER 04-2021-02 OF THE CITY OF GENEVA, ALABAMA; AND CALLING FOR THE CITY TO CAUSE SAID DEMOLITION TO BE PERFORMED AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY AND THE CITY CLERK TO CAUSE THE COST OF SUCH DEMOLITION TO BE CHARGED AGAINST THE LAND ON WHICH THE BUILDING OR STRUCTURE EXISTS AS A MUNICIPAL LIEN OR CAUSE SUCH COST TO BE RECOVERED IN A SUIT AT LAW AGAINST THE OWNER OR OWNERS IF THE VIOLATION IS NOT VOLUNTARILY ABATED.**

Council Member Dodson seconded the motion which was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Attorney Gray presented and reviewed an ordinance on dogs that had suggestions incorporated from the work session. Council discussed the ordinance in length. Council Member Tinsley stated for the record she is for protecting citizens, supporting the police and controlling animals but she is not in support of a breed specific ban, stating why. Council Member Stough stated after talking with constituents he would like Section 61 C on the breed ban removed as it could be considered government overreach. Council Member Bixby stated he is against bans of any kind but supported a stronger ordinance. Council Member Mixon stated he felt the ordinance needs to be passed as it can be amended later if there are issues. Council Member Lee expressed concerns on enforcement. Council Member Dodson stated he was against the breed ban but for stronger regulations on dogs. He stated that if Section 61 C is removed then Section 61 B #1 would need to be revised or removed. Council Member Baine stated he was for passage of the ordinance without Section 61 C.

Attorney Gray advised he would revise the proposed ordinance for next meeting.

Mayor Hayes reported on the following:

- Thanked Andy and Angie Braswell and Camp Wiregrass for donating a food buffet for the airport

- He has three prices for the construction of a farmer's market
- He has received a resignation for a member of the school board and will get the City Clerk to advertise for interested candidates to present at the next meeting

City Clerk Johnson reported the City's America250AL grant application has been approved and she will get with the Mayor to select banners. She informed Council that the Senior Director wants her to apply for a grant through Walmart. Clerk Johnson asked for approval to apply for the grant. Council Member Bixby moved to authorize the City Clerk to apply for the grant. Council Member Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

City Attorney Gray reported on court.

Council Member Dodson reported he has received complaints on S. Deer Street regarding drainage of the ditch and overgrown vegetation. He reported he requested the vegetation be removed. Council Member Dodson also discussed the placement for the deaf child at play sign for Latimer Street.

Council Member Lee stated there were several citizens in attendance concerned about a recent arrest and he would like to give them his time. Mayor has state Council Member Lee did not have to give up his time that he planned to allow the group to speak during public comments. Council Member Lee stated he didn't have anything further.

Mayor Hayes called for public participation.

The following individuals spoke on dogs and the dog ordinance:

Tewanna Marks  
 Chelsie Simmons  
 Amanda Mason  
 Dena Lane  
 Donna Enfinger  
 Sammie Glover Jr.  
 Khandi White-Tolbert

The following individuals spoke on a recent arrest:

Brittney Wiggins  
 Khandi White-Tolbert  
 Gretta Lee  
 James Rutland  
 Chelsie Simmons  
 Amanda Mason

Willie Pearl Loman stated she would like to see a house built back on the lot at 110 E Campbell Avenue.

Council Member Bixby moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee and was unanimously approved. Council adjourned at 8:05 p.m.