

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 2024
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Geneva City Council met in regular session on November 4, 2024, 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.

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

Council Member Tidwell moved to dispense with the reading and approve the October 21, 2024, minutes as presented. Council Member Gillespie seconded the motion which was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

City Clerk Johnson explained the need to adopt a new Equal Employment Opportunity Plan and Policy and Council were provided with a draft copy. Council Member Gillespie suggested removing wording setting an age definition. Council Member Tidwell moved to adopt the Plan with the noted correction. Council Member Lee seconded the motion which was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Mayor Hayes informed Council that the Recreation Department has received a \$10,000.00 grant to resurface and restripe the tennis courts which can also be used for pickle ball. He stated the cost for repairs was over the grant amount. He informed Council he has also received pricing for solar lighting at the parking lot areas at Chapman Park and soccer field. Mayor Hayes stated the estimated cost to finish the tennis courts and install lighting is \$10,000.00. Council Member Tidwell moved to amend the budget by \$10,000.00. Council Member Fountain seconded the motion which was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

City Clerk Johnson informed Council that she and the Mayor had very recently found out that the City could be eligible to participate in a program called Innovate Alabama. She stated an application to participate was submitted and the City was accepted into the program and is now eligible to apply for grants. She explained that the best option for the City is to apply for a recreation grant and outlined several ideas the Mayor and her had discussed. She stated due to only recently becoming aware of the program and the fact the application is due in approximately 5 days she has not had time to properly research if these projects will qualify. Clerk Johnson stated funding is 100% and feels that the Mayor could select another qualifying project if those suggested will not qualify. She requested approval to apply for funding for a recreational project with the assistance of the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Council.

Council Member Tidwell moved to adopt a resolution authorizing and application for grant funding through Innovate Alabama. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion which was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Mayor Hayes reported on the following:

- Mobile visits to districts
- Halloween
- Airport dedication
- City Hall project

City Attorney Gray discussed the land purchase issue for the upcoming airport project.

City Clerk Johnson informed Council of a situation where a check was stolen from the mail and “white washed”.

City Attorney Gray reported on Court and the hire of a new magistrate. He stated some issues may be handled through the magistrate without having to go to Court and encourage individuals to contact the court office for assistance.

Council Member Fountain asked about a camper trailer at the intersection of Morris Street and Promenade Avenue, if it was in compliance with City ordinances. He asked if there were any signs that could be erected to slow traffic in areas where persons with disabilities live.

Council Member Bixby stated N. Whitney Street and E. Camellia Avenue needed curbing and the estimated cost would be \$2000.00. He stated there is a list of curbing requests from prior meetings but he is not sure how much of the list has been accomplished. He asked that a current list of all needed curbing be compiled. Assessment of cost was also discussed. Current curbing that was broken was also discussed.

Council Member Tidwell stated he would like to see the City develop a Comprehensive Master Plan for the City. Council Member Gillespie suggested developing a Capital Improvement Plan. Council Member Tidwell stated that it could give future administrations some sort of guidelines. He asked if there could be something written in the plan so that a future Mayor could not come in and do away with the plan. City Clerk Johnson stated that the City has a current Comprehensive Plan but that the Strategic Plan needs to be updated. City Clerk Johnson stated it is her understanding that one administration cannot bind another administration with regard to future proposed expenditures and projects, each administration has authority to amend any plans by majority vote. Council Member Lee stated that Ft. Novosel has personnel that has volunteered with past administrations to assist the City with planning.

Council Member Lee commended the idea of the mobile district reviews and the continuity of the Council for the good of the City as a whole.

Council Member McCoy stated he has received a complaint on Hendrix Avenue about a pit bull dog.

Council Member Coleman reminded Council of the Annual Farm City Dinner and reported on the upcoming Senior Citizens Thanksgiving lunch.

Police Chief Mock reported on Halloween and the No Shave November fund raiser. He stated he has completed interviews and has narrowed it to two applicants. He stated the applicants are not certified and the cost for certification is \$3,100.00 each. Council Member Tidwell moved to authorize the cost of training. Council Member Lee seconded the motion which was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Chief Mock also gave an activity report for October.

Street and Sanitation Superintendent Brewer reported a cost estimate of \$7,000.00 to \$9,000.00 for repairs to a dump truck. He informed Council at least eight more wreaths and hardware kits are needed for downtown street lamps. Some Council Members volunteered purchasing hardware and Council Member Coleman stated he will ask the Lions Club to purchase four sets.

Rescue Director Creamer reported to Council the City Clerk had told him that she didn't realize and didn't think Council understood the total cost for all department heads to attend the Certified Public Manager's course was \$4,000.00 each and she had asked him to clarify for the record. He went on to explain the amount discussed last meeting was for Course 1. He stated there is a cost for Course 2 which could be budgeted next year. Council Member Fountain asked about signing a contract for reimbursement if a department head left employment within a specified time frame. Other options for training were also discussed. Council Member Gillespie moved to rescind the motion to allow attendance until more information on other available classes and budgeting could be looked at. Council Member Fountain seconded the motion which was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Mayor Hayes informed Council the Fire Department needs a gas leak detector. Fire Chief Latimer presented a quote in the amount of \$2,098.00. Council Member Lee moved to approve the purchase. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion which was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Recreation Director Adams reported on preparations for Christmas decorating.

Mayor Hayes called for public comments.

Chamber President Carl Corey reported on Christmas events and the Veteran's Day parade.

Council Member Bixby moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fountain and was unanimously approved. Council adjourned at 7:25 p.m.