

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

MINUTES

The Geneva City Council met in regular session on June 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.

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 the minutes of May 20, 2024, as presented. Council Member Coleman seconded the motion which was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Mr. Austin Hill appeared before Council to request the street going to the cemetery in the old Baptist Bottom area be repaired and asked if the cemetery could be cleaned of old limbs.

Mrs. Tewanna Marks-McElwee appeared before Council to outline a planned event called Calling all Neighborhoods scheduled for October 4th and 5th. She stated the event has a planned parade and she will work with the Police Chief to develop a route as it will deviate from the standard route.

Council Member Fountain presented a request for use of Robert Fowler Park on July 20th by Johnson Controls. Council member Gillespie moved to authorize use at no cost. Council Member Lee seconded the motion which was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Ms. Starr Bowan with MDI appeared before Council to explain that Tuesday's garbage route will be changed to Monday and Wednesday. Notification to customers was discussed.

Council Member Tidwell moved to approve the March financials as presented. Council Member Fountain seconded the motion which was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Mayor Hayes reported on the following:

- Splash pad opening
- Engineering contract for phase II of the park
- Airport sign

- Bridge project
- City Hall project
- New restaurant coming to town
- Phase II park project
- Proposed dog park

City Clerk Johnson reported she has new district maps for distribution. She reported she has submitted all documents for the grant for vans for the senior center and requested approval to order and issue payment for the vans out of the reserve fund. Council Member Gillespie moved to authorize purchase from the reserve fund. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion which was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

City Attorney Gray reported on Court and land purchase for the airport.

Council Member Coleman ask about repairs to the windows at the senior center. He stated he would like to see the City purchase portable bathrooms instead of renting them as they can be used for events. Council Member Coleman inquired about the status of a nuisance complaint to Pine and Hillcrest. He asked about having water ran under the road to the middle open area of Fowler Park.

Council Member Gillespie reported she has time this summer to work with the City Clerk about starting to work on the rescue department receivables and billing and asked the Clerk to get with her on some dates. She stated she was glad to see growth in the downtown area with the new splash pad and new businesses opening.

Council Member McCoy questioned the placement of a mobile home on Ward Street and reported a grass complaint on Highland Avenue. He stated he would like an executive session at the end of the meeting.

Mayor Hayes reported bids for the Water Works and Sewer Board project in the DEVCO area should be let in 30 days.

Council Member Lee stated he has received several positive comments on growth and progress in the City.

Council Member Tidwell discussed the need for additional personnel in the recreation department due to the department taking over park maintenance. He stated that since the custodial employee in the Clerk's office is performing custodial work at the senior center the vacant custodial part-time position in that department may no longer be needed. Council Member Tidwell moved to amend the manning document and budget to remove the part-time custodial kitchen aide position from the senior citizens department and add a part-time recreation specialist II position to the recreation department at the rate of \$14.00 per hour. Council Member Bixby seconded the motion which was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Council Member Tidwell commented on the splash pad and reported on a discussion with a new citizen and why he chose to relocate to Geneva. He reported the asphalt on Hospital Drive has made a big difference on drainage.

Council Member Bixby reported a complaint on Highway 85 around the old ammo shop.

Council Member Fountain reported nuisance complaints on Pleasant Street and Hart Street. He requested dirt for a wash out on Forrest Street at the Gaulin property.

Mayor Hayes requested a load of top soil for Head Start if any is available.

Council Member Coleman discussed drainage behind the Magnolia Market and Johnson and Fleming Streets.

Mayor Hayes asked that everyone keep Library Board Member Paula Crews and her family in their prayers as well as employees James Bell and Clint Owens.

Building Inspector Wuest reported the mobile home in question was not on Ward Street but on a street off of Ward Street and should be zoned. How the mobile home is positioned was questioned. Council questioned if a permit was obtained.

Recreation Director Adams reported on the splash pad and upcoming All-star tournaments.

Chief Mock gave an activity report and stats for the month of May. He reported on National Night Out and the Jr. Police Academy. Chief Mock reported some cars are finally available on state contract for vehicles approved in FY23. However, the cars available are not the color and contain some additional equipment from what he had originally ordered. The cost difference for repainting and other cost is approximately \$7,858.00. He asked for approval of the purchase as there is not an anticipated date for any other cars being available. Council Member Gillespie moved to authorize the difference in price and purchase of the available units. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fountain and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Chamber President Corey reported on the upcoming July 4th activities.

Attorney Gray stated an executive session was in order as discussion met the criteria of possible litigation. He estimated executive session to last approximately 20 minutes and that some action may follow and Council would reconvene. Council Member McCoy moved to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fountain. Mayor Hayes called for a roll call vote with the following results:

Ayes: Council Members Lee, McCoy, Gillespie, Tidwell, Bixby, Fountain, Coleman
Nays: None

The Mayor declared the motion passed and executive session approved. Executive session began at 7:40 p.m. Council Member McCoy requested Police Chief Mock remain in the meeting. The Mayor, all Council Members, City Clerk, City Attorney and Police Chief remained in attendance.

Council Member Bixby moved to adjourn executive session. The motion was seconded by Council Member McCoy and was unanimously approved. Executive session adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Council Member Tidwell moved to submit a claim to insurance and to authorize payment if it is not covered by insurance. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee and was approved by a five (5) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes and Council Members McCoy and Coleman abstaining.

Council discussed the end of the trial period for the four (4) day work week for the street and sanitation departments. Council Member Tidwell moved to end the four (4) day work week and go back to the five (5) day schedule. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fountain and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Council Member Tidwell moved to grant Good Friday as a holiday for City employees. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee and was approved by a seven (7) to zero (0) vote with Mayor Hayes abstaining.

Council Member Bixby moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee and was unanimously approved. Council adjourned at 8:10 p.m.