

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

January 4, 2023 – 7:00 PM

Public Safety Building
255 Exchange Street
Geneva, NY 14456

Presiding – Steve Valentino, Mayor

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Regan, Clr. Gaglianese, Clr. Camera, Clr. Brimm, Clr. Burrall, Clr. Pealer, and
Clr. Noone

Absent: Clr. Salamendra

2. PUBLIC HEARING - Application to the New York State Office of Empire State Development for Round 7 of the Restore NY Communities Initiative Funding

Mayor Valentino opened the public hearing at 7:03pm. With no comment offered at this time, he closed the public hearing at 7:04pm.

3. DRI UPDATE

Thank you, Mayor and City Councilors and good evening. On behalf of the DPW, Barton & Loguidice (B&L) and Nardozi Construction, we want to please wish all residents, business owners and visitors a happy and healthy new year.

WORK COMPLETED TO DATE:

As of Wednesday 12/28/22, the contractor has completed 88% of the proposed work. The current Pay Estimate # 15, dated December 20, 2022 shows completed work to date was \$8.9 M out of \$10.2 M. Routes 5&20 traffic signal upgrades and the Bozzuto Rain Water Collection system installation are progressing. Granite paver accents have been installed.

The contractor has submitted requests for substantial completion acceptance, pay quantity discrepancy review and contract extensions of time which are all being investigated. Substantial completion will be granted when all traffic signal work has been installed and accepted.

UPCOMING WORK SCHEDULED:

Contract 1, "5&20 Corridor" continues to be in Phase 1C. Work Zone Traffic Control will continue until all proposed traffic signal work can be properly installed.

Contract 2, "Street Scape and 5 Points" continues to be in Phase 2C. Work is not yet completed on all traffic signal upgrades.

CONCERNS:

BUZZUTO – Rain Collection Structure is not completed,

ELECTRICAL – Subcontractor traffic signal material and equipment delays continue

BUDGET - Anticipate that all final completed contractor work to come in right at or just under the original base bid of \$10.2M to approximately \$9.8.

4. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Gaglianese; seconded by Clr. Regan

MOVED THAT the minutes of the December 7th Council Meeting be approved

**ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye – Clr. Camera, Clr. Regan, Mayor Valentino, Clr. Gaglianese,
Clr. Burrall, Clr. Pealer, and Clr. Brimm**

Abstain – Clr. Noone

Absent - Clr. Salamendra

MOTION CARRIED

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered at this time

6. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Tax Payments

The Comptroller's office is aware of a technical issue that occurred when preparing the 2023 Tax bills. We are currently working with our software company to correct the situation and will be sending out corrected bills within the next few days on colored paper to help residents identify the updated bill. As a result, we have paused accepting payments and will provide a brief extension to the January 31 deadline to allow residents time to make the initial payment, without any penalty. Thank you for your patience.

Staffing

The Comptroller's Office is welcoming a new Finance Clerk II on January 23, 2023. The office will be reorganizing and welcoming the Senior Account Clerk previously housed in the Human Resources office into the Finance Department. This position will bring payroll back under the Comptroller's Office. We look forward to this fully staffed.

We will begin the search for the Deputy Director of Human Resources in the coming months.

The search for a Director of Planning and Economic Development and Senior Clerk will resume in the coming month. I will be convening the internal and external panel participants in late January to revamp the position announcement for the Director position. The Senior Clerk will likely be posted provisionally as we have exhausted the civil service list of tested candidates.

We will be remodeling the first floor of City Hall to accommodate the staffing changes and to bring the finance team together.

Marina Project

We have just received correspondence from the Army Corps of Engineers to allow us to seek permitting to carry out the work related to the docking system/marina. The permits will allow the city to begin the process to implement the marina as proposed in the DRI submittal which was previously approved by Council. Our team will be reviewing the next steps with our consultants and bringing forward those steps to the members of council. According to our grant financing, the project must start in 2023.

2022 Successes

City Manager Hendrix provided council with success lists as prepared by each department.

7. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 335 ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC" OF THE GENEVA MUNICIPAL CODE

City Manager Hendrix presented the following ordinance for second reading:

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Geneva, New York that Chapter 335, entitled "Vehicles & Traffic" of the City of Geneva Municipal Code be amended:

WHEREAS, the City Code section 335-16 subdivision C, currently states as follows: No vehicles shall be parked on any other street in the City of Geneva between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. except during the months of April, May, June, July, August, September, October and November.", and

WHEREAS, the City Director of Public Works recommends the City Council adopt weather event parking regulations.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS ORDAINED, as follows

- A. Section 335-16 subdivision C of the Geneva City Code, be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
 1. No vehicles shall be parked on any other street in the City of Geneva between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. during a Weather Event except during the months of April, May, June, July, August, September, October and November.
 2. Weather Event Regulations

- a. For purposes of this article, a Weather Event shall be defined as a period of snow, sleet, freezing rain, ice, and any other weather event which results or reasonably can be expected to result in accumulation upon a street or highway of snow or ice. A Weather Event shall continue until such time as the City streets are fully cleared.
 - b. A Weather Event shall be declared by the City Manager or a designated person after consultation with the City Director of Public Works and the Chief of Police. A Declaration of a Weather Event may include specific directions to the Department of Public Works and the Police Department concerning how the Weather Event regulations shall be enforced. In the absence of such a direction from the City Manager, the City Director of Public Works and the Chief of Police shall determine how the Weather Event regulations shall be enforced
 - c. Official notification of a Weather Event will be posted on the city website and through alternative notification and social media systems.
 - d. It shall be unlawful and a violation of this article for any person to park or leave standing any vehicle on any of the public streets or state highways maintained by the City of Geneva within the confines of city limits during a Weather Event while the Department of Public Works plows, salts or engages in other activities to clear City streets and highways.
3. State of Emergency.

In the event the State of New York or any other authority declares a state of emergency due to serious snow, ice or similar events which is communicated to the public through the news or other media, the notice requirements of this Article shall not apply, and any vehicle found parked or standing on or upon a public street or state highway maintained by the City of Geneva within the confines of city limits shall be removed at the owner's expense, without any prior notice, and in accordance with the city's Ordinance governing the removal and impounding of vehicles, and all applicable rules and regulations governing removal and impounding of vehicles. No Official Notification by the City shall be required if a state of emergency is declared by the State of New York.

4. Enforcement.

In addition to enforcement provisions set forth above, the provisions of Article VI of this Chapter pertaining to Weather Events and States of Emergency shall be enforced in accordance with the provisions of this Code, including but not limited to Section 335.27 and Article VII of this Chapter. In the event the City is obligated to institute or defend a civil complaint arising out of enforcement, all attorneys' fees, disbursements and costs incurred by City of Geneva with respect to instituting or defending such action shall be the responsibility of the violator."

Any vehicle found parked or standing on or upon a public street or state highway maintained by the City of Geneva within the confines of city limits during a Weather Event or a State of Emergency, shall be removed at the owner's expense, without any prior notice, and in accordance with the city's Ordinance governing the removal and impounding of vehicles set forth in Section 335.27 A and C, and all applicable rules and regulations governing removal and impounding of vehicles.

B. Section 335-27 subdivision A of the Geneva City Code, be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Authority to remove and impound vehicles. When any vehicle is parked or abandoned on any highway in the City during a Weather Event or a State of Emergency as defined in Section 335-16 subdivision C or during a snow storm, flood, fire, or other public emergency which affects that portion of the public highway upon which said vehicle is parked or abandoned, or when any vehicle is found unattended on any highway in the City where said vehicle constitutes an obstruction to traffic, or when any vehicle is parked or abandoned on any highway or parking lot in the City where not duly registered or not displaying registration and plates or is parked or abandoned on any highway or any City property, said vehicle may be removed and impounded by direction of any police officer of the City to any place or garage designated by the Chief of Police.

C. Section 335-27 subdivision C of the Geneva City Code, be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

“C. Storage and charges. After removal and/or impoundment of any vehicle as provided in this section, the vehicle may be stored in a suitable place at the expense of the owner. Such owner or person in charge of the vehicle may redeem the vehicle upon payment of all expenses actually and necessarily incurred in effecting such removal and storage, including the total cost of towing, including an additional charge for flatbed or dolly, and any charges for storage.”

City Manager Hendrix said this ordinance includes an amendment to section 335-27c that refers to towing as was discussed at the last meeting. The code gave dollar amounts for towing services that were outdated, so the new code will just say at the cost of towing.

Mayor Valentino said that moving this from a pilot to wording in the code will give residents an opportunity to park on streets during non-snow events.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Noone; seconded by Clr. Gaglianese

MOVED THAT this ordinance be approved for second reading

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

8. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION TO THE EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT FOR RESTORE NY ROUND 7 FUNDING

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva submitted an Intent to Apply for Restore NY Funding to Empire State Development (ESD) for Round 7– Restore NY – Community Initiative (“Restore 7”), which was announced on October 28 for the Pretzel Logic project (“Project”);

WHEREAS, the Project will be located at 88 Middle Street (Tax ID 104.8-3-16) and the adjacent parcel (Tax ID 104 8.3-15.100), located in Ward 6 (“Property”);

WHEREAS, the Project involves the redevelopment of a vacant building into a space for Pretzel Logic, LLC to support growth and development;

WHEREAS, the Project meets the criteria set forth by ESD for Restore 7, which is intended “for the sole purpose of revitalizing urban and rural areas, disadvantaged communities, and stabilizing neighborhoods”;

WHEREAS, the Restore 7 criteria also states that “an important goal of Restore NY is to revitalize urban centers, rural areas, and disadvantaged communities. It is anticipated that upon completion, the projects funded by Restore NY grants will attract individuals, families, and industry and commercial enterprises to the municipality. It is further anticipated that the improved community and business climate will result in an increased tax base thereby improving municipal finances and the wherewithal to further grow the municipality’s tax and resource base, lessening its dependance on state aid”;

WHEREAS, the Restore 7 guidelines further state that “[s]trong emphasis will be placed on projects from economically distressed communities . . . [and] project feasibility and readiness”;

WHEREAS, the Project is located in Ward 6, which is an economically distressed area of the City;

WHEREAS, the proposed private financing for the Project is sufficient for it to be a viable project;

WHEREAS, the Project facilitates effective and efficient use of existing and future public resources so as to promote both economic development and preservation of community resources;

WHEREAS, the Project develops and enhances infrastructure and/or other facilities in a manner that will attract, create, and sustain employment opportunities within the City of Geneva;

WHEREAS, the Geneva City Council supports the creation of additional employment opportunities in Ward 6;

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva held a public hearing to receive comments from the public on the Project, the anticipated Restore 7 Application, as well as the Property that is the subject of the anticipated application; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Geneva will submit a Restore 7 application for funding in the amount of approximately \$1,840,000 to support the Pretzel Logic, LLC Project which has a total anticipated cost of \$2,055,000.

Nichola Ostrander who is representing Pretzel Logic told council that they are looking to expand their business at 88 Middle Street as their current location at the GEDC building can't support them now. She said the building requires a lot of construction and rehabilitation to bring it back to life along with expansion. When Clr. Burrall asked how many employees they currently had, Ms. Ostrander said they had 20 employees, but needed to downsize and loaned some of those employees out to another manufacturing company with the intention of bringing those employees back and adding 15 more employees over the course of 5 years.

**ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Gaglianese; seconded by Clr. Noone
MOVED THAT this resolution be approved
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)**

9. RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MIDEY, MIRRAS AND RICCI, LLP AS THE GENEVA CITY ATTORNEY

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, in 2015, City Council shifted its legal services delivery platform to a public-private partnership model, challenging the private sector to deliver a high level of service in a cost-effective manner; and

WHEREAS, the City Council designated the firm of Midey, Mirras, and Ricci, LLP as its counsel under the aforementioned model; and

WHEREAS, the firm has delivered on its challenge relative to cost effectiveness and service delivery.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geneva City Council, hereby and in due form does designate the firm of Midey, Mirras, and Ricci, LLP as the Geneva City Attorney with all the powers set forth in City Charter section 7.5 for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, with a monthly retainer of \$7,500 for 50 hours of work, an over retainer fee of \$150 per hour.

City Manager Hendrix said that she recently met with our attorneys to see how the current process is working. She noted that if council were to look at making changes to the current system, staff would look at the options and bring information, along with doing a request for proposals, to council to help make a decision. She said she plans to meet regularly with the attorneys to make sure our needs are being met to our satisfaction. She also noted there will always be times when we need to go to outside council for different reasons.

Mayor Valentino explained that this resolution is normally done once at the start of the council term along with designating a newspaper and financial institution, but for some reason was done two years ago for a one-year term, and this is being done tonight to keep that appointment as it was budgeted for in 2023.

**ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Noone; seconded by Clr. Gaglianese
MOVED THAT this resolution be approved
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)**

10. RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE INCREASE OF THE PERMITTED LANDFILL HEIGHT AND EXTENDED LIFE OF SENECA MEADOWS INC

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Seneca Meadows Inc. (SMI) is seeking to increase the life of its existing landfill ("Landfill") located at 1786 Salcman Road in the Towns of Seneca Falls and Waterloo, Seneca County, New York, and

WHEREAS, the project would add approximately 47 million cubic yards of air space used for the disposal of non-hazardous residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial wastes in the proposed SMI Valley Infill Area ("Valley Infill"), and

WHEREAS, The Valley Infill will involve the construction of approximately 47 acres of newly lined landfill area, as well as overfilling above approximately 191 acres of currently permitted landfill area, and

WHEREAS, an increase in the existing maximum permitted Landfill height by about 70 feet, and

WHEREAS, the type of waste being received at the facility (Municipal Solid Waste) and the approved design capacity of the Landfill, which is 6,000 tons per day (TPD), would not change, however, Landfill operation would be extended approximately 15 years, depending upon the waste volume received in a given year; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of SMI are felt by Geneva residents due to the proximity of the waste as well as environmental impacts of SMI; and

WHEREAS, the project sponsor must obtain the following project approvals from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ("NYSDEC"): modification of its existing Solid SMI Facility permit under 6 NYCRR Parts 360 and 363 ("the Part 360/363 permit"); its existing Title V permit under Environmental Conservation Law Article 19 ("the ATV permit"); a Change-of-use approval for the Tantalio Landfill Class 4 Superfund Site; and coverage under the SPDES MultiSector General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Industrial Activities (GP-0-17-004). SMI must also obtain approval from the Town Boards of Seneca Falls and Waterloo ("Town Boards") for the Site Plan for the Valley Infill project Landfill. In addition, the Site will require Site Plan Approval from each Town's Planning Board, and the Project will also require Special Use Permit approvals from the Seneca Falls Zoning Board of Appeals and the Town of Waterloo. In addition, the project sponsor must also undergo an obstruction review by the Federal Aviation Authority ("FAA"); and

WHEREAS, traffic to and from the existing Landfill site, together with odors emanating therefrom, already negatively impacts surrounding roads, air quality and environmental conditions in the immediate area adjacent to the neighborhoods adjacent thereto; and

WHEREAS, The City of Geneva is not currently named as an interested party, however the residents of the City will be directly affected by the award of approval or by failure for SMI to receive the approval; and

WHEREAS, the impact of a landfill decreases the value of properties, increase greenhouse gases, and provide the potential for additional toxins to impact our community;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The City of Geneva does hereby oppose any an increase in the existing maximum permitted Landfill height by about 70 feet, as well as the extension of the life of the landfill by approximately 15 years, without due consideration of its impact on adjacent neighborhoods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Geneva seeks to be named as an interested party due to the impacts on our community and therefore directs the City Manager to work with the DEC to achieve this designation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Geneva directs the City Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Town Boards of Seneca Falls and Waterloo and the Seneca Falls Zoning Board of Appeals and the Town of Waterloo, and the Seneca County Board of Supervisors.

City Manager Hendrix told everyone that the DEC is currently receiving comments on the Seneca Meadows project. This resolution serves as an opportunity for the Geneva City Council to oppose the requests being made by Seneca Meadows and allow the city manager to seek interested party status which would place us on distribution lists regarding the landfill and make us an interested party insuring it is clear the landfill does impact us.

Clr. Camera said he would like to see a resolution supporting the Seneca Falls passage of Local Law #3 supporting the closure of the 2025 permit.

Clr. Burrall said that the long-term impact of closing the landfill is changing human behavior. We all need to look at the way we purchase, recycle and reuse. He encouraged everyone to change their behavior and think about composting.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Camera; seconded by Clr. Gaglianese
MOVED THAT this resolution be approved
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)

11. RESOLUTION APPROVING AN OPIOID SETTLEMENT AGAINST TEVA AS PRESENTED BY LITIGATION COUNSEL

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva has participated as a litigating subdivision municipality in the opioid litigation currently pending against the named defendants in the In Re National Opioid Litigation, and

WHEREAS, the Cherundolo Law Firm, PLLC, and Brindisi, Murad, Brindisi & Pearlman, LLP, together referred to herein as “Litigation Counsel”, represent the City in connection with actions pending against the opioid manufacturers, distributors, sellers, and retailers of opioids, and

WHEREAS, an agreement of settlement has been proposed on behalf of the defendant, Teva, , in accord with the terms and circumstances as laid out by Litigation Counsel, and

WHEREAS, City Manager Aimee Hendrix and John C. Cherundolo, Esq., of the Cherundolo Law Firm, PLLC, having presented the complete settlement proposal submitted by settling Defendants to the City Council on or about the ____ day of January, 2022, and

WHEREAS, Litigation Counsel has been advised that they will not have the same option of applying to New York State for their attorney fees as they did with previous settlements, and, as such, Litigation Counsel will be paid from the City of Geneva’s settlement proceeds in accordance with our retainer agreement. However, the New York Teva settlement will likely be included in a national settlement, and, as such, the attorneys fees will be limited to 15% of the recovery, plus disbursements.

WHEREAS, the settlement against Teva calls for payments to be made to the City of Geneva over the course of 18 years, as set forth in the schedule below, , upon application of the City to the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (“OASAS”). an amount totaling \$12,515.11, assuming full participation as described in the TEVA/New York Statewide Opioid Settlement Agreement:

City of Geneva							
	Total	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Premium Regional Spend via OASAS	\$12,515.11	\$1,877.27	\$1,877.27	\$288.81	\$288.81	\$288.81	\$288.81
Total	\$12,515.11	\$1,877.27	\$1,877.27	\$288.81	\$288.81	\$288.81	\$288.81
City of Geneva, Cont.							
	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Premium Regional Spend via OASAS	\$288.81	\$288.81	\$288.81	\$288.81	\$288.81	\$288.81	\$288.81
Total	\$288.81	\$288.81	\$288.81	\$288.81	\$288.81	\$288.81	\$288.81
City of Geneva, Cont.							
	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040		
Premium Regional Spend via OASAS	\$288.81	\$288.81	\$1,668.68	\$1,668.68	\$1,668.68		
Total	\$288.81	\$288.81	\$1,668.68	\$1,668.68	\$1,668.68		

WHEREAS, Litigation Counsel has negotiated with, and has reached a tentative resolution with the State of New York for a Teva/New York Statewide Opioid Settlement Agreement concerning the settlement of claims against Teva, and

WHEREAS, releases and other documents are required to be executed and delivered to The State of New York Attorney General's Office and the settling Defendants on or before January 9, 2023 to effectuate the aforesaid settlement,

NOW, THEREFORE, this matter being fully discussed and agreed upon by the City of Geneva Council, it is hereby

RESOLVED that the City of Geneva agrees to resolve and otherwise accept the settlement proposal presented by Litigation Counsel with regard to the opioid settlement with the defendants named above and the same be and hereby is, approved, and it is further

RESOLVED that Aimee Hendrix, City Manager for the City of Geneva; Midey, Mirras & Ricci, LLP, City Attorney for the City of Geneva; and John C. Cherundolo, Esq. litigation co-counsel for the City of Geneva in the Opioid Litigation, be, and the same hereby are, duly authorized and empowered to enter into any settlement agreements to effectuate the aforesaid settlements, and to enter into the Teva New York Global Payment Opioid Settlement Sharing Agreement; the Teva New York Premium Payment Opioid Settlement Sharing Agreement; and to execute the New York Subdivision Settlement Participation Form and to otherwise execute and deliver such releases, waivers, agreements, or other documents to effectuate the aforesaid settlement as presented, and deliver such agreements and other documents as may be necessary to have the settlement effectuated with full participation on or before January 9, 2023

Attorney John Cherundolo told council that this is another settlement resulting from litigation against opioid companies. Cristen Mendoza said that the sum the city will be collecting in this guaranteed settlement will be \$12,515.11. She said that by virtue of our population and because we filed suit, the state agreed to this amount for litigating subdivisions. She said that Geneva will now need to apply to the Office of Addiction Services and Support, and her firm is in the process of obtaining details and will be updating the city soon. Mr. Cherundolo added that his firm has the availability to make application to the Federal NDJ Lawsuit for their fees as well.

**ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Noone; seconded by Clr. Pealer
MOVED THAT this resolution be approved
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1absent)**

12. BOARD/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Gaglianese; seconded by Clr. Noone

**MOVED THAT Geoffrey Geiger, Christina DeJesus and James Petropoulos be appointed to the Board of Ethics, and Peter Gillotte be appointed as an alternate to the Board of Ethics
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)**

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Camera; seconded by Clr. Gaglianese

**MOVED THAT Sid Moore and Alton Pace be reappointed to the Human Rights Commission
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)**

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Gaglianese; seconded by Clr. Camera

**MOVED THAT Dana Hollenbeck be reappointed to the Local Development Corporation
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)**

13. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Clr. Gaglianese expressed his concern with the corner of Pultney and Washington Streets on the northeast corner with a car being parked there, and he feels there should be no parking at that location for safety reasons. He also referred to the intersection of West Street and William Street saying there should be a four-way stop since it is so close to a school. He also said with regard to emergency response agencies, the city needs to find ways to help fund them because every second counts when responding to emergencies.

Clr. Brimm said he agrees with Clr. Gaglianese and also feels the crossing guard's safety is important.

Clr. Camera agreed with the crossing guard safety issue as well. He said that the county is doing a housing assessment study, and he and Clr. Salamendra met with Ryan Davis – Economic Development, Ontario County and Alissa Bub – Deputy Administrator, Ontario County on Jan 3rd. He read a report from the Ontario County Economic Development Office:

“Ontario County has initiated a county-wide Housing Needs Assessment and retained an experienced consultant, Urban Partners, to assist in that effort. The purpose of the study is to provide data to stakeholders about the current housing stock and new construction offerings, identify existing and anticipated housing needs to highlight disparities between availability and need, identify the factors contributing to that disparity, and develop strategies to address those factors. Ultimately, the project will document existing housing conditions, identify market and other forces that affect supply and demand now and, in the future, identify gaps in maintaining equitable access to safe, resilient, and reliable housing, and identify opportunities for improving and expanding housing options.”

An important part of the process involves gathering input from the public about their housing experiences in Ontario County. The Housing Survey was created by Urban Partners to capture that feedback and help them develop a clearer understanding of a diverse and complex housing market. The survey gathers

information about residents' current housing situations and future plans. The survey also asks about barriers to purchasing and renting, issues surrounding senior housing, and more. Ontario County requests that you please take a few minutes to complete the housing survey and distribute it to your friends, relatives, and colleagues. The more responses received, the more accurate the representation of the housing needs will be. The survey is anonymous and responses are confidential. It would be GREAT if the city was willing to help spread the word on their website and/or social media accounts.

Clr. Camera encouraged residents to type in "Ontario County Housing Survey" in Google that takes you to the county website and then go to the bottom of the page to see the link to the survey. He referred to Clr. Salamendra's information at a prior council meeting where hundreds of hotel rooms are being used for single parents with multiple children to live in for months and months. He said this survey will come up with multiple strategies to address this problem.

Next, Clr. Camera referred to the transportation study and moving the railroad and that the Steering Committee members are: Tom Harvey – Dir. Of Planning, Ontario County., Jodie Bennix - Genesee Transportation Council, Lora Leone – NYS DOT, Ron Allen - Town of Phelps, Robert McCarthy – Town of Geneva, Mike Cheney – Village of Phelps, and Robert Camera – City of Geneva. He pointed out the objective of the project will be to identify potential rail-enabled industrial development sites along the Finger Lakes Rail and Norfolk Southern Rail Corridor in the studied area. Development capacities will be developed for the candidate properties and their impact of supporting transportation infrastructure evaluated. Comprehensive plan and zoning changes will be recommended to support the proposed development. At the same time, options for either relocating the existing Finger Lakes Railyard away from Seneca Lake will be sought and compared to options for improving the aesthetics and connectivity between the City of Geneva's northeastern neighborhoods from the lakefront. Options for rerouting the Finger Lakes Railyard to eliminate its route within the core downtown area of the City of Geneva will be sought and compared to the cost for making any identified improvements to the rail geometry, signage and operations in the city's downtown area to improve rail/vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian safety.

Lastly, Clr. Camera said he wanted to reaffirm his oath of office that he took when he was elected in 2019. He said he will do his best to not step on those rights when helping city residents.

Clr. Regan announced that the kick-off for the 125th Celebration of Geneva as a city took place on New Years Day and the spirit was wonderful. She said that anyone who has lived in a home that has been here since 1898 can pick up a sign at the Clerk's Office to put in their front yard. She said that most of what the committee planned for will be February 27-March 4. She said that individual organizations are making plans along with businesses. She gave council a tentative agenda that will be updated once finalized. She noted that on March 4th, there will be a community gathering at 4:00pm to view a video of then and now. She told everyone that on that day in 1898, John Philip Sousa played on stage at the Smith Opera House. She said that there will be cake and a cocktail party along with fireworks. She announced there are currently items for sale such as magnets, coffee mugs, hats, scarves, and koozie holders. Clr. Regan said that the Green Committee did not meet, but they are looking to hold the Mission Zero event on April 22nd at the Recreation Complex. She commented that this is council's final year and she has looked back at things council has hoped to get done. She said she hopes to relook at the composting facility at Doran Avenue to see where it stands. She referred to Joule Assets coming to last months council meeting to give an update on the Community Choice Aggregation Program.

Clr. Pealer extended a thank you to Clr. Regan and the volunteers and staff for the kick off of the 125th party noting that the term for a 125th anniversary is “quasquicentennial.” He said the Recreation Board did not meet, but he had an update from the Director of Recreation saying that over 270 people skated January 1st for free as part of the 125th celebration. Clr. Pealer said that the marina is important to him along with the commercial activity that will be cultivated by it, and he would like to see mobile vending and commercial activity to keep the marina viable. He said, per the Recreation Director and the YMCA, the gold card memberships will continue this month noting that at their peak, they had over 250 residents signed up. He said that people can call the YMCA at 315-789-1616 or the Recreation Department at 315-789-5005 with questions. He said that spring signups start in February including learn to skate and over the hill hockey, and their next board meeting will be January 18th. Clr. Pealer said that the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board talked about nonparticipation rates of our workforce, and he said they offer free training, and residents can go to www.fingerlakesworks.com for information on this training. He said they are discussing marketing initiatives and changing their website as well as creating youth events.

Clr. Burrall thanked Clr. Gaglianese for the issues he brought up tonight on traffic control noting that he has had great success in the past working with Mark Perry and Joe Venuti and suggested he call Mr. Venuti. He thanked Clr. Camera for mentioning the survey on housing. He announced the next blood drives will be January 10th at the Presbyterian Church from 1-7pm, January 25th at Geneva General Hospital from 10-4, and January 26th at FLCC from 1-6pm. He said the BID reported that the Local Development Corporation and the Industrial Development Agency agreed to help fund the 2023 beautification plan put through and proposed by the executive director, Catherine Price, and he thanked those community partners. He said the BID is currently planning their Winter Arts Festival February 4-11 which will include Ontario County restaurant week in conjunction with the Ontario County Chamber of Commerce. He said there will be a film festival, art walk, lantern parade to terminate on Linden Street with an ice bar. Clr. Burrall announced he has \$150 from firewood sales for the Shadetree Committee expenses. Lastly, he said that life is stressful and he enjoys being a spectator at athletic events. He said the Hobart Men’s Hockey team is currently the number 1, Division 3 team in the United States, and he invited all to attend January 20th at 7:00pm to support the team, noting that there is no charge to attend or park.

Clr. Noone said he attended the 125th celebration and applauded Clr. Regan for her efforts as well as the committee members and those involved. He said he has questions about the housing situation for our county supervisors and he was discouraged that we do not have the press releases like Seneca County encouraging people to get out and fill out the survey. He said he would also like to see more options for people to complete the survey like Seneca County is offering. He said he seconded the traffic proposals by Clr. Gaglianese and he mentioned an issue with turning right onto Lyceum Street from Brook Street with two cars parked there it makes it difficult to turn. He said he spoke to business owners about salting their sidewalks and referred to a discussion he had with the former City Comptroller about the BID possibly taking over all of the snow removal downtown, but the discussions never finished. He said he would like clarification as to what BID’s role is and would like to see this communicated to business owners so they are not questioning. He also seconded Clr. Pealer’s mention of increasing activity at the lakefront. He would like to see pavilions, grills, a public beach and more. Clr. Burrall referred to Clr. Noone’s mention of

misinformation on the BID website because as far as he has known the BID has never removed snow from sidewalks. He said he will address the inaccuracies with the BID. He noted they only clean and salt sidewalk corners at crosswalks.

Mayor Valentino referred to Clr. Burrall's mention of the Hobart hockey team being 13-0 and number one in the country and this being phenomenal. He wished them well moving forward. He thanked Clr. Regan for taking the lead on the 125th kick off. He said he attended the 100th Anniversary in 1998 at the Smith Opera House noting that he was also invited to Geneva Switzerland to do a celebration of Geneva's of the World including 28 Genevas, and he said he feels we are the most beautiful Geneva in the world. Lastly, he mentioned the city manager has purchased a home in the city, and he looks forward to seeing her in the city.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Spink said that he is grateful that this council chose him to serve on the Police Budget Advisory Board and he would like to make comments tonight on behalf of himself and not the board he is a member of. He said he is happy to see the restoration of Robert Maclean and James McCorkle to the board. He said he hopes council takes to heart the lessons learned over the past few months. He said he considered resigning when these two men were removed from the board because felt like the board was being made into a political punching bag noting that the board does not function like a political body. He said most of the board's decisions have been passed unanimously with the best interest of the city in mind, and he feels that Mr. Maclean and Mr. McCorkle are thoughtful and earnest along with all of the other members. He said it is worth remembering that the board does not have any policy making authority and only makes recommendations which council is free to reject. He said he wanted to address an email reported by the Finger Lakes Times. He said while he is very grateful for the chief of police and all he does to keep the city safe, he does not feel the chief is in a position to make demands of council about the composition of the board. He said he feels the board is more interested in finding creative solutions rather than creating an adversarial relationship with law enforcement. Lastly, he mentioned the intersection of William and Pulteney stating people may think it is a four-way stop.

15. ADJOURNMENT

**ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Noone; seconded by Clr. Gaglianese
MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:06pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)**

Lori Guinan

City Clerk