

# THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

## JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

### SPECIAL COUNCIL WORK SESSION

July 11, 2022 – 6:00 PM

City Hall – Second Floor Conference Room  
47 Castle Street  
Geneva, NY 14456

Presiding – Clr. Camera

#### 1. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Regan, Clr. Noone, Clr. Burrall, and Clr. Salone

Absent: Mayor Valentino, Clr. Pealer, Clr. Salamendra and Clr. Gaglianese

#### 2. DISCUSSION – SOLID WASTE HAULER LICENSING

Clr. Camera welcomed members of Lyons Road and Nardozzi trash companies to the meeting. He said he feels that all of council agrees on the environment and taking care of trash to keep our city beautiful.

Clr. Noone said that it would have been helpful for council members and haulers to receive a copy of the contract/license prior to the meeting so the meeting could have been streamlined. He said he is in favor of one city-wide hauler like the City of Auburn, which has a great model. He said they pick up trash Tuesday thru Friday and yard waste collection on Monday. He said they do not collect black trash bags and recycling is picked up bi-weekly. He said they also offer a large bulk item pickup. He said he feels our current contract is minimal and said the wording in article three of the city code should be part of the contract.

Clr. Regan said the quantity of haulers needs to be addressed noting that the laws are changing soon, and she would like to see Geneva get ahead of this. She stated that Lyons Road Trash offers a pay-as-you-throw service, and she feels that should be put in the ordinance. She said that stickers on the toters are important and now that we have a compost facility, it would be good to have the haulers agree to collect compost material and take it to the Resource Recovery Park. She suggested providing haulers an incentive for collecting compost.

Clr. Salone said he thought this meeting was to discuss increasing the number of licenses in the city, noting that the other issues brought up tonight could be addressed at a future meeting. City Manager Hendrix said that if council gives her the direction they would like to go, staff could do the research and provide feedback to council at a later date. Clr. Burrall noted that the current system was working fine until

there were issues with some businesses having trouble with their service, and council needs to solve an immediate problem in our city.

When asked what the issues were, Clr. Salone said that one hauler wouldn't pick up trash if it was on the side of a dumpster. Other issues were short staffing and trash not getting picked up regularly, especially during COVID. Joe Venuti, Director of Public Works, told everyone that the issue staff has is that one company controls 75% of the hauling in the city, so when there is an issue with that company's service, it becomes a real problem for our city.

Clr. Camera said that the city needs to create a level playing field as most of the haulers in the city are doing what they are supposed to, so he is not in favor of an unlimited number of haulers. He said he is more in favor of five or six of each, residential and commercial. He does not want to see companies come and go if the market does not suit them.

City Manager Hendrix asked how staff would handle issuing the licenses if two haulers come in at the same time. She noted that this ties into the idea of expanding the number of haulers. She questioned if the current haulers would have to reapply for a license or if they would automatically be renewed. She questioned what a hauler in good standing would look like. She said that council needs to think about the ramifications of their decisions. Clr. Camera said he feels staff should make a lot of these decisions.

Clr. Salone said he is looking to expand to 6 licenses while making sure that the companies who have no complaints are able to renew with no penalty. Clr. Camera said he agrees with adding one or two more haulers.

Clr. Regan said she feels it is important for the haulers tonight to hear council's concerns about things like diverting from the landfill. She also asked the haulers in the room if they had the ability to take on more customers if a current license holder had their license taken away. They both said they could, but it would take time. James Nardoizzi told council that some of the complaints received by the city could possibly be directed to the DEC or the DOT. He also suggested looking into foreclosing on the company's bond with the city in the event a hauler has too many violations against them.

Clr. Noone asked Mr. Venuti how many complaints he is receiving, and Mr. Venuti said since May 2020, the bulk of the complaints have been about trash left on the side of containers, but he gets very few with regard to residential pickup. Clr. Noone said that a rating system needs to be created so all haulers are playing by the same rules, and more language needs to be put into the license including consequences for not following the rules. Mr. Venuti asked to clarify to everyone that code enforcement can only enforce the code as it reads, but they cannot change the existing code. City Manager Hendrix explained that these haulers are applying for a license to serve or community, but some of the other things being talked about make it more of a contractual obligation and not a license. She said we can put restrictions on the license application, but we need to be cautious about putting a rating system on it. Mr. Nardoizzi added that our language could include that haulers must comply with NYSDEC requirements.

Clr. Camera said that looking at the most recently drafted ordinance, he feels there is agreement to expand to 6 separate licenses, so he would like staff to go back and amend the wording for the next meeting.

3. ADJOURNMENT

**ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Salone; seconded by Clr. Noone  
MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:26pm  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY(5-4absent)**

*Lori Guinan*

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City Clerk