

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

September 21, 2022 – 6:00 PM

Cornell Agritech Campus, Jordan Hall  
630 W. North Street  
Geneva, NY 14456

Presiding – Steve Valentino, Mayor

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Regan, Clr. Gaglianese, Clr. Noone, Clr. Burrall, Clr. Camera, Clr. Brimm,  
Clr. Salamendra (via Zoom), and Clr. Pealer (arrived at 6:06pm)

2. RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING IN CONNECTION WITH AN APPLICATION TO THE  
NYS OFFICE OF EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT FOR RESTORE NY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE  
FUNDING

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, economic development, the creation of economic opportunity and housing are key priorities of the City of Geneva and the Geneva City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the public interest of the citizens of Geneva to enhance housing, business and economic opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 3, 2022 the City Manager was authorized to submit the intention to apply for the 2022 Restore NY funding in anticipation of supporting the project on 36 Middle Street; and

**WHEREAS**, the funding agency requires a Public Hearing be held to collect citizen feedback on the community and needs of the City of Geneva and the proposed project prior to submission of said application;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that a public hearing be held on October 5, 2022 at 7pm pursuant to New York State Open Meetings Law and the requirements concerning the proposed application for NYSESD Restore New Your Communities Initiative.

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

3. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON THE 2023 BUDGET

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, City Council has received the City Manager's budget proposal for 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Charter calls for the scheduling of a Public Hearing to hear comment on the budget proposal in advance of budget adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council anticipates adopting the 2023 budget at a special meeting on or before October 26, 2022.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Geneva City Council, hereby and in due form does set a Public Hearing on the City Manager's Budget proposal for 2023 for 7:00 p.m. on October 5, 2022 at Jordan Hall, 630 W. North Street, Geneva.

**ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Brimm; seconded by Clr. Gaglianese**

**MOVED THAT this resolution be approved**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)**

4. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR A LOCAL LAW OVERRIDING THE PROPERTY TAX CAP

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, City Council has identified "Beautification", "Upgrades and Maintenance", and "Lakefront Enhancement" as their priorities for the next twelve months; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2023 budget calls for an investment plan to address each of these priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, revenues necessary to fund these investments include property tax revenues that may exceed a statutory cap set by the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS**, override of the property tax cap will require adoption of a local law, and holding of a corresponding public hearing.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Geneva City Council, hereby and in due form, does establish a public hearing to receive comment on the property tax cap and use of the override mechanism, and directs the City Manager to schedule the hearing for October 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

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

**MOVED THAT this resolution be approved**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1 absent)**

## 5. PRESENTATION OF 2023 BUDGET PROPOSAL

City Manager Hendrix began by telling council that of the 13 categories of retail spending tracked by the Census Bureau, eight rose in August, and the food and beverage retailers were up 7.2% over the past year. She said that sales increased at restaurants and bars and car dealerships by 2.8% on the month. She said that spending on building materials and equipment, clothing and sporting goods also rose. She said as of July the unemployment rate for Ontario County is at 8.7% with NYS at 4.8%. She said the labor force participation rate (LFPR) is making a steady increase in New York and in August the LFPR was up to 60.6% up from 59.3% in August of 2021, noting that LFPR includes those who are actively looking for jobs as well as those currently employed.

Ms. Hendrix noted that the inflation rate remains high as the yearly rate of inflation in the United States slowed but remained high at 8.3% (down from a 40-year high of 9.1% in June). She said that higher inflation means higher costs for items like groceries, shelter, clothing, and medical care. She said that the stock market has shown a year-to-date loss of 11%. She explained to council that our major budget drivers are sales tax, labor costs, and council priorities.

Ms. Hendrix said that sales tax for Ontario County continues to rise from 2021 levels, and they have seen a 7.8% increase in sales tax over January – August 2022 from the same period in 2021. She noted that sales tax growth has slowed down in recent months.

City Manager Hendrix said that the labor costs are based on negotiated salary and wages done with the unions. She said that their 2023 increases range from 1.5% to 2.75%, and the city currently has the equivalent of 129.5 full time, non-seasonal employees and the budget proposal includes 131.5 full time, non-seasonal employees. She noted that there are currently 11.5 vacancies.

Ms. Hendrix said that the goal for the 2023 budget is to invest in the human capital and infrastructure of the City of Geneva to ensure our resources are effectively and efficiently maintained, providing value for our residents, businesses and visitors. She said that in preparing the budget, she and the comptroller conservatively forecasted revenues in all three funds, they are looking to invest in our people and partnerships to continue a shift from reactive services to proactive services, they are asking difficult questions of our departments and trusting our leaders to share the critical needs that have been delayed due to declining budgets, increasing expenses, and deferred maintenance. She said she is looking to rebuild our reserves and limit use of reserve funds to pay for ongoing expenses, instead this budget asks our community to invest in ongoing expenses with ongoing revenues.

City Manager Hendrix said that in 2023, she would like us to invest in infrastructure while continuing the 2023 capital plan, provide contractual support for landscaping and an arborist, investment in our systems to increase productivity, enhance Human Resources through staffing and recruitment efforts, and increase professional development opportunities. She said she would also like a review of our current practices and activities to make results driven decisions regarding our lakefront, zoning, and recreation facilities, an expanded partnership with the BID to support the beautification of our downtown, Farmer's Market expansion to include weekday markets, succession planning for the workforce, and equipment replacement for our teams.

Ms. Hendrix said that the proposed budget is for a total of \$18,819,432 with the recommended tax levy being \$8,380,544.43. She said this would increase the tax rate from \$16.76 to \$17.16 per \$1,000, and the impact for the owner of a median priced home of \$101,000 would be a \$39 increase. She said the

budget does not propose an increase for water and sewer budgets, and it would follow the previous capital plan for 2023.

Ms. Hendrix said the upcoming budget work sessions will be September 26<sup>th</sup>, October 19<sup>th</sup> and October 26<sup>th</sup>, all at 6:00pm. She asked council to share which department or budget items they would like to discuss during the work sessions through emailing Erica Collins in the City Manager's Office prior to the session. She said the public hearing will be October 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm.

6. ADJOURNMENT

**ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Noone; seconded by Clr. Pealer  
MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:40pm  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Lori Guinan*

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City Clerk