

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

October 5, 2022 – 7:00 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. Pealer, Clr. Noone, Clr. Camera, Clr. Brimm, and
Clr. Salamendra (via Zoom, left at 8:30pm)

Absent: Clr. Burrall

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

**MOVED THAT council move to executive session at 6:30pm to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of the civil service law
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-2absent)**

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

**MOVED THAT adjourn executive session at 7:00pm and return to regular session
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-2absent)**

3. PUBLIC HEARING – NYS Office of Community Renewal for CDBG Funding

Mayor Valentino opened the public hearing at 7:03pm, and with no one wishing to speak, he closed the public hearing at 7:04pm.

4. PUBLIC HEARING – Restore NY Funding

Mayor Valentino opened the public hearing at 7:04pm, and with no one wishing to speak, he closed the public hearing at 7:05pm.

5. PUBLIC HEARING – 2023 Budget

Mayor Valentino opened the public hearing at 7:05pm.

Amara Dunn said I live in Ward 4, and I am speaking solely on my own behalf tonight. When I watched last week's City Council work session, I heard a lot of discussion about safety. Hopefully regardless of our different ideas on many other issues, we can all agree that we want everyone in Geneva to be safe. I would like to encourage City Council to think more expansively about how we might make our beautifully diverse city safe for everyone. Funding additional positions in the police department might feel like an easy way to "check the safety box". But safety for everyone in our city is much more. Are we able to support robust and effective responses to mental health crises? Are we caring for the mental health of our first responders? Do residents have adequate access to food, clothes, and safe housing? Are landlords maintaining their properties so that buildings are adequately heated and free of pests? Do all of our children have the resources and support needed to reach their full potential? Is the quality of the water in Seneca Lake being protected and improved? How do City policies and practices impact the ability of future generations to live on and enjoy the lands and waters we are stewarding? Do all residents need the same things in order to feel safe? Or am I assuming that if I feel safe, so must everyone else? Are we listening to, believing, and acting on the stories of our neighbors when they tell us they do not feel safe? I realize that City Council cannot address all of these questions, and certainly not in the next few weeks as the 2023 City Budget is finalized. However, I suspect that both potential future business owners and potential hires at existing Geneva businesses are considering a much broader definition of safety. I hope City Council will too. Thank you.

Gary Baxter said I am at the budget meeting tonight to talk about public safety. I cannot speak to you with greater urgency. I come to you with a warning and to put you on notice that I truly believe people will be harmed or worse if you do not adequately fund our police department. I have lived in Geneva for 66 years and have served with our local fire department, been an EMT, a police officer for the city, and served on city council as a councilor-at-large. It is time that we start to respect our officers and give them the tools that they need to do their job. Crime has not slowed down in this nation at all. In the past few weeks, we have had several dangerous situations occur in our city where weapons have been involved and people's lives have been put in jeopardy. Our police department is one of the best in New York and at present time, understaffed. When I was on the department, we had 34 officers for the Geneva police department. It is my belief that we are currently at 27 with two officers out on leave. I was here a short time ago asking that our police department be brought back to full staff and because of covid or budgetary reasons that did not happen. With the shootings at Courtyard, Greenhurst St, and other sections in the city, crime is becoming more and more present. Our police officers are working overtime to protect the citizens of Geneva which costs the taxpayer more money than if we were up to full strength with our police department. As city councilors you have a responsibility to make sure that the citizens in the city are protected to the best of your ability and reducing the size of the police department (or defunding the police) is not what needs to be done. It costs money to have a police department and this needs to be done. With officers leaving and transferring to other police

departments we need to stop and think what we are doing. It is time that we listen to our chief with the respect that is due to him and not try to force him or other police officers out of Geneva. You have a very competent city manager that you have hired to run the city, so let her do her job. Thank you very much for allowing me to speak tonight.

With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Valentino closed the public hearing at 7:11pm

6. PUBLIC HEARING – Local Law Overriding the Tax Cap

Mayor Valentino opened the public hearing at 7:11pm, and with no one wishing to speak, he closed the public hearing at 7:12pm.

7. SUPERVISOR UPDATE

Supervisor Petropoulos referred to last month when he told everyone about a community survey the county was doing saying that the county was pleased to receive 368 responses. He announced that Assemblyman Gallahan was collecting pet items at his office on Elizabeth Blackwell Street for the local Humane Society, Ontario County Public Health will be holding a rabies prevention clinic on October 15th from 9am to 12pm at 2962 County Road 48, and there will be a confidential document shredding event on October 7th from 10:30am to 1:30pm or until the truck is full at the County Transportation Department at 2930 County Road 48. He also announced an E-Waste collection event on October 22 at the Ontario County Landfill, and residents need to register with the Cornell Cooperative Extension at 585-394-3977 ext. 427 thru October 19th. He reported that the mattress recycling event was a success with 165 mattresses collected and recycled. Lastly, he gave a shoutout to the Partnership for Ontario County opening a second youth club house in Bloomfield. He said that they provide a safe space for youths 12-17 years of age to talk. He said that there is one in Geneva at 21 Worthington Ave, and information can be found on their website: www.partnershipforontariocounty.org.

8. DRI UPDATE

Thank you, Mayor and City Councilors and good evening. On behalf of the DPW, our consultant Barton & Loguidice (B&L) and our contractor Nardoizzi Construction, we want to please thank all residents, business owners and visitors for their continued patience while the DRI project continues to progress.

WORK COMPLETED TO DATE:

As of the last Progress Meeting which was held Thursday September 22, 2022, the contractor has used 95% of the contract time and has completed 73% of the proposed work. The current Pay Estimate # 12, was dated September 14, 2022 and completed work paid to date was \$7.39 M out of \$10.1 M. The

current contract substantial completion date is at end of October 2022. The contractor has submitted requests for contract extensions of time which are being reviewed.

UPCOMING WORK SCHEDULED:

The current Contract 1, "5&20 Corridor" Phase is in Phase 1C. The contractor is working on the west bound lane of Rtes. 5&20. Work continues on storm sewer upgrades, underground electrical work, cycle track paving, landscaping. PLEASE NOTE** Be advised that nightwork is part of the Phase 1C - Work Zone Traffic Control Plan. The contractor is expected to utilize an approved short-term detour for planned night time asphalt milling and hot mix paving. We anticipate October 10th -21st for the scheduled night work.

The current Contract 2, "Street Scape and 5 Points" is in Phase 2C. Work continues on finalizing all decorative features, landscaping, brick pavers, sidewalk, signage, and green infrastructure along Castle and Exchange.

CONCERNS:

BUZZUTO – Electrical conflicts being reviewed

ELECTRICAL – Subcontractor material and equipment delays

PAVEMENT MARKINGS – Coordination with subcontractors for final paint

9. FOUNDRY UPDATE

Remedial Design

- NYSDEC's engineering contractor continued remedial design activities for remaining properties located south of Lewis Street on Genesee, Geneva, and Tillman Streets. Remaining structural inspections will be completed this fall. Remediation of these properties is expected to be implemented in 2023.
- Remedial designs are also being prepared for 60 Middle Street, a large open parcel which has served as a project staging area. Trailers, materials, and equipment will be removed from the parcel later this fall, and remedial excavation is anticipated in late 2022 or early 2023.

Remedial Construction

- Restoration activities, including fence installation, paving, etc., continued at properties located on Exchange, Wadsworth, and Middle Streets, north of Middle Street. Remaining restoration items will be completed this fall, with the exception of some plants and trees that will be planted in 2023.
- Excavation activities commenced at Genesee Park, beginning with areas outside the park fence. The public sidewalk on the Genesee Street side was removed during excavation activities and has been replaced. Excavation within the park is anticipated to last 3-4 weeks. NYSDEC's portion of

the restoration of the park is anticipated to be substantially completed in early November 2022. The project team continues to coordinate with the city DPW regarding park enhancements to be installed after remediation.

- Excavation activities began on the partial block of properties south of Lewis and west of Genesee. Work will continue on some of these properties until November and some of these properties will be remediated in early 2023.
- Excavation is expected to begin this month at St. Peter's Church and at properties west of the church along Lewis and Genesee Streets. Restoration will be substantially complete before the project's winter shutdown.

10. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

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

MOVED THAT the minutes of the September 1st and 6th Council Meetings be approved

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

Abstain – Clr. Salamendra, Clr. Pealer, and Brimm

Absent – Clr. Burrall

MOTION CARRIED

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

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

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

Abstain – Clr. Brimm

Absent – Clr. Burrall

MOTION CARRIED

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

MOVED THAT the minutes of the September 13th Council Meeting be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1absent)

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

MOVED THAT the minutes of the September 21st Council Meeting be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-1absent)

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

MOVED THAT the minutes of the September 26th Council Meeting be approved

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

Abstain – Clr. Salamendra

Absent – Clr. Burrall

MOTION CARRIED

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

12. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Updates

- Internal and External teams met with candidates for the Director of Planning and Economic Development.

Adopting a new city-wide zoning plan

- We are in the process of reviewing and responding to the questions submitted by the BID and others regarding the proposed zoning plan with our consulting group.
- Our goal continues to be to bring it to Council soon after budget, with staff and community recommendations/concerns. From there Council can determine the final direction for the update prior to adoption.

Supporting beautification efforts throughout the city

- 29 Linden: The City Manager, Local Development Corporation (LDC), and property owner and his colleague/previous owner of the property met last week to discuss 29 Linden. The property owner has no current plans for the property as the expense to develop the space may be too significant to have a return on investment. He continues to hold the property in hopes of being able to develop it.
- Genesee Park: Attached are the documents outlining the improvements to Genesee Park. There has been a lot of activity in the park this week and the documents outline what will be happening in the park as the renovation continues.

Continuing to focus on the infrastructure and the ways our infrastructure supports Geneva

- Last week City staff, Closed Loop Systems, Ontario County, and community committees met with Dareth Glance from the DEC to showcase the work of the cities composting program. There was acknowledgement of the work that we have done as well as discussion of the next phases of waste reduction for NYS and the city.

Completing the Downtown Revitalization Initiative Projects.

- Representatives from the Department of Budget and Department of State toured the DRI sites on Tuesday evening. They were impressed with the ways that the funds were able to be used to further the current projects and discussed future DRI opportunities. While we cannot apply for funding in the same areas, there are opportunities to further our DRI zones.

- Our next budget session will be on October 19th. We have received a few additional questions regarding – recreation, compensation, fleet management, police insurance, and short-term rentals. As additional questions come in staff will prepare information for council for each session. If you would like to meet with Stefanie or I prior to this session, please let us know so we can schedule these conversations.
- Due to medical and personal leave our front desk is continuing to experience challenges with staffing. The team in City Hall has been able to provide assistance and customers are still finding success as they work with us. Please send our appreciation to your constituents for their patience during this challenging time.
- October 3rd at 10am we will be swearing in Recruit Officer Michael Shugars. Michael is going to work internally at the PD until October 26th, which is when he begins training at the police academy in Monroe County. If successful, Michael will be back here on FTO late winter/early spring.
- Fall leaf and yard debris collection began on Monday, October 3 and runs through December 2 (Weather Permitting)
- Fire Prevention week is October 9-October 15th

13. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION TO THE EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT (ESD) FOR RESTORE 6 FUNDING FOR THE MIDDLE STREET APARTMENTS PROJECT

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 6 – Restore NY – Community Initiative (“Restore 6”), which was announced on July 11, 2022 for the Middle Street Apartments project (“Project”);

WHEREAS, the Project will be located at 36 Middle Street (Tax ID 104.8-3-8.1) and the adjacent parcel with the mailing address of 107 Wadsworth Street (Tax ID 104.8-03-04), which has been combined into one parcel with the mailing address of 36 Middle Street, located in Ward 6 (“Property”);

WHEREAS, the Project involves the redevelopment of a vacant dilapidated building into nine (9) apartments, and creation of off-street parking for the apartments;

WHEREAS, the Project meets the criteria set forth by ESD for Restore 6, which is intended “for the sole purpose of revitalizing urban and rural areas, disadvantaged communities, and stabilizing neighborhoods”;

WHEREAS, the Restore 6 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 dependence on state aid”;

WHEREAS, the Restore 6 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 consistent with the City of Geneva’s Comprehensive Plan;

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, especially in Ward 6;

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, and specifically in Ward 6;

WHEREAS, the Geneva City Council supports the creation of additional housing opportunities in Ward 6, and specifically on Middle Street;

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest of the citizens of Geneva to create additional housing opportunities on Middle Street and increase the tax base;

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva held a public hearing to receive comments from the public on the Project, the anticipated Restore 6 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 6 application for funding in the amount of approximately \$960,000 to support the Middle Street Apartments Project.

When asked by Clr. Camera, David Linger told council that the project will be in excess of \$1.6 million, and they are hoping for \$960,000 from the grant. Clr. Regan thanked Mr. Linger saying that this is an exciting project for the city.

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

14. RESOLUTION CLASSIFYING THE CITY OF GENEVA'S BROWNFIELD OPPORTUNITY AREA OPEN SPACE AND CONNECTIVITY STRATEGY AS A TYPE I ACTION UNDER SEQRA AND AUTHORIZING GENEVA CITY COUNCIL AS LEAD AGENCY

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva intends to adopt the *City of Geneva's Brownfield Opportunity Area Open Space and Connectivity Strategy*, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Geneva has expressed its interest and intention to undertake an environmental assessment of the proposed plan under the auspices of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"); and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the proposed plan qualifies as a Type 1 Action under SEQRA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Geneva, New York that the *City of Geneva's Brownfield Opportunity Area Open Space and Connectivity Strategy* is classified as a Type 1 Action pursuant to SEQRA and further consents to act as Lead Agency.

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

15. LOCAL LAW OVERRIDING THE PROPERTY TAX LEVY LIMIT

City Comptroller Newcomb presented the following local law:

WHEREAS, the State of New York has enacted General Municipal Law requiring that municipalities, with certain exceptions, caps the growth of the property tax levy; and

WHEREAS, the statutory formula for calculation of permitted property tax levy growth requires the City of Geneva to roll back property tax rates to stay within statutory caps; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager's 2023 proposed budget forecasts the need to exceed the statutory property tax levy cap.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED:

Section 1. Legislative Intent.

It is the intent of this local law to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the City of Geneva pursuant to General Municipal Law § 3-c, and to allow the City of Geneva to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2023 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by General Municipal Law § 3-c.

Section 2. Authority.

This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law § 3-c, which expressly authorizes the City Council to override the tax cap by the adoption of a local law approved by vote of sixty percent (60%) of the City Council.

Section 3. Tax Levy Limit Override.

The City Council of the City of Geneva; Ontario County is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2023 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise proscribed in General Municipal Law, §3-c.

Section 4. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjusted by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 5. Effective date.

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Clr. Camera said that he is going to oppose this as he does not want to exceed the tax cap. He said he thinks the budget is excellent, but he feels with the reserve having almost \$3 million for emergencies he thinks we have enough to give taxpayers a break. He said that it is time to give something back to the taxpayers, and he would like to see if we can present a 0% increase. He would like to take \$500,000 to \$900,000 from the fund balance to balance the budget noting that fund reserves accumulate when we don't spend all the money from previous budgets. He would like to use that money to send a signal that the city does not always raise taxes.

Clr. Pealer said that he is pretty fiscally conservative, and he feels council votes for this tax cap override, not to give blank checks to staff, but to prevent us from getting hit with penalties from the State. He noted that he does not support wasteful spending.

Clr. Regan said she feels it is possible to get below the 2%. City Manager Hendrix told council that in future years, she would like to see this local law presented prior to the city manager's budget being prepared, because if council does not approve a budget, we will revert back to the city manager's budget. She noted that council could repeal this local law if they can get the budget under the 2% increase.

Mayor Valentino asked where the current budget was with regard to the increase, and Comptroller Newcomb said it was at 2.89%. Mayor Valentino said that council has never not voted to override the tax cap, and it would be irresponsible to not approve tonight. He then noted that the general fund balance should be between 12 and 16%, and we are currently at the low end of 12%. He said that council has been warned in the past that one-time expenditures are okay to use general fund money, but not for repetitive costs because the expense doubles in the second year to the citizens.

Clr. Salamendra said she hears what is being said, but this is a protest of a budget that raises the taxes. She said it makes no sense to raise taxes to fund more positions when we have positions that cannot be filled as that is not a good use of taxpayer funds.

Clr. Camera asked why we shouldn't take the money from the fund balance that is always there to take us under what we need to avoid penalties. City Manager Hendrix cautioned against using reserve funds because the number in the budget is less since that money has been used throughout the year. Mayor

Valentino told council that the city was in trouble in 2012 when an audit was done, and we were mandated to rebuild our reserves. He noted that other factors come in to play when we are talking about a larger fund balance, such as getting better bond ratings and loan rates.

Clr. Gaglianese said that no one wants to raise taxes, but we need to be realistic that people expect services for their taxes.

Clr. Noone said that he recently held town hall meetings and heard from residents that they expect a modest tax increase and do not want to see a large increase after years of no increases. He said that other comments were that residents want better services, a better quality of life, and don't expect something for nothing. He said that he received nothing but positive feedback and residents saying that we need to invest in our people and services. He said that we have operated at bare bones for too long, and residents do not want to see a 10% increase in the future.

Clr. Salamendra said that it is important to hold the line and say to taxpayers that we can't afford to fund positions when we can't fill the positions we have.

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

MOVED THAT this local law be approved

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

Nay – Clr. Salamendra and Clr. Camera

Absent – Clr. Burrall

MOTION CARRIED

16. RESOLUTION DECLARING CITY EQUIPMENT SURPLUS PROPERTY

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva no longer has use for the following items:

- 2011 Chevrolet Caprice (VIN: 6G1MK5T21BL522929)
- 2009 Chevrolet Impala (VIN: 2G1WT57N191295693)
- 2013 Ford Explorer (PIU) (VIN: 1FM5K8AR9DGC41141)
- 2014 Ford Explorer (PIU) (VIN: 1FM5K8AR2FGA78500)

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Geneva, New York, that the above equipment be declared surplus property, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED the proceeds from the sale surplus equipment be placed in the Equipment Amortization Fund Account.

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

17. **DEFEATED RESOLUTION REQUESTING SUPPORT FOR NEW PLASTIC STRAW CONTROL LAW**

Clr. Camera presented the following resolution:

Purpose

The purpose of this resolution is to encourage our Geneva Supervisors to offer and then support a plastic straw control measure for application across the entire County. The gist of the resolution should be discussed and finalized by the Ontario County Environmental Quality Cmte. and then offered to the entire Board of Supervisors for passage.

Main Provisions

Whereas plastic straws have a significant impact on the environment both in their manufacture and also as waste that ends up as litter in our urban and natural environment and have been known to adversely affect fauna, it is desirable to control the wanton spread of this product.

Whereas plastic straws are offered at almost every restaurant and bar in our County without request, they proliferate in excess and become a significant element in the waste stream.

Whereas other counties in NYS (ie. Suffolk County) have passed this kind of legislation and as a result there are models to available.

Be it resolved that it is desirable to limit the provision of plastic straws by restaurants and other large scale commercial eating establishments by not providing straws unless they are requested by the clientele.

Be it further resolved that the Geneva City Council asks the County of Ontario to develop and pass a law that will encourage change our County practices and as well as other Counties to follow suit and will by passage serve to support and encourage the passage of a Statewide law.

Clr. Camera told everyone that he would like to ask the county supervisors for their support in controlling the dissemination of plastic straws as they are a source of pollution. He noted that this does not prevent people in restaurants from asking for straws, this is just a way to reduce the use of straws. He said that based on data from the National Park Service, Americans use 500 million plastic drinking straws a day, and this resolution is a way of increasing awareness and asks our supervisors to do the research.

Clr. Pealer said he has concerns with restaurants being fined if they give out plastic stirrers. He said that council should not be dabbling in free enterprise noting that he spends a lot of time on the lake and there are other things that pollute our lake. He said that he knows of no studies that support the information provided, and he feels wood products require more carbon emissions. He said that we need to take a

close look at studies that have been done in other countries, and he does not feel the Health Department should be given this much power.

Clr. Regan said that she did not read this resolution the same way. Her understanding was that straws and stirrers would be available upon request. She said that this is really a recommendation for the county to consider. She said she feels this could help restaurants by not using as many straws. She said that this is just asking restaurants to change their training, noting that there are other kinds of straws allowed by this. She also said that this is just a recommendation to the county that they consider something that affects turtles and fish, and it is an easy, simple thing to do.

Clr. Noone asked if any local businesses were consulted or any other county supervisors. Clr. Camera said that they had not, but he feels the county will do a deeper dive into this with their resources. Clr. Noone said that he is about going green as his personal choice, but he is not interested in this proposed law as he feels it is up to the county supervisors if they are interested.

Clr. Salamendra said she has worked in restaurants for 20 years, and it is not a big deal for people to ask for a straw. She said that plastics are harming the environment, she supports this, and she thanked Clr. Camera.

Clr. Brimm voiced his concern for people with disabilities being able to communicate their need for a straw, and Clr. Noone said that it is too bad that the restaurant industry was not consulted on this.

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

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye – Clr. Regan, Clr. Salamendra and Clr. Camera

**Nay – Mayor Valentino, Clr. Noone, Clr. Pealer, Clr. Gaglianese,
and Clr. Brimm**

Absent – Clr. Burrall

MOTION DEFEATED

18. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Clr. Regan said that the Green Committee once again had their meeting with James Nardozi for an update on the Resource Recovery Park cancelled, so they reviewed their other activities. Their Native Plant Sale was a success, the planning for the Mission Zero Event has begun and will take place in the Spring. She said that three Hobart Environmental Studies majors have joined their committee. She reported that last month 13 volunteers installed the lakefront structure planters, and the week of October 10th more plants will be installed that did not come in for the last installment. She said the next event at the lakefront will be the Hobart and William Smith Colleges Day of Service on October 15th. Clr. Regan reported that she held a town hall meeting last night where most came to listen and learn about the budget, recreation, historic designation, and the Resource Recovery Park. She said she finds these meetings a wonderful way to meet with residents. She said she has assembled a committee to pull

together our 125th Birthday Celebration, and they will begin meeting next week. She said with January 1, 1898 being our official date becoming a city, they are planning something for January 1, 2023. She said they will be including the BID, school district, Historic Geneva, the Dove Block, and many others

Clr. Pealer said that the Recreation Board did not have a quorum, but they will be looking at research on national and local trends regarding recreation, noting that there is not much in the recreation budget after removing labor costs. Clr. Pealer said that he made assurances after being elected to focus on the economic situation in Geneva and the problem with focused poverty and the need for more access to jobs and training. He said he recently became part of the Ontario County Workforce Investment Board where they train people for careers and review the competitive nature of lateral transfers. He said with the cost of everything rising, there is a benefit to lateral transfers as employees come with experience. He said that the Fabrication and Manufacturing Organization will be holding an event at the Victor FLCC on October 27th and information can be found on the County Workforce Development website. He said that some information that has come out of their discussions is that upwards of 30% of high school graduates are now participating in the workforce or attending college. The Workforce Investment Board is doing some new marketing on social media. He said that people who are interested in the workforce can look at www.fingerlakes.skillupamerica.org to find paid workforce development programming. He said there are currently over 2000 good paying jobs listed on that site in our county. He said there was a great youth event at FLCC back in May called Finger Lakes Works With Our Hands with over 450 High School Students and over 140 exhibitors. Clr. Pealer read a letter he received in an email showing support for the police department and giving general concerns about the budget. The letter asked council to start supporting police officers and increase financial income of the city.

Clr. Noone said he had a few town halls with great conversations focused around the budget, our tax rate, diversifying our businesses, the HWS tax agreement, how the BID works, the need for water rescue, PILOTS, the Legion project and others. He said they heard from someone who does volunteer weeding who told them that the volunteer model is not sustainable. He thanked everyone involved in the bomb scare at the PSB yesterday saying that we need to keep in mind that rhetoric feeds in and leads to these types of events happening. He encouraged council members as a body that any time they hear hateful speech that they condemn it as these words fuel conflict.

Clr. Camera said that the Deputy Commissioner of the DEC who is in charge of environmental remediation and management was here and interested in seeing our vermiculture operation at the Resource Recovery Park. He said that members of the county attended and are interested in doing more with food waste. He said he learned that the Beyond 2023 Waste Plan draft from the State will be issued before the end of the year for public comment. He said that this is a chance to engage the state on their plan as they have discussed involving the school districts because some are already taking up food composting. He said that Tom Harvey told him that he is hoping to get a meeting together with the Lakefront Integration Committee before the end of the month. Clr. Camera announced that he will be holding a ward 4 meeting Saturday at 10:30am at city hall in the second-floor conference room to discuss the budget. He said that he sent out 60+ invitations to residents who are already on his mailing list. He said that he has constantly been pushing for us to grow out of our tax problems especially with the spot zoning for the legion property

while also encouraging economic development. He said that he does not consider us to be an unsafe community noting that council funded the nine vacancies. He said he feels the problem is finding people to apply for the positions. He said he looked at the Police Review Board as a way to get us closer to the police department. It was an opportunity for us to all work together and promote a conversation to adjudicate complaints against police officers. He expressed his disappointment that council did not vote to appeal the one judge's decision.

Clr. Brimm expressed his concern with yesterday's events at the police department saying that he is glad everyone made it home safely.

Clr. Gaglianese referred to the events of the past week in our city saying that he wants to take the time to personally show his appreciation to the police department and all first responders who are always here for us when we need them. He thanked the police chief and his staff for going to work every day. He said that he feels this council put us in the situation we are currently in and we need to get out of it. He said that if council wants economic development and beautification, they first need to staff the fire and police departments to get people to come here. He said he will keep fighting to get us to full staff, and he agrees that we need more mental health professionals in our policing. He noted that no one wants their taxes to go up, but costs are rising and taxes cannot go down.

Mayor Valentino said that the Local Development Corporation (LDC) met and he will have their report next month. He said the Industrial Development Agency (IDA) noted that the Geneva Enterprise Development Center (GEDC) is quiet right now preparing for winter. He said the IDA is looking at various prospects for open spaces there and are supporting beautification efforts. He said that there is an agreement with the current contractor of the 5 & 20 project to maintain the weeds on that stretch so we cannot have our volunteers weeding in that area. Lastly, the Mayor reminded council that their annual training for the city needs to be done and submitted to Human Resources.

Clr. Pealer asked for an update on the DRI project as it was reported that they are at 95% funding released with only 78% completion of the project. He asked what happens when we reach 100% of payment before the project is complete. City Manager Hendrix said there are a variety of factors and she will get more information for council.

Clr. Noone said he would like to see a meeting when the police study comes out so council and residents can get the information at the same time. Clr. Camera said he disagrees feeling that council should get the report first then do the meeting.

Clr. Regan echoed what the mayor said about the weeds on 5 & 20 noting that it is important that residents know we cannot touch the weeds at this point.

19. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered at this time.

20. ADJOURNMENT

**ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Noone; seconded by Clr. Camera
MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:04pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Lori Guinan

City Clerk