

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

October 20, 2021 – 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 (attended via Zoom), Clr. Camera, Clr. Gaglianese, Clr. Noone, Clr Pruetz,
Clr. Burrall, Clr. Pealer (arrived at 6:03pm), and Clr. Salamendra

2. 2022 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mayor Valentino said that staff brought reductions for the proposed budget yesterday, and council voted to add a few items back in, so staff brought back a second list of items to reduce the budget back to a zero increase. City Manager Gerling told everyone that they were able to get down to a neutral budget again tonight, but they feel these reductions take away from what we all want to achieve, noting that the flexibility staff has within the budget is minimal. She asked them to keep that in mind while moving forward. She said that council's questions from last night are answered in the handout she has given them.

Deletions/Additions

Item	Savings	Item	Savings
Deletions		Approved Additions	
<i>ONI - Neighborhood Revitalization</i>	\$ 3,000	<i>Heritage Trail</i>	\$ 8,000
<i>Personnel - Electronic Payroll</i>	\$ 35,000	<i>Trees</i>	\$ 20,000
<i>Cornell Ag & Food Tech Farm Park</i>	\$ 15,000	TOTAL	\$ 28,000
<i>Economic Development</i>	\$ 15,000		
<i>One Code Officer - Start in July</i>	\$ 33,989		
<i>Rec Supervisor - Start in March</i>	\$ 9,301		
<i>One MEO - Start in March</i>	\$ 11,636		
<i>One MEO - Start in May</i>	\$ 22,663		
<i>B&G Equipment - Loader</i>	\$ 30,000		
<i>B&G Equipment - Weed Steamer</i>	\$ 25,000		
<i>B&G - McDonough Park</i>	\$ 10,000		
<i>3/4 Ton Pickup</i>	\$ 40,000		
<i>Utility Vehicle w/ Trailer</i>	\$ 27,000		
<i>Management Training</i>	\$ 10,000		
<i>Communication</i>	\$ 10,000		
<i>Seneca Park Trail Project</i>	\$ 13,000		
<i>ONI Director - Start in Feb</i>	\$ 7,411		
TOTAL	\$318,000		

Provide information on Fire Companies expenditures for City funds in 2020.

Three companies (allocation amount):

- Nester Hose Co. No. 1 (\$11,000)
- C.J. Folger Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 (\$11,000)
- Hydrant Hose Co. No. 1 (\$22,000)

Additional info recap on Geneva Fire Department 2020 stats:

Department Calls & Details: 1531 Runs

- 60 Fires
- 12 Building Fires
- 37 Other Fires: outside fires, vehicle fires, natural vegetation fires, trash/rubbish fires
- **Hazmat Calls:**
 - Ethanol leak at Zotos
 - Fuel leak at Bryne Dairy
 - Large oil spill East Castle St.

Service Call Hours (Firefighter and Volunteer): 7,814.42 hours

Training Firefighters and Volunteers: 5,260.5 hours

How much do we get from the McDonough Park lease?

\$1 per year

Would delaying or removing items from the Capital Plan help get to a lower tax rate?

Not in 2022. Most capital projects are bonded for, with the first payment being in the subsequent fiscal year.

Why is Farmer's Market mentioned in Rec blurb?

We changed the funding line item from Rec to ONI and listed in ONI notes. We missed changing in the paragraph Rec blurb and will update for the final budget.

What rec programming is Rec blurb referring to?

Planned Recreation Program offerings 2022

Youth

Learn to Skate

Skating Lessons

Beginner Hockey

Birthday parties at the rink

Easter Egg Hunt

½ Summer Recreation with Field Trips to a State Park on Friday

Tennis Lessons

Youth summer soccer

Soccer tots
Fishing clinic
Halloween Parade
Halloween costume contest
½ Weekend Pop up day activities at various playgrounds. 8 Weekends in the Summer.
Touch a truck
Host Geneva Generals Youth Hockey over 100 Games and 175 Practice hours

Adults

Yoga at the Lake
Adult soccer
Adult co-ed softball
Adult box lacrosse
Adult Hockey League
Pickleball
Adult co-ed volleyball
Photography class
CPR/AED & 1st Aid instruction
Kanadasaga Dog Show
Boater safety
Stand up Paddleboard
Cake decorating
Flower arranging
Knitting for beginners
Painting classes – One Stroke, Theorem, watercolors
Concerts at Lakefront Park
Makers Classes
Century Tennis Tournament
Pickle Ball Tournament

Family / All ages

Movie Nights
Concerts at Lakefront Park
Painting Classes
Kanadasaga Dog Show
Bounce House at the Rink Free play
Lacrosse Tournaments

375 Hours of Public Skating open to everyone

What did ONI do?

ONI Neighborhood Involvement Items

(ONI was staffed April 1st for the GNRC side with no 2021 budget for programming. Had one member retire in April who oversaw admin reporting for most grants. Current City grant load is 18.)

- Farmers Market (impacted all neighborhoods)
 - Created new vendor guidelines
 - Established SNAP program
- Created & sent out neighborhood engagement survey (impacted all neighborhoods)
- Reconvened neighborhood leaders in May for planning meeting (impacted all neighborhoods)
 - Need for city financial assistance stated by N.L. (request made in 2022 budget)
- Assisted in coordination of 3 supervised play days at Gulvin Park (East Lakeview neighborhood)
- Onboarded new East Lakeview neighborhood leader (East Lakeview neighborhood)
- Continued assistance with city-wide greenway creation (impacted all neighborhoods)
- Helped in promotion of summer garden events organized by Blueprint (East Lakeview neighborhood)
- Facilitated lease of empty city owned lot to Blueprint for community garden/park (Downtown neighborhood)
- Geneva Heritage Trail creation (Trail located in South Lake, Downtown, Hildreth Hill, and Founders Square neighborhoods)
- Brought on & managed food access VISTA who leads city wide Geneva Food Task force (all neighborhoods impacted)
- ONI is project lead on the following state grants:
 - Zombie (all neighborhoods impacted by housing quality)
 - BOA (East Lakeview neighborhood impacted)
 - MAP (Downtown neighborhood impacted)
- ONI facilitates grant admin for the following grants:
 - Beach/Marina (all neighborhoods impacted)
 - Rts. 5 & 20 enhancement (all neighborhoods impacted)
 - BOA (East Lakeview)
 - Zombie (all neighborhoods impacted)
 - MAP (Downtown neighborhood)
 - Parrott Hall (Castle Heights)
- ONI is responsible for:
 - Housing quality training (all neighborhoods)
 - Housing quality survey (all neighborhoods)
 - NYSERDA fast charging stations (Downtown neighborhood)
- ONI is primary city liaison for the following committees:
 - All neighborhood committees (all neighborhoods)
 - Public Art (all neighborhoods)
 - Green Committee (all neighborhoods)
 - Housing Quality Task Force (all neighborhoods)
 - Events committee (all neighborhoods)

- ONI handled city administration, logistics, and support in 2021 for the following events:
 - Unification Day Softball Tournament (East Lakeview)
 - Ironman/Musselman (Downtown)
 - FLXcursion (Downtown)
 - Cubby Chase (Lehigh Gardens)
 - Drink Like a Girl 5K (Downtown)
 - Geneva Half Marathon (Downtown)
 - Hildreth Hill Food Truck Rodeo (Hildreth Hill)
 - Back-to-School Giveaway (East Lakeview)
 - Relay for Life (Downtown)
 - Outstanding in the Field/Geneva Community Table (Downtown)
 - Drumstock (Downtown)
 - Latino Festival (Downtown)
 - Safe Harbors Walk + Wag (Downtown)
 - Holiday Market (Upcoming event, Downtown)

Clr. Regan questioned two of the items being cut, the steam weed killer and the truck for bringing water to plantings, noting that council previously voted to eliminate use of pesticides, and both pieces of equipment would allow the city to honor that and maintain beautification. She made a motion to retain the water truck and steam weeder.

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

MOVED THAT the utility vehicle with trailer be added back to the budget to better maintain our parks

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

Nay – Clr. Camera

MOTION CARRIED

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

MOVED THAT the weed steamer be added back to the budget to better maintain our parks

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

Nay – Clr. Pealer

MOTION CARRIED

Clr. Salamendra said she asked the city manager for a list of what the recreation department did last year, but the list presented tonight has the plan for 2022. She said that she does not support giving out money

for contracts when we have a recreation department. She asked if the recreation department requires a full-time manager, noting that if this position only has time for the ice rink, that is a problem.

Clr. Pruettt said he would like staff to go back and look for \$700,000 worth of cuts from the proposed budget so council can whittle it down to \$290,000 and keep the tax rate at \$16.17.

Clr. Gaglianese said he does not agree with this proposal saying council needs to be smart and responsible noting that next year council may need to increase both taxes and water/sewer rates.

Clr. Camera said he agrees with Clr. Pruettt's request and said he would like staff to go back and come up with the numbers. He said he would like to look into consolidating ONI and the Recreation Department along with having the college take over the ice rink.

Clr. Salamendra said that the list presented tonight is not in line with council's values, and she would like to see more options.

Mayor Valentino said that staff has now brought \$406,016 in cuts, but council is asking for \$700,000. He said that the challenge now questions if council is representing the people who voted us into office. He said that he would love to be at neutral, but that can't always happen in order to provide the services that our constituents need and want.

Clr. Regan said that in terms of priorities, lower taxes is what she ran on in the election, noting that there are some big things in the budget that can be removed to get us to the zero percent increase. She suggested holding off the purchase of the pumper truck for another year.

Clr. Noone said that staff's job was to present council the best possible, fiscally responsible budget to move Geneva forward, and they did that. He said that cutting taxes will mean less services and a burden on staff of doing more with less along with not addressing aging infrastructure. He feels we will pay more in the long run.

Clr. Pruettt said that having \$700,000 presented to council will give council more to choose from when deciding what they want to end up with. He said that there is nothing in the budget about revenue production. He also said that one way to change the balance of numbers is with the rental license, assessments, and outsourcing. He said that council needs to set goals at the beginning of the year. He said that the right thing is to work for the taxpayers. He said he would like to see the City Manager bring back everything that was voted on already to allow council to pick the ones that are a priority.

City Manager Gerling told council that she and the Asst. City Manager will not include revenues in the budget until they have them, noting that they budget conservatively. She added that procedurally, she cannot bring back the items council already voted on. Mayor Valentino said that the initial direction given to staff was for a zero % increase as there were not 5 councilors who voted for the decrease. He said that

he is in favor of equipment amortization because if you trade in a piece of equipment at the optimal time for trade-in and purchase value, you can save taxpayers millions of dollars.

When Clr. Camera mentioned removing the pumper from the budget, Asst. City Manager Blowers explained that the truck is not anticipated to be out of commission tomorrow, but the longer we wait to replace, the more maintenance costs we will have. He said that with regard to maintenance costs, it could end up costing the same amount as bonding for a new vehicle. He noted that it would not impact the budget until 2023.

Clr. Noone said that many good points have been brought up tonight with regard to ONI and the Recreation Department, and he would like to see that whole discussion removed from the budget so it is not held up and brought up at a much larger discussion that may impact next year's budget.

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

MOVED THAT staff come back to the next meeting with \$700,000 in cuts to the proposed budget in an attempt to keep the tax rate flat

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

Clr. Camera said that she feels there are some revenue avenues the city can explore that she does not feel staff is aware of. Clr. Salamendra said she would like to address the votes from last night.

3. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:22pm

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye – Clr. Pruetz, Clr. Burrall, Clr. Gaglianese, Clr. Noone, Clr. Regan,

Mayor Valentino, and Clr. Pealer

Nay – Clr. Camera and Clr. Salamendra

MOTION CARRIED

Lori Guinan

City Clerk