

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 5, 2026

City Hall Council Chambers
109 James St., Geneva, IL 60134

CALL TO ORDER

The Geneva City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Kevin Burns at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Elected Officials present:

Alderspersons: Anaïs Bowring, Larry Furnish, Dean Kilburg, Brad Kosirog, William Malecki, Richard Marks, Amy Mayer, Jeff Palmquist, Martha Paschke, Mark Reinecke.

Mayor Kevin Burns, City Clerk Vicki Kellick.

Elected Officials attending by video or teleconference: None.

Elected Officials absent: None.

Others Present: City Administrator Alex Voigt, Assistant City Administrator Benjamin McCreedy, Attorney Ron Sandack, Public Works Director Rich Babica, Community Development Director David DeGroot.

Others attending by video or teleconference: None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Burns invited Larry Furnish to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, SPECIAL ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

None.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

None.

OMNIBUS AGENDA (OMNIBUS VOTE)

All Items listed with an asterisk () are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a council member so requests in which event the item will be removed from the Omnibus (Consent) Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda. All items on the Omnibus Agenda require a simple majority vote unless otherwise indicated.*

*APPROVE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 8, 2025 AND REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 15, 2025.

*REPORTS

September Financial Report

October Financial Report

*COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ITEMS OF BUSINESS (N/A)

Moved by Ald. Paschke, Seconded by Ald. Palmquist.

AYES: 10 (Bowring, Furnish, Kilburg, Kosirog, Malecki, Marks, Mayer, Palmquist, Paschke, Reinecke)

ABSENT: 0

NAYS: 0

MUNICIPAL BILLS FOR PAYMENT: \$2,544,440.33

Moved by Ald. Bowring, Seconded by Ald. Mayer.

AYES: 10 (Bowring, Furnish, Kilburg, Kosirog, Malecki, Marks, Mayer, Palmquist, Paschke, Reinecke)

ABSENT: 0

NAYS: 0

PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, OTHER ITEMS

Consider Ordinance No. 2026-01 Amending Title 11 (Zoning Ordinance) of the Geneva City Code, Section 11-2-2 (Definitions of Words and Terms) and Section 11-3-15 (Solar Energy Systems)

Moved by Ald. Paschke, Seconded by Ald. Malecki.

A friendly motion to amend the ordinance was agreed to by Paschke and Malecki to include the wording from Council questions and City Staff responses: “So that the first sentence in sections C (1), C (2), and C (3) will include, ‘Solar energy systems are only permitted on the principal building if roof-mounted. Roof-mounted solar energy systems may be permitted on principal buildings as well as accessory buildings and structures.’”

AYES: 10 (Bowring, Furnish, Kilburg, Kosirog, Malecki, Marks, Mayer, Palmquist, Paschke, Reinecke)

ABSENT: 0

NAYS: 0

Consider Resolution No. 2026-01 Declaring Surplus Public Works Items

Moved by Ald. Bowring, Seconded by Ald. Paschke.

AYES: 10 (Bowring, Furnish, Kilburg, Kosirog, Malecki, Marks, Mayer, Palmquist, Paschke, Reinecke)

ABSENT: 0

NAYS: 0

Recommend Resolution No. 2026-02 Supporting City of Geneva Commitment to Fund Phase II Design for the South Street and South Seventh Street Roadway Improvement Project Contingent Upon KKCOM Active Program Reclassification.

Moved by Ald. Mayer, Seconded by Ald. Bowring.

AYES: 10 (Bowring, Furnish, Kilburg, Kosirog, Malecki, Marks, Mayer, Palmquist, Paschke, Reinecke)

ABSENT: 0

NAYS: 0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Geneva Chamber board chair Mike Olesen stated that the Chamber looks forward to giving a presentation to the City Council in 2026. He also reminded everyone of Restaurant Week January 17 through January 25.

Resident Allen Lehigh invited the public to an upcoming event regarding his model of the Blacksmith Shop on the Mill Race property.

Resident Patrice Bertheau spoke on behalf of Geneva Voices and encouraged leadership to make transparency and communication a priority in regards to the bond referendum.

Resident Nancy Hayhurst noted that surrounding cities have addressed their citizens about their dams but that this hasn't happened in Geneva. She wondered why there has been an offer by the IDNR and a private citizen to revise the dam to remove safety concerns but that the offer was not considered.

Resident John Mazur stated that he moved to Geneva because of the river and that any information showing that dam removal will improve water quality is flawed. He stated that other dam removal test results show that removing the dam will make water quality worse.

Forrest Houk of One Energy Renewables stated that his company is the applicant behind Item 10a on the agenda. He invited the community to attend an open house at the Geneva Public Library on February 9 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. to ask questions about solar energy systems.

Resident Amanda Driscoll stated her opposition to the application for a day care facility at 501 Lark Street.

NEW BUSINESS

On a question by Ald. Kosirog, Admin. Voigt stated that the City can add a weekly update of the bond referendum for the public, mailers, community meetings and public tours of the police station will be scheduled. She also noted that the City website has been updated with information based on questions received from the community.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, moved by Ald. Kosirog to adjourn the Geneva City Council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote of those present.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Vicki Kellick
Geneva City Clerk