

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES**  
**February 4, 2019**

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT	ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT	STAFF PRESENT
Burns (chair) Burghart Clements Hruby Kilburg Maladra Marks McGowan Radecki Swanson Bruno Godskesen	None	Dawkins McCready DeGroot Passarelli

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Burns called the meeting to order at 7:25 PM noting all aldermen were present.

Recommend Suspending Robert’s Rules (Requires a 2/3 majority vote)

Moved by Ald. Marks, seconded by Ald. Bruno V/V: 10-0. Motion carried.

**2. DISCUSSION ON TOBACCO ORDINANCE**

Police Chief Passarelli spoke about the current ordinance, and the fact that vaping is a new practice which is not covered by the ordinance. The high school has asked for direction and assistance to develop a way to restrict the practice on school grounds, which cannot currently be enforced by either administration or the police under the existing ordinance.

Discussion that followed concerned whether Geneva should move ahead on an ordinance or wait until the State or other communities do so first. Peter Isaacson, Assistant Director of Community Health, Kane County Department of Health was present and reported that, even

when a community raises the age in isolation, studies show notable declines in nicotine consumption among teens.

After a lengthy discussion, the consensus of the council was to ask for a draft ordinance that would ban the purchase of tobacco-related products within the city by anyone under age 21. The council would then consider the draft and discuss it further.

Chief Passarelli stated that his department would work with city staff to produce a draft, modeled after the ordinance from the State which has not yet been adopted. The draft would include restrictions on vaping paraphernalia and also propose raising the age to 21 for the sale of tobacco related products.

### **3. DISCUSSION ON TRAFFIC SPEED CONTROL POLICY**

Police Chief Passarelli reviewed current speed limits in the city, how they are set and by which agency, noting there are state, county and local roads within the City. Passarelli said his department follows a policy set in 1996 which requires a speed study to determine whether a speed limit should be changed. Much of the discussion concerned the areas on and around Fargo Blvd. and Bent Tree Drive. Passarelli reported that a review last fall showed there were only two accidents on Bent Tree and two on Fargo. The causes were due to drunken driving, texting while driving, and reckless driving. Passarelli noted that there have been a lot of changes in the City, including population and traffic growth, since the 1996 study, and that complaints about speeding are the most common received by his department.

Ald. Clements spoke at length about the current standard the city uses for setting speed limits which was developed by the federal government based on traffic studies in the 1950's on rural roads and does not reflect current traffic patterns. Clements felt that the city should follow the IDOT approach which takes into account such characteristics as land use near roads, numbers of driveways and intersections, and come up with a new policy. He noted further that he has had to tell people that he cannot lower the speed limits under current regulations.

Aimee Spring, Beata Osmondson, Betsy Meyer and Chelsea Trussell, all residents of Geneva who live on Fargo Blvd., spoke at the podium of their concerns over the safety of children and reluctance to use the bike lanes which they perceive as being too dangerous, and expressed their desire to have the speed limit lowered.

Mayor Burns concluded the discussion noting that there appeared to be a consensus among the council to form a task force to study the speed limit ordinance. Burns suggested a 3-4 month time frame for the study, and noted that the task force would need to follow standard meeting rules, including quorum, open meeting and Robert's rules. Burns noted further that

the goal should not merely be to lower the speed limit, but rather to engage in a full study of the topic. The aldermen and mayor also agreed that the task force should be made up of citizens throughout the city.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Ald. McGowan, seconded by Ald. Marks, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 9:14 pm.

- *Submitted by City Clerk Godskesen*