

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 1, 2022

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

CALL TO ORDER

The August 1, 2022 meeting of the Geneva City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall by Mayor Kevin Burns.

Elected Officials present:

Alders: Mike Bruno, Tara Burghart, Becky Hruby, Gabriel Kaven, Dean Kilburg, Craig Maladra, Richard Marks, Amy Mayer, Robert Swanson.

Mayor Kevin Burns, City Clerk Vicki Kellick.

Elected Officials attending by video or teleconference: None.

Elected Officials absent: Brad Kosirog

Others Present: City Administrator Stephanie Dawkins, Assistant City Administrator Ben McCready, City Attorney Ron Sandack, Economic Development Director Cathleen Tymoszenko, Public Works Director Rich Babica, Community Development Director David DeGroot, Financial Director Rita Kruse, Geneva Fire Department Fire Chief Michael Antenore.

Others attending by video or teleconference: None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge was led by Police Department Deputy Chief Matthew Dean, Sergeant Mark Russo, and Sergeant Jan Walkosz.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, SPECIAL ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

Consider Mayor's Appointment of Mia Kellen to the Strategic Plan Advisory Committee

Moved by Ald. Bruno, Seconded by Ald. Mayer.
MOTION CARRIED by voice vote 9/0.

Promotion and Oath Ceremonies for Police Department Deputy Chief Matthew Dean, Sergeant Mark Russo, and Sergeant Jan Walkosz

Matthew Dean has been with the Geneva Police Department for nearly 16 years. He began his police career as a correctional officer at the Rock Island County Jail and then served as a police officer with the Moline Police Department for 4.5 years. His mother Katie, brother, wife and sons were present. His brother Steve is the retired Chief Deputy of the Rock Island County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Chief Dean noted that legacy is important and that his purpose is to continue the legacy that his predecessors and his brother began. He was sworn in with his family by his side.

Mark Russo was joined by his mother Gloria, wife, uncle, brother, sons, mother-in-law, and several Geneva friends. Sgt. Russo will be with the department 14 years on September 22. He began his career with Linden Oaks in

Naperville. When he considered a career change, he realized that police work would be a good move after having worked in the mental health field. To those considering police work or to those new to the profession, Sgt. Russo stated that this is challenging and rewarding, and the most noble profession where people can make a difference. He was sworn in with his wife and sons beside him.

Jan Walkosz's father and mother, wife, children, grandparents, and eldest brother and his girlfriend were in attendance. Sgt. Walkosz will have been with the police department for eight years in December. He noted that he and his family members are all first-generation immigrants. His grandmother left Poland over 25 years ago and the rest of the family eventually followed with his parents leaving their life in Poland to give Sgt. Walkosz and his brother an opportunity for a better life in America. He noted that it meant so much that his father was with him because his father taught Sgt. Walkosz how to work hard and not quit. Sgt. Walkosz noted that his father is the hardest working man that he knows. He would like the community to know that this is a very divisive time in the world and if we come together as a community and learn to listen to each other more, we'll be just fine. He was sworn in with his wife, children, and parents alongside.

Introduce Administrative Analyst Melissa Carrano

The Mayor welcomed Ms. Carrano who has been with the City since June 6. She previously worked in her hometown of Batavia for the Batavia Public School District in the business office.

Consider Approval of Special Event Application for Concours d'Elegance August 28, 2022

Moved by Ald. Swanson, seconded by Ald. Kaven.

Geneva Concours d'Elegance has submitted a request to host the annual Concours d'Elegance event on August 28 from 10AM to 4PM. John Barrett spoke and thanked the City for helping this event to occur. He noted that there are five features this year including the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the first U.S. Rolls Royce manufacturing plant built in Springfield, MA; Lincoln Continentals; micro and micro-mini cars; classic era cars from the '20s and '30s; and cars known as "tuners". The Mayor noted that the City loves the event and that is very well done.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote 9/0 with Kosirog absent.

Consider Approval of Special Event Application for Vargo Dance's Thriller on 38 October 13, 2022.

Moved by Ald. Mayer, seconded by Ald. Burghart.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote 9/0 with Kosirog absent.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

None.

OMNIBUS AGENDA

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 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes from July 18, 2022.

*REPORTS

*COUNCIL COMMITTEES

*Approve Resolution No. 2022-64 Authorizing Declaration of Fire Department Surplus Property.

*Approve Resolution No. 2022-65 Authorizing Execution of a Professional Engineering Service Agreement with Baxter & Woodman at a Cost Not to Exceed \$61,500.00 for Wastewater Plant Anaerobic Digester Engineering Services.

*Approve Resolution No. 2022-66 Awarding Bid and Authorizing Contract to Hoerr Construction, Inc. at a Cost of \$651,792.00 with Up to \$65,179.20 in Change Orders for a Total Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$716,971.20 for Sanitary Sewer Lining Project.

*Approve Resolution No. 2022-67 Awarding Bid and Contract to Wayne Point LLC for a Total Five-Year Cost of \$88,000.00 for Electric Equipment Organizational System.

*Approve Resolution No. 2022-68 Awarding Bid and Authorizing Execution of a Contract with Lewis Tree Service in an Estimated Cost of \$215,000.00 for FY2023 and 2024 for Electric Division Tree Trimming.

Moved by Ald. Marks, Seconded by Ald. Mayer to approve agenda as presented.
Roll call:

AYES: 9 (Bruno, Burghart, Hruby, Kaven, Kilburg, Maladra, Marks, Mayer, Swanson)

ABSENT: 1 (Kosirog)

NAYS: 0

MOTION CARRIED

OTHER ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE

None.

MUNICIPAL BILLS FOR PAYMENT: \$1,843,443.95

Moved by Ald. Marks, Seconded by Ald. Mayer to pay the bills as presented.
Roll call:

AYES: 9 (Bruno, Burghart, Hruby, Kaven, Kilburg, Maladra, Marks, Mayer, Swanson)

ABSENT: 1 (Kosirog)

NAYS: 0

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ITEMS OF BUSINESS

No items.

PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, PETITIONS, BIDS

Consider Approval of Resolution No. 2022-69 Recognizing State of Illinois “Rebuild IL” Program Grant Award and Committing Local Funds.

Moved by Ald. Bruno, Seconded by Ald. Marks to approve agenda as presented.
Roll call:

AYES: 9 (Bruno, Burghart, Hruby, Kaven, Kilburg, Maladra, Marks, Mayer, Swanson)
ABSENT: 1 (Kosirog)
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED

Consider Approval of Resolution No. 2022-70 Accepting a Public Utility Easement Made by 01 DKIDS, LLC for the Benefit of the City of Geneva.

Moved by Ald. Marks, Seconded by Ald. Mayer to approve agenda as presented.
Roll call:

AYES: 9 (Bruno, Burghart, Hruby, Kaven, Kilburg, Maladra, Marks, Mayer, Swanson)
ABSENT: 1 (Kosirog)
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED

Consider Resolution No. 2022-71 Authorizing Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the County of Kane for Household Hazardous Waste Collection Services and Rider to the Offer of the Contract (RFP22-010) with Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc. in an Amount Not to Exceed \$20,000 Annually.

Moved by Ald. Swanson, Seconded by Ald. Burghart to approve agenda as presented. Roll call:

AYES: 9 (Bruno, Burghart, Hruby, Kaven, Kilburg, Maladra, Marks, Mayer, Swanson)
ABSENT: 1 (Kosirog)
NAYS: 0
MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT / NEW BUSINESS

Geneva resident Chrissy Swanson spoke regarding the defacement of the Art on Fire “Priderant” at the northwest corner of Kirk and Route 38. Ms. Swanson thanked the Geneva Police Department, Mayor Burns, the Geneva DEI Task Force, Fox Valley Pride, the Fox Valley Activists Facebook group and everyone who reached out to support her. Her goal in repainting the hydrant has been to support people living in safety, respect, and peace. Ms. Swanson noted the need to uncover the infection that is hatred. Ald. Hruby thanked her for speaking and noted that it is devastating that there is so much hate in this world because we are all human and our similarities far outweigh our differences.

The Mayor then read the following statement:

“Silence in the face of bigoted and hateful assaults on others are acts of complicity. Imagine being so fragile, so unwell, so paranoid, narrow-minded and afraid of a pattern of colors that you are compelled to attempt to erase those colors time and time again. Imagine, just for a moment, that a symbol of inclusion is so upsetting to you because you believe that inclusion of others diminishes your own standing, your own place in this world. So upsetting that you have to go out of your way while traversing a busy roadway and pull over to try to erase it. Yes, our police department did excellent work and apprehended the suspect just last week who is accused of defacing the Pride fire hydrant five times. But, just as we were all breathing

a sigh of relief that the culprit had been found, the hydrant was again defaced and, if defacement wasn't enough, added a phrase to the hydrant that encouraged violence on the LGBTQ+ community.

To the weak, broken, and despicable person who committed this latest crime, be advised: you will be found, you will be arrested, you will be charged, and you will be prosecuted. Your intimidation failed. We will not be scared into silence or frightened into not living our most authentic lives. In fact, you've inspired us to reaffirm one of the central tenants of Geneva: to be an inclusive and welcoming community.

Oh, how I wish this story ended here, but alas, bigotry has a way of attracting more bigots. We see this all too often. Just yesterday it was reported to the Geneva Police Department that another fire hydrant in Geneva, albeit not a fire hydrant that was beautified via the Art on Fire program, was defaced with what can only be described as one of the most heinous symbols known to humankind...the Nazi swastika. A visual obscenity so pernicious, so weaponized, so malignant that it requires immediate, irrevocable, and unmistakable condemnation. So, let me be crystal clear: this Administration, this Council, and this community, my community, condemns the individual who spraypainted this symbol on City-owned property and we will stop at nothing to find you, arrest, you, charge you and prosecute you.

It is said that racist thoughts and actions say far more about the person they come from than the person or people they are directed toward. If that is true, then to the people who committed these crimes, I pity you. You are a broken human being in so many ways. I hope you find the help you desperately need to recover from what has and continues to poison you. As stated nearly five years ago when vandals and hatemongers desecrated our community with signs and messages of intolerance, and I spoke from this dais condemning their actions, I am compelled to repeat some of those words again.

To our LGBTQ+ community, whether you call Geneva home or visit Geneva, you have my word that your safety is our highest priority. I respect you, I admire you, I support you and I love you. Anyone or any group who tries to intimidate, frighten, silence, or erase your pride, your purpose, and your passion will fail spectacularly.

And to the curator of the hate symbol painted on the other fire hydrant, whether you be a white nationalist, are anti-Semitic, prone to a superiority complex, or suffer from all three afflictions and likely more, your attempt to intimidate or frighten us has also failed. Geneva will never tire from fighting, at every level, and in every way, your constricted and contaminated view of the world and your sad, sickening, sterile efforts to poison our community.”

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote of those present.
The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Vicki Kellick
Geneva City Clerk