

# **GENEVA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, September 19, 2022**

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

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The September 19, 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, Brad Kosirog, Richard Marks, Amy Mayer, Robert Swanson.

Mayor Kevin Burns, City Clerk Vicki Kellick.

**Elected Officials attending by video or teleconference:** None.

**Elected Officials absent:** Craig Maladra.

**Others Present:** Assistant City Administrator Ben McCready, City Attorney Ron Sandack, Public Works Director Rich Babica, Economic Development Director Cathleen Tymoszenko, Street Division Superintendent Nate Landers, Police Chief Eric Passarelli.

**Others attending by video or teleconference:** None.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge was led by Police Sergeant Gilberto Alba.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS, SPECIAL ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **Oath & Promotion Ceremony for Police Sergeant Gilberto Alba.**

The Mayor welcomed Sgt. Alba. The Sergeant introduced his family including his parents and in-laws, wife and her grandmother, his children, and his brothers and sister-in-law. Sgt. Alba has been with the department for 6 ½ years and lives in Streamwood. He noted that he has always wanted to give back to his community and serve as a role model for his children. He was given the oath by Clerk Kellick with his wife, son and parents at his side.

**Presentation of Life-Saving Medals to Police Sergeants Brad Jerdee, George Carbray, and Police Officers Bob Pech, Hunter Winterstein, Erica Bolger, Quantrell Priest, Megan Solner, and Matt Adam.**

Mayor Burns welcomed Chief Passarelli. The Chief spoke, noting that all members of the department had been called to the profession and that each hoped to make a difference in the community. He then described three situations that occurred within the past year in which such a difference was definitively made. He noted that he would be awarding life-saving medals to eight officers and that Ofc. Winterstein would receive two medals.

Chief Passarelli described the first call in which Sgt. Brad Jerdee and Ofc. Bob Pech were involved. A neighboring police department was searching for a suicidal

woman from that community. Ofc. Pech was in contact with the family and used his detective skills to identify locations in which to search for the woman. Sgt. Jerdee received this information and later discovered the unconscious woman in a locked car in a Geneva park. He rescued the woman from the vehicle and provided CPR until paramedics arrived.

The Chief then described a situation in which Ofc. Hunter Winterstein and Ofc. Erica Bolger responded to a call of an unconscious choking victim. The officers arrived less than one minute after dispatch and performed the Heimlich maneuver until paramedics arrived. The subject recovered at the hospital and Chief Passarelli commended the officers' quick actions in saving the man's life.

Lastly, Chief Passarelli described a trespassing incident on the Union Pacific railway overpass which he noted is 50-feet in the air. A younger male teen was observed walking on the trestle, contemplating suicide and not initially communicative. At some point, he threatened self-harm by jumping and was also armed with two knives. The Chief acknowledged that much of the department is crisis intervention trained and that Sgt. Carbray, Ofc. Adam, Ofc. Solner, Ofc. Winterstein, and Ofc. Priest worked with the teen for over an hour. Ultimately, their conversation seemed to resonate with the teen so that he put down the knives and walked to the officers and paramedics who took him for further care.

The officers acknowledged that in stressful situations such as these, they go back to their training and experience to ensure a successful outcome. They also acknowledged that they are a close group that checks in on each other often to ensure that they can discuss events and receive the care that that need.

#### ICEC Welcome and Recognition of Geneva High School International Exchange Students.

International Cultural Exchange Committee spokesperson Cynthia Albright spoke about the five AFS exchange students that arrived within the last month from five countries. She noted that Geneva High School has been participating in the AFS exchange program for 30 years, connecting cultures here and abroad. Ms. Albright introduced each student who was welcomed by Mayor Burns.

Karli "Karl" Gattinger is from Munich, Germany and plays varsity soccer for GHS. He noted that school lasts 13 years in Germany. So when he returns home, he will still have 2 ½ years of school remaining. When he graduates, he would like a career in sports. Ana Carvalho is from Lisbon, Portugal. Her family consists of her parents and twin sister. In Lisbon she plays softball at short stop and 2<sup>nd</sup> base. She noted that there are only nine softball teams in Portugal, and she is part of the national team. Djedrielle "G" Vargas is from Limon, Costa Rica. He is the oldest of his siblings and plays soccer. One of the most surprising things he has experienced in America is the support that the school and the government gives students here. He and Orges Selini from Kosovo have the same host family. Orges arrived just four days prior and took three planes to arrive. He would like to join the art club which is not in his comfort zone as he attends an engineering high school at home. Miriam Artoul is from Israel. She is the oldest of three siblings and has been in Geneva for one month. She is involved in the Art Club and will join the Cheerleading team beginning with the Homecoming game. She also plays the piano and dances.

Ald. Kilburg commented that the students' English is excellent. The students commented that that they each learned the language at school beginning in either first, second, or third grade.

Admin. McCready thanked Ms. Albright and her team and the students' host families. Ms. Albright noted that on September 30, four visitors from Croissy-sur-Seine will arrive in Geneva. She thanked Admin. McCready and the City Council for their support and the host families for welcoming the students. Admin. McCready then presented certificates to the students.

Introduce Administrative Assistant Olivia Ramos and Street Maintenance Worker Melvin Shaw.

The Mayor welcomed Streets Engineering Administrative Assistant Olivia Ramos. Ms. Ramos also works part-time in the Records Department in Wheaton. She has been employed with the City for three months and lives in West Chicago. She likes that the work she does is different every day.

Mayor Burns then welcomed Street Maintenance Worker Melvin Shaw. Mr. Shaw has been married for 19 years and has 2 children. He graduated from and played basketball at West Aurora High School. Mr. Shaw has been with the City for two months and previously drove a semi-truck for Old Dominion Freight Lines.

Consider Approval of Special Event Application from Chicago Race Management for Oh LaLa Chocolate 1/2 Marathon, 10K and 5K Run November 6, 2022 with Use of Public Right of Way and City Services.

Moved by Ald. Marks, Seconded by Ald. Burghart.

Admin. McCready noted that there are outstanding concerns regarding the placement of porta-potties for the race. Dir. Tymoszenko spoke that it is important to balance stakeholder concerns with the event organizers' needs. In this case, however, the City was unable to resolve the issues at hand. Dir. Tymoszenko noted that there is concern regarding the placement of the porta-potties on Campbell starting at Third St. and going west. Porta-potties in the past have remained in the location for the duration of the weekend which is concerning to some merchants regarding the downtown area's image. As the race organizer has reasons for the placement of the porta-potties, Dir. Tymoszenko stated that this was not a call that the City could make and was best discussed among the stakeholders.

Sue Hadley is the owner of Country Naturals, 316 Campbell St., along with her sister Deb Hilton. Ms. Hadley spoke and noted that she believes in the Ooh La La race and the good that it does for the community. However, the City was told by the director that Country Naturals approved the location of the porta-potties which Ms. Hadley stated they did not. She noted that while porta-potties are necessary, they can be located elsewhere. She also stated that other shops on the street are also against the placement of 20 porta-potties on the street. Ms. Hadley stated that the porta-potties remain on the street all weekend and are locked on Saturdays, during which time people come into the store asking why they are locked. She stated that this is not the right location for the facilities.

Race director Mary Agnes Zellmer replied that she agrees that the porta-potties do not look good but are a necessary evil. She stated that if she could move them, she would. During the summer, she and the course director saw the area and measured to determine if the porta-potties could be relocated but if they were moved, they

would not be in the line of sight for the runners which is important. They considered placing them in front of and to the south of the All Chocolate Kitchen but the parkway is short and the sidewalk is close to the building. Moving them to the east side of Campbell is prohibited by bike racks and a lack of space. This was the situation that was similar to other sites that were considered. Ms. Zellmer noted that the race had grown from 300 to 1500 participants. The logistics of getting the runners into their corrals while ensuring a line of sight is important. She noted that they tried to work with Country Naturals by asking for a late delivery of the porta-potties on Saturday and pick-up immediately after the race for an extra fee. She cannot guarantee the time because the company doesn't schedule these deliveries and retrievals until the week of the event. She noted that these will not only be locked but will have signage explaining that the porta-potties are for a private event and any questions should be made to her office. She noted that if runners miss their corral, they will miss their pacer and won't return in the future. She acknowledged that the porta-potties will be in place for less than 27 hours.

Ms. Hilton then spoke and voiced her concern that something else be done. She noted that the porta-potties are an eyesore and asked if they could be placed in the courthouse parking lot. Ms. Zellmer stated that that is inconvenient for the runners and that the runners won't return for future races if they cannot get to their corrals in time.

On a question from Ald. Bruno, Ms. Zellmer noted that the space next to the History Museum owned by the Unitarian Church will have a packet pickup and warming tent. She noted that they considered moving the porta-potties to the courthouse lawn but they could tip over. The packet pickup used to be on the courthouse lawn but with more participants and potentially the muddy courthouse lawn, the space behind the Unitarian Church works better. On another question from Ald. Bruno, Ms. Zellmer answered that trailered toilets have four stalls but cost \$2,900 which is more expensive than the cost of all the porta-potties.

Further questions from alderpersons concerned possible alternative locations for the porta-potties. In each case, Ms. Zellmer explained that the race start could not be seen from the proposed porta-potty locations. Other suggested locations were too small, would be located directly in front of restaurants, or would take up needed parking spaces. On a suggestion from Ald. Mayer that porta-potty companies will do what customers request in terms of pick-up and drop-off times, Ms. Zellmer explained that Service Sanitation has been the best company to use and will accommodate the race as best they can.

Roll call:

AYES: 8 (Bruno, Burghart, Kaven, Kilburg, Kosirog, Marks, Mayer, Swanson)

ABSENT: 1 (Maladra)

NAYS: 1 (Hruby)

MOTION CARRIED

## **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

### **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 City Council Meeting Minutes from September 6, 2022.

\*REPORTS: Tax Revenue Report

\* COUNCIL COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ITEMS OF BUSINESS

\* Approve Resolution No. 2022-85 Authorizing Execution of an Identification Sign Easement Agreement with Robert A. Lund at 642 Nichole, Geneva IL.

\* Approve Resolution No. 2022-86 Authorizing Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with Kane County for Animal Control Services.

Moved by Ald. Swanson, Seconded by Ald. Kaven.

Roll call:

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

ABSENT: 1 (Maladra)

NAYS: 0

MOTION CARRIED

### **OTHER ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

### **MUNICIPAL BILLS FOR PAYMENT: \$5,171,147.16**

Moved by Ald. Bruno, Seconded by Ald. Burghart.

Roll call:

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

ABSENT: 1 (Maladra)

NAYS: 0

MOTION CARRIED

### **PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, PETITIONS, BIDS**

Approve Resolution No. 2022-87 Rejecting Snow Removal Project Bid

Moved by Ald. Kosirog, Seconded by Ald. Mayer.

On a question from Ald. Kosirog, Supt. Landers answered that he will change the bid specifications and re-issue the bid. On a question from Ald. Bruno, Supt. Landers noted that the largest change made to the specifications is a move from the two-inch trigger to a one-inch trigger. It is still uncertain who would apply the after-treatment.

Roll call:

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

ABSENT: 1 (Maladra)

NAYS: 0

MOTION CARRIED

### **PUBLIC COMMENT/NEW BUSINESS**

On a question from Ald. Mayer, Supt. Landers commented that street sweeping will begin next week which will clean the debris from the recent storms. On a

second question, Supt. Landers noted that leaf pickup will begin in October and that residents should not move their leaves into the street.

Ald. Kilburg commented that several roofing companies are visiting residents to solicit business after the recent storms. He urged residents to be cautious and remember that residents do not have to reveal their insurance carriers to these salespeople. He reminded residents who are not interested to simply ask the salespeople to leave.

Ald. Swanson praised the Natural Resources Committee which conducted a clean-up of the Fox River on Saturday. Jay Womack organized the event and over 75 volunteers attended the annual volunteer activity.

### **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 9:13 PM.

---

Vicki Kellick  
Geneva City Clerk