

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 17, 2022

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

CALL TO ORDER

The October 17, 2022 meeting of the Geneva City Council was called to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall by Mayor Kevin Burns.

Elected Officials present:

Alderspersons: Tara Burghart, Gabriel Kaven, Dean Kilburg, Brad Kosirog, Craig Maladra, Richard Marks, Amy Mayer, Robert Swanson.

Mayor Kevin Burns, City Clerk Vicki Kellick.

Elected Officials attending by video or teleconference: Mike Bruno.

Elected Officials absent: Becky Hruby.

Others Present: City Administrator Stephanie Dawkins, Assistant City Administrator Ben McCready, City Attorney Ron Sandack, Water Division Superintendent Bob Van Gyseghem, Public Works Director Rich Babica, Finance Director Rita Kruse.

Others attending by video or teleconference: None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge was led by Sawyer Rinn.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, SPECIAL ITEMS AND PRESENTATIONS

Recognize Western Avenue Elementary School Student Sawyer Rinn - World Robot Olympiad USA National Champion Elementary Division & 2022 Team USA.

Mayor Burns welcomed Sawyer Rinn, his mother Dr. Kristy Rinn, and Sawyer's robotics coach Will Wong. Sawyer is a 10-year-old 4th-grader at Western Avenue Elementary. He lives with his parents Drs. Kristy and Jonathan Rinn, and his two brothers in Geneva. He became involved in robotics by taking a class taught by Mr. Wong at the Geneva Park District. Sawyer then designed, built, and programmed a LEGO robot that he named "Johnny5" after the robot from the movie *Short Circuit*. The robot uses sensors to follow lines on a board where it cuts LEGO grass objects, pulls LEGO weeds, and moves LEGO ladybugs out of the way.

Coach Wong is from Naperville and has a STEM background. He previously worked as an engineer, consultant, and CIO before coaching. Sawyer is Coach Wong's eighth National Champion as Sawyer recently won the National Championship. Sawyer's robot attained the highest combined score and beat over 20 teams from the US. Sawyer will now represent the US against teams from 80 countries at the World Robot Olympiad International Final in Germany from November 15-19.

Mayor Burns presented a certificate to Sawyer recognizing him for and congratulating him on his participation at the World Robot Olympiad, and declaring October 18, 2022 as Sawyer Rinn Day in Geneva. Additionally, on November 15, the Geneva Police Department will provide a police escort to the airport for Sawyer and his family as they head to the Finals in Germany.

Introduce New Employees Water Maintenance Workers Bryan Pittman and Mitch Tuggle, and Water Treatment Plant Operator Brett Myers.

Mayor Burns welcomed Bryan Pittman to the meeting. Mr. Pittman has been a water maintenance worker since December 27. He was born and raised in Aurora and attended West Aurora High School and Waubensee College. He has worked in public works for over 7 years and holds a Class A drinking water license. The requirements for the license include 5,200 hours of hands-on work plus passing a test with only a 25% passing rate for first-time testers. He enjoys spending time with his wife and friends, as well as playing and managing a men's fastpitch softball in Aurora, as well as playing on a travel league out of DeKalb.

The Mayor then welcomed Mitch Tuggle. Mr. Tuggle has been working with the City since the first week of January. He was born and raised in the Batavia Highlands but attended school in Geneva and considers himself a Genevan. He has worked as a carpenter for 18 years and still enjoys building. He likes working with his hands and is excited about the opportunity to work for the City. He and his fiancée have a 4-year-old and a 4-week-old. Mr. Tuggle enjoys bowling on a league at the St. Charles Bowl.

Mayor Burns welcomed Brett Myers who grew up in Hampshire and has lived in Sycamore for the past 20 years. He has been married for 7 years and has a 3-year-old daughter. Before joining the City of Geneva, Mr. Myers worked with a landscaping and tree care company, held a CDL license, and then worked for the Village of Hampshire. His hobbies include model trains. He runs HO-scale models and is a member of a model train club in Chadwick. He also enjoys taking Amtrak trips out west and has taken one 52-hour trip via rail to San Francisco.

Presentation and Acceptance of FY2022 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Dir. Kruse spoke and noted that for recording purposes only, the General Fund now includes: the General Fund, Cultural Arts, SPAC, and Beautification Funds. The City still accounts for those funds separately in the general ledger and regular reporting to the Council. The General Fund has a fund balance policy of 25% while the electric and wastewater fund have a cash balance policy of 25%. As of April 30, the City ended the year with 58% fund balance in the General Fund, and both the electric and wastewater funds were in compliance with a 27% balance for electric and a 50% balance for wastewater.

Brian LeFevre from Sikich LLP then presented the reports of the City's audit. The annual comprehensive report and noted that the City received the award for its annual comprehensive financial report for the year ending April 30, 2021. This award comes from the Government Finance Officers' Association and is the certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting. It represents the most transparent report that the City can present of its financial information. The independent auditors' report is an unmodified opinion, also known as a clean opinion. Sikich also issued unmodified opinions of TIF 2 and TIF 3 reports which are required for Geneva's annual reporting to the Comptroller's Office. Mr. LeFevre went on to explain the various sections of the report as well as the amounts in each section. The last operating section that was noted was of the

financial health of the pension funds for fire and police. The Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) is 110% funded. Police is 59% funded and fire is 66% funded. Mr. LeFevre stated that based on these amounts, this is a very well-funded plan. Mr. LeFevre finally noted that the audit went smoothly and was completed on time.

Ald. Swanson then noted that on page 109 of the report regarding police pension plans, the contributions from 2015 to 2022 ranges from 3.5% to 48%. Mr. LeFevre noted that this amount was incorrect and would be corrected.

Moved by Ald. Marks, Seconded by Ald. Kosirog.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote of those in attendance, 9/0.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force Update.

Chairperson Ashley Nuzzo-Ericksen presented the DEI Task Force's update. There are nine members on the task force. The group operates under SPAC and serves a 2-year term which began in August of 2021 and will conclude in July of 2023. The task force is committed to research, dialogue, and action that leads to opportunities for all to feel welcomed, included, and empowered in the community. The group had no specific outcomes, so they've used this time to ask questions of the community.

The task force has invited speakers to each of its meetings to focus on listening to different perspectives within the community. Speakers have included Sherriff Ron Hain, an affordable housing advocate, Geneva Police Chief Passarelli, City of Geneva HR Generalist Mera Johnson, a presentation by Chairperson Nuzzo-Ericksen gave on the history of Geneva, and strategist Dr. Jamal Scott from Waubensee College. Additionally, the group had a public listening session to hear from community members who wished to provide their thoughts. This provided themes that were important to the community including major themes of affordable housing, demographics, youth, and community policing.

The Chairperson noted that there have been many successes regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion in the City. She noted that the Kane County Jail was the first county jail in the country to provide trauma counseling and during the past four years, the recidivism rate dropped from 49% to 18%. The Geneva Police Department now issues a survey for every traffic stop so that the Chief can gather both positive and negative experiences from drivers. The Police Department also employs a full-time social worker and has increased the racial background of officers. The library offers a DEI-focused book club, is a fully accessible facility, provides programs for all ages, and offers Spanish classes. The Geneva History Museum features exhibits for women and minorities. The Park District offers classes for those who speak Spanish and has a partnership with the Fox Valley Special Recreation Association.

The task force also identified several growth opportunities, including the potential for job opportunities in the community for previously incarcerated persons, and the need for juvenile holding areas at the Kane Country Jail. The Geneva Police Department has noted opportunities for staff training, as well as support for working with seniors and the LGBTQ+ community. The library is looking to grow its DEI book club, and the Geneva History Museum is looking for more in-depth stories regarding minorities in Geneva, as well as information to accurately document what is happening now in the City.

Suggestions for the City include the observing of Juneteenth as a holiday for employees, the inclusion of self-evaluations as part of employees' annual reviews, and including DEI issues in supervisors' annual reviews as well as having a DEI statement and hiring panel training.

Looking ahead, the DEI Task Force has an RFP in its final stages to hire a facilitator. The facilitator will help the task force to understand what other cities have done regarding DEI initiatives; to align the DEI Task Force findings with the City's strategic plan; to help with researching DEI topics as they pertain to residents, businesses, and visitors, and to continue to spread awareness and serve as a resource.

On a question from Ald. Kilburg, Chairperson Nuzzo-Ericksen noted that at the group's next meeting in November will include a presentation by a Presbyterian church regarding a national program called Sacred Ground. She stated that not only is the task force hoping to hear from the faith-based community this year, but also the school district and small businesses.

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 City Council Meeting Minutes from October 3, 2022.

*REPORTS: Tax Revenue Report

*COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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

Roll call:

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

ABSENT: 1 (Hruby)

NAYS: 0

MOTION CARRIED

OTHER ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE

None.

MUNICIPAL BILLS FOR PAYMENT: \$3,864,306.66

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

Roll call:

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

ABSENT: 1 (Hruby)

NAYS: 0

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ITEMS OF BUSINESS

None.

PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, PETITIONS, BIDS

Consider Approval of Ordinance No. 2022-43 Adding One Class C-6 Liquor License (Brewery) for Geneva Lager Works at 421 Stevens Street.

Moved by Ald. Bruno, Seconded by Ald. Mayer.

General Manager Katie Hofmann explained that Geneva Lager Works will be the production facility for Art History Brewing which is located on State Street in Geneva. The production facility will have the possibility for contract brewing for other breweries as well. On a question from Ald. Bruno, Ms. Hofmann confirmed that there will still be some production done at Art History Brewing.

Roll call:

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

ABSENT: 1 (Hruby)

NAYS: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Consider Ordinance No. 2022-44 Amending Title 4 (Business and License Regulations), Chapter 2 (Liquor Control), Section 4-2-25 (Regulations Applicable Generally) As It Pertains to the Delivery of Alcoholic Liquors

Moved by Ald. Swanson, Seconded by Ald. Marks.

Roll call:

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

ABSENT: 1 (Hruby)

NAYS: 0

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT/NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote of those present.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Vicki Kellick
Geneva City Clerk