

AGENDA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF GENEVA, NEW YORK

January 7, 2026

**City Hall
2nd Floor Council Chambers
47 Castle Street
Geneva, NY**

EXECUTIVE SESSION STARTS AT 6:00

To discuss collective negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of the civil service law, and the proposed sale of real property.

COUNCIL MEETING STARTS AT 7:00PM

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- I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor, Jim Cecere
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS
 - a. Sale of 32 Middle Street
 - b. Change in use for Loomis Woods from City Park and Recreation area to Sale for Housing
- V. COUNCIL UPDATES
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT
- VII. PROCLAMATIONS
 - a. Martin Luther King Day
- VIII. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES
 - a. December 3, 2025 (Regular Council Meeting) (p.3)
 - b. December 16, 2025 (Special Council Meeting) (p.10)
 - c. December 17, 2025 (Special Council Meeting) (p.12)
 - d. December 23, 2025 (Special Council Meeting) (p.13)
- IX. REPORTS
 - a. Mayor's Report
 - b. City Manager's Report
- X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a. Ordinance – Second Reading of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 335 “Vehicles & Traffic” Municipal Code, Lower Washington Street – *Chief Eveland* (p.16)
 - b. Resolution – Supporting the Sale of Surplus Real Estate Parcel Located at 32 Middle Street – *City Manager Hendrix* (p.18)

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution – Establishing Regular City Council Meeting Nights – *City Manager Hendrix (p.20)*
- b. Resolution – Designating Official Newspaper of Record – *City Manager Hendrix (p.22)*
- c. Resolution – Designating Official Depositories for the City – *City Manager Hendrix (p.24)*
- d. Resolution – Amending the Rules of Procedure - *Mayor Cecere (p.26)*
- e. Resolution – Urging the Amendment of State Laws to Grant Judges Clear Authority to Consider Public Safety in Pretrial Release Decisions – *Mayor Cecere (p.30)*
- f. Resolution – Affirming the City of Geneva Code of Ethics and Establishing the City Council' Commitment to the Highest Standards of Professional Conduct – *Mayor Cecere (p.34)*
- g. Finance Ad Hoc Committee Establishment – *Mayor Cecere*
- h. Council and Liaison Assignments - *Mayor Cecere*
- i. Deputy Mayor Appointment – *Mayor Cecere*

XII. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

- a. Lowell Dewey – Recreation Advisory Board
- b. Jim Norwalk – Shade Tree Committee
- c. James Cardinale – Zoning Board of Appeals

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

December 3, 2025 – 7:00 PM
City Hall – 2nd Floor Council Chambers
47 Castle Street
Geneva, NY 14456

Presiding – Steve Valentino, Mayor

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Brennan; seconded by Clr. Lavin

MOVED THAT council move to executive session at 6:02 to discuss collective bargaining,
and the proposed sale of real property

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6-3 absent)

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Pealer; seconded by Clr. Brennan

MOVED THAT council exit executive session at 6:59pm

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Whitfield (arrived at 6:10), Clr. Morocco, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Grimaldi (arrived at 6:07), Clr. Pealer (arrived at 6:15), Clr. Lavin, Clr. Brennan

Absent:

3. PROCLAMATIONS

- A. Richard Stowell
- B. Richard Cring
- C. Councilors Pealer and Morocco
- D. Mayor Valentino

4. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Pealer; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos

MOVED THAT the minutes of the November 5 and November 13, 2025 Council Meetings be
approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Hoyt of Castle Street presented a petition signed by 37 residents respectfully requesting that the Geneva City Council and Planning Board when reviewing plans for the redevelopment of the property on which the former Madia's Big M was located, approval be made contingent upon the inclusion of effective and environmentally sound procedures for the daylighting of Castle Creek and the restoration of its banks and streambed. Mr. Hoyt shared information on a grassroots group, Friends of Castle Creek, and explained what daylighting of Castle Creek entails.

He also shared outcomes of daylighting to include improved water quality and reduced flooding among other benefits. Mr. Hoyt would like to see the people of Geneva having access to the Creek, right up to Main Street.

Daniel Bullock of Merrill Place spoke of the property where Madia's formerly sat, encouraging residents to use it as a cut through. He noted a fence that isn't discouraging this behavior. Mr. Bullock also recalled meeting a new neighbor who is building a fence what will anger people using this foot path. Mr. Bullock would also like the people of Geneva to have access to Castle Creek, right up Main Street.

6. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Hendrix offered a brief update, sharing that the City Hall window replacement project is underway. She also gave a shout out to water, waste water, and plant crews from DPW who had three water main breaks on Thanksgiving Day.

7. ORDINANCE – First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 335 “Vehicles & Traffic” Municipal Code, Lower Washington Street Parking

Chief Eveland presented the following ordinance for a first reading:

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Geneva, New York that Chapter 335, entitled “Vehicles & Traffic” of the City of Geneva Municipal Code be amended:

WHEREAS, the current section 335-17, entitled “Parking standing and stopping restrictions.” Indicates No special parking restrictions for the south side of Lower Washington Street between the intersection of Park Place and Pulteney Streets in the City except for “No parking from the west curb line of Park Place to a point 60 feet westerly”, and

WHEREAS, the City Director of Public Works has determined that the northern boundaries of properties at 101 Washington Street though 117-119 Washington Street are the South Street Line of Washington Street, and **WHEREAS**, the City Director of Public Works has determined that the sidewalks and “parking” areas adjoining the northern boundaries of the properties at 101 Washington Street though 117-119 Washington Street are within the bounds of Washington Street, and

WHEREAS, the City Director of Public Works has determined that the sidewalks and “parking” areas adjoining the northern boundaries of the properties at 101 Washington Street though 117-119 Washington Street are located on property belonging to the City, and

WHEREAS, the City Director of Public Works recommends a two-hour parking limit be enacted for the South Side of Washington Street from 101 Washington Street though 117-119 Washington Street, effectively named as the Washington Street Parking Lot, two hour parking only, effective Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and **WHEREAS**, the current section of 335-24, entitled “Parking time limits in public parking lots” prescribes time limits for specified public parking lots, and

NOW THEREFORE IT IS ORDAINED, as follows

Section 335-24 of the Geneva City Code, entitled “Parking time limits in public parking lots.” be and the same is hereby amended to include the following:

Washington Street Parking Lot: The parking of vehicles is hereby prohibited between the hours of 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from December 1 – April 1

The parking of vehicles is hereby prohibited to a period of no more than two hours, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on Saturdays and Sundays, as follows: Washington Street Parking Lot

Councilor Pealer shared that this ordinance helps solve the problem, by giving the Police Department the tools to resolve disputes.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Pealer; seconded by Clr. Lavin

MOVED THAT the first reading of this ordinance be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. RESOLUTION – Amending the 2025 Sewer Fund Capital Budget

Comptroller Blowers presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva has a Sewer Fund capital budget for 2025; and

WHEREAS, the approved 2025 capital Budget document does not include funding for the ATAD project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Geneva City Council hereby and in due form does amend the 2025 Sewer Fund capital budget as follows:

2025 Sewer Fund Balance	\$350,340
ATAD – 008.8130.2022.2213	\$350,340

Councilor Lavin wondered when the bonding for the ATAD project will occur. Comptroller Blowers said that he expects this bonding to occur in the spring of 2026. Discussion followed around bonding and overall city debt. Mayor Valentino clarified some figures around sewer usage and the consequences of not finishing the ATAD project. Councilor Petropoulos noted that the City is also benefiting from the ATAD project. Councilor Pealer reminded council that the ATAD unit reduces the City's waste, which is dealt with in an eco-friendly way, and not sent to the landfill. Discussion followed.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Gillotte; seconded by Clr. Lavin

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. RESOLUTION – Authorizing the Comptroller to Collect Tax Leins

Comptroller Blowers presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City Comptroller has annually provided a list of properties in which there are certain accounts for housing inspections, grass cutting, rubbish removal and water charges, and in accordance with the City Charter must direct that a lien be placed upon these properties in order to allow the City to collect these bills in the same manner as taxes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Geneva, New York, that a lien be placed against the properties listed herein in the amount set forth and the City Comptroller levy, enforce and collect these liens in the same manner, at the same time and with the penalties as City taxes.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Grimaldi; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. RESOLUTION – Amending the 2025 General Fund Budget, Fire Department Line-Item Transfer

Comptroller Blowers presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva Fire Department identified the need to purchase a fire training prop to enhance firefighter skill development and live scenario training; and

WHEREAS, funds were originally budgeted under line item 3410.4045 – Training, but upon review it was determined that the expenditure qualifies as equipment and should be budgeted under 3410.2029 – Equipment to comply with proper accounting standards and avoid audit irregularities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Geneva City Council hereby and in due form does amend the 2024 General Fund Budget as follows:

Account Description	Account Number	Amount
Decrease – Training	3410.4045	\$9,886.21
Increase – Equipment	3410.2029	\$9,886.21

This transfer reflects a reclassification of existing budgeted funds and results in no additional financial impact to the General Fund.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Gillotte; seconded by Clr. Grimaldi

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. **RESOLUTION** – Establishing a Public Hearing for the Sale of 32 Middle Street

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, pursuant to a tax foreclosure action conducted by the City of Geneva, the City has the right to acquire fee title to 32 Middle Street, parcel number 104.8-3-3 (the “Property”); and

WHEREAS, the Property is not utilized or needed for any public purpose, and therefore constitutes surplus real property of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Property Acquisition and Disposition Committee recommends the sale for the property located at 32 Middle Street; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the City Charter and applicable law, a public hearing must be held prior to authorizing the sale of City-owned real property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

That the Geneva City Council hereby sets a Public Hearing for **January 4, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Geneva City Hall Council Chambers** for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed sale of the 32 Middle Street; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is directed to publish notice of said Public Hearing in accordance with all applicable legal requirements.

Mayor Valentino explained that this property is abandoned, with a house on it. The sale will be beneficial to the City, for many reasons including that the City won't have to pay for the demolition of the abandoned house.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Moracco

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. **RESOLUTION** – Establishing a Public Hearing for Comment on Change in Use for Loomis Woods from City Park and Recreation area to Sale for Housing

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Property known as Loomis Woods is currently indicated as a park and recreation area; and

WHEREAS, the Property Acquisition and Disposition Committee has received a potential purchase offer for the sale of this property which is not currently on the listed sales; and

WHEREAS, exploration of selling this parcel will require a full legal review and will follow New York State parkland alienation procedures; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that City Council is responsive to the members of public prior to utilizing resources to review a strategy to divest from this property pursuant to the New York State Parkland Alienation law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

That the Geneva City Council hereby sets a Public Hearing for January 4, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Geneva City Hall Council Chambers for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed change in use of Loomis Woods to become housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is directed to publish notice of said Public Hearing in accordance with all applicable legal requirements.

Councilor Pealer hopes that before the public hearing that the interested party shares their plan for the property with the public, offering something more concrete that the public can actually consider.

City Manager Hendrix explained that this is the first of many public comment opportunities related to this property. Councilor Lavin shared that the offer is for \$1 Million for the land, and to make up for the loss of park land, some of that money can be used by the City to purchase more park land. He called the land unsafe and abandoned by the City.

Councilor Gillotte wondered if there has already been an offer for the property. City Attorney Hou explained that this is a preliminary opportunity for the public to comment on the land being allowed to change from park land to housing. He explained that this action may require state approval, and that Council's first step is to solicit public thoughts on whether residents think this property should be considered for development.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Lavin; seconded by Clr. Grimaldi

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Aye - Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Morocco, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Gillotte, Clr.

Grimaldi, Clr. Pealer, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Brennan

Nay - Mayor Valentino

MOTION CARRIED (8-1)

13. **RESOLUTION** – Continuing the Appointment of Kate Ott, RN, MPH as Local Health Officer

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, in an effort to comply with the Shared Services Initiative, Ontario County and the City of Geneva have identified an opportunity to share and coordinate the services of Kate Ott, RN MPH, the Public Health Director of Ontario County, to continue to act as the Local Health Officer for the City of Geneva; and

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva wishes to continue the appointment of Kate Ott, RN MPH, the Ontario County Public Health Director as the City Local Health Officer; and

WHEREAS, the Ontario County Public Health Director, Kate Ott, RN MPH agrees to act as the Local Health Officer for the City of Geneva, thereby eliminating the need for the City to appoint and pay a local health officer; and

WHEREAS, part BBB of Chapter 59 of the Laws of 2017 specifically authorizes cooperating municipalities to enter into shared services agreements; and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to continue their Shared Services Agreement providing for the appropriate service.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Kate Ott, RN MPH, in furtherance of this appointment, will investigate complaints of public health nuisances arising with the City and when necessary to resolve said nuisances will present the facts and recommendations to the City Council for their decision and enforcement action and the payment of any costs to abate a public health nuisance shall be a City cost; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the duration of appointment will begin January 1, 2026 and will end on December 31, 2029.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Gillotte; seconded by Clr. Morocco

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. RESOLUTION – Declaring Surplus Fire Department Equipment

Chief Parrotta presented following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva Fire Department maintains various rescue tools and equipment to support emergency operations; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department has determined that the following items are no longer suitable for service due to age, wear, and replacement with new equipment:

- One (1) set of Jaws of Life (rams, spreaders, cutters, hoses, and power unit)
- One (1) set of rescue lifting bags (set of three) and control unit
- Miscellaneous radio/vehicle parts, and

WHEREAS, these items have been in service for over 20 years and have reached their end of useful life as primary rescue tools; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Geneva City Council hereby declares the above-listed equipment as surplus and authorizes the Fire Department to dispose of the items in accordance with City policy and procedures.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Gillotte; seconded by Clr. Morocco

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Pealer; seconded by Clr. Gillotte

MOVED THAT Mollie DaPolito and Victor Nelson be reappointed to the Board of Ethics, Henry Ronke and Timothy Buckley be reappointed to the Historic Districts Commission, Don Cass and Kevin Reed be reappointed to the Planning Board, Anthony Noone and Mike Reeder be reappointed to the Police Budget Advisory Board, and Charles Rouse, Jeremy Busch and Daisy Hoyt be reappointed to the Shade Tree Committee

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Whitfield wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilor Moracco thanked everyone for the kind words, and thanked Ward 6 for the opportunity to represent them. He shared that he is grateful to Councilmembers, the Mayor and City Manager.

Councilor Gillotte shared that the Police Budget Advisory Board will meet on December 10, and will invite new members of council to the meeting. BID updates include serving hot cocoa and popcorn at the Mayor's Tree Lighting on Friday, an Art Walk Saturday and Jingle In Geneva events. Councilor Gillotte complimented the BID on the new holiday decorations and trees downtown. In closing, he wished everyone a merry Christmas.

Councilor Grimaldi shared that things at the Geneva Housing Authority are going smoothly, with no tenant complaints this month. He wished everyone happy holidays and Merry Christmas.

Councilor Pealer shared that the Planning Board met, reviewing an application for sale of a subdivision to Cosentinos, a Special Use Permit for the OEO project, and Site Plan for the new HWS Science Center. Councilor Pealer thanked everyone present, especially Mayor Valentino for his patience, grace, and solid character, explaining that is has been a pleasure serving with him.

Councilor Lavin shared that he was asked to spend an hour on Rochester radio with Evan Dawson to speak on the impacts on food insecurity. He spoke on a survey on organic community efforts to address loss in SNAP benefits, explaining that Geneva is a clear leader from the work the Boys and Girls Club does, and reviewed their programs. Councilor Lavin attended a HWS regatta, and will resolve to solve increasing dangers on South Main Street with parking on both sides of the road. He would like to see work to calm traffic and reduce obstacles including garbage trucks.

Councilor Brennan shared that the Shade Tree Committee planted 87 trees this year primarily in residential rights of way, in downtown tree wells, and in Lakefront Park. He thanked volunteers, and Tom Burrall for \$5200 in firewood sales in November.

Mayor Valentino thanked his mother and father, as his father originally encouraged him to run for City Council. He also thanked his wife and family for standing behind him, and thanked the community. Mayor Valentino stressed that it's critical that residents stay involved, the city needs them to stay involved, encouraging residents to get on a board or commission. Mayor Valentino recalled the transformation he's seen in Geneva since the 1960's, and is excited to see where the city is going. He also thanked city staff, explaining that Council doesn't make things happen without good solid staff who execute the day to day. Mayor Valentino also offered thanks to current Councilors, past Councilors and Mayors. He wished the Mayor -Elect and councilor-Elects well in continuing to keep the good momentum going. In closing Mayor Valentino encouraged everyone to attend the Mayor's Tree Lighting on Friday.

17. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Lavin; seconded by Clr. Pealer
MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:05pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nicole Tillotson
City Clerk

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

December 16, 2025 – 6:00 PM
City Hall – 2nd Floor Council Chambers
47 Castle Street
Geneva, NY 14456

Presiding – Steve Valentino, Mayor

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilor Whitfield (arrived at 6:03), Clr. Moracco, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Pealer, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Brennan
Absent: Clr. Gillotte

2. RESOLUTION - Amending Resolution 72-2025 Establishing a Public Hearing for Comment on Change of Use for Loomis Woods

Mayor Valentino presented the following resolution:

AMENDING RESOLUTION # 72-2025

ESTABLISHING PUBLIC HEARING FOR COMMENT ON CHANGE IN USE FOR LOOMIS WOODS FROM CITY PARK AND RECREATION AREA TO SALE FOR HOUSING

WHEREAS, the Geneva City Council previously adopted Resolution 72-2025 to schedule a public hearing for comment on change in use for Loomis Woods from City Park and Recreation Area to Sale for Housing; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the date of said hearing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Resolution 72-2025 is hereby amended as follows:

1. **The first resolved clause is amended to read:**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

That the Geneva City Council hereby sets a Public Hearing for January 7, 2026 (formerly January 4, 2025) at 7:00pm in the Geneva City Hall Council Chambers for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed change in use of Loomis Woods to become housing;

2. **The remaining provisions of the original resolution, including the requirement for public notice, shall remain in full force and effect, as detailed in the City Clerk's notice;**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is directed to publish notice of said amended Public Hearing in accordance with all applicable legal requirements.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Grimaldi; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos

MOVED THAT this resolution be approved

ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye - Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Moracco, Clr Petropoulos, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr.

Pealer, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Brennan

Nay - Mayor Valentino

MOTION CARRIED (7-1-1 absent)

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Grimaldi

MOVED THAT council move to executive session at 6:03pm to discuss collective bargaining and the employment of a particular person.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (9-1 absent)

ACTION TAKEN by; Clr. Petropoulos, seconded by Clr. Moracco

MOVED THAT council exit executive session at 6:55pm

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (9-1 absent)

4. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Brennan; seconded by Clr. Lavin

MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:55pm

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-4 absent)

Nicole Tillotson

City Clerk

DRAFT

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

December 17, 2025 – 5:30 PM
City Hall – 2nd Floor Council Chambers
47 Castle Street
Geneva, NY 14456

Presiding – Peter Gillotte, Deputy Mayor

1. ROLL CALL – 5:40pm

Present: Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Brennan
Absent: Clr. Moracco, Clr. Grimaldi, Clr. Pealer, Mayor Valentino

2. DISCUSSION – Council Foundation and Orientation

City Manager Hendrix opened by reviewing the City's Mission, Vision, and Values. Foundations of Council and Orientation items were then presented and discussed.

3. ATTORNEY – CLIENT MEETING

Deputy Mayor Gillotte moved into Attorney-Client meeting at 7:06pm

Deputy Mayor Gillotte moved out of Attorney-Client meeting at 7:45pm

4. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Lavin; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos
MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:49pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-4 absent)

Nicole Tillotson
City Clerk

THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

December 23, 2025 – 5:30 PM
City Hall – 2nd Floor Conference Room
47 Castle Street
Geneva, NY 14456

Presiding – Steve Valentino, Mayor

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Clr. Moracco, Clr. Petropoulos, Clr. Gillotte, Clr. Pealer, Clr. Lavin, Clr. Brennan
Absent: Clr. Whitfield, Clr. Grimaldi

2. RESOLUTION – Authorizing the Execution of a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Geneva and Geneva Police Officers, Local 3471

City Manager Hendrix presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva is committed to ensuring the safety, well-being, and quality of life of all residents, businesses, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva and Local 3471, Council 82, New York State Law Enforcement Officers Union, AFSCME, are parties to a collective bargaining agreement that expires on December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City and Local 3471 have engaged in collective bargaining and reached a Tentative Agreement for a successor agreement covering the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028; and

WHEREAS, the Tentative Agreement continues existing contract terms except as specifically modified and includes negotiated provisions related to wages, benefits, work schedules, leave, and administrative procedures; and

WHEREAS, the Tentative Agreement reflects a mutually acceptable resolution of negotiations and supports the City's operational needs while providing fair and competitive compensation and benefits to sworn police personnel; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Geneva hereby approves the Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Geneva and Geneva Police Officers, Local 3471, Council 82, New York State Law Enforcement Officers Union, AFSCME, for the term January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028; and

RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Tentative Agreement on behalf of the City of Geneva, subject to any required ratification by the bargaining unit; and

RESOLVED, that the City Manager, Comptroller, Human Resources staff, and Legal representatives are authorized to take any actions necessary to implement the terms of the Agreement consistent with its provisions.

Mayor Valentino thanked staff for their hard work, and union reps for coming to the table in good faith to finalize this agreement.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Petropoulos; seconded by Clr. Pealer
MOVED THAT this resolution be approved
MOTION CARRIED (7-2 absent)

3. RESOLUTION – Geneva Business Improvement District 2023 Bylaws Approval

BID Executive Director Sydney Schumacher presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, A resolution of City Council founded the Geneva Business Improvement District and its bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the Geneva Business Improvement District continues to maintain its positive relationship with the City of Geneva and meets the charge of maintaining and beautifying, supporting and marketing the District of Downtown Geneva; and

WHEREAS The Geneva Business Improvement District bylaws are subject to ongoing City Council approval; and

WHEREAS, It has come to our attention that our current bylaws set forth in 2023, and which are the bylaws under which the organization had operated thereafter, are unknown to have passed City Council; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, City Council will pass, through majority vote, affirmation of the current Geneva Business Improvement District Bylaws; and

RESOLVED, Geneva Business Improvement District will continue to apply said bylaws, with approval, in operation

Ms. Schumacher explained that while reviewing the GBID bylaws it came to her attention that City Council should be approving them, bringing her to this council for approval to indicate that GBID has been working with council in good faith since the adoption of these bylaws in 2023.

Councilor Lavin wondered if all cities have seats on BID boards. City Manager Hendrix explained that many do, and the arrangements can look a little different. She explained that the City of Geneva has three voting seats on the GBID Board, to include finance, the City Manager, and a councilmember. Discussion followed.

Councilor Pealer thanked Ms. Schumacher for bringing this forward, not recalling these bylaws being ratified by council in the six years he's represented Ward 2. He raised a question about the revision added college students to the board. Ms. Schumacher clarified that there is a seat on the board for a staff representative from a local college (HWS or FLCC) with experience in business or entrepreneurship. She further explained that Craig Talmage, HWS faculty who runs the Bozzuto Center currently holds that seat. Discussion followed.

ACTION TAKEN by Clr. Gillotte; seconded by Clr. Brennan
MOVED THAT this resolution be approved
MOTION CARRIED (7-2 absent)

4. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION TAKEN by Mayor Valentino; seconded by Clr. Petropoulos
MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 5:44pm
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-2 absent)

Nicole Tillotson
City Clerk

DRAFT



Geneva City Council
Agenda Item Briefing

To: Geneva City Council
From: Chief Ron Eveland
Meeting Date: January 7th, 2026
Item Title: Amendment to City of Geneva Municipal Code Section 335 – Vehicles and Traffic

Action Required:

An affirmative vote by council for the second reading of the proposed amendment to Geneva City Municipal Code Section 335.

Background:

The area of Washington Street between 101 Washington Street and 117-119 Washington Street has been a controversial topic for a number of years as it relates to property ownership and parking related matters. The Director of Public Works has established that this area is in fact city owned property and connected to Washington Street. The Director of Public Works and Chief of Police feel that creating a public parking lot in this location will create clarity amongst property owners, patrons, and the general public, and establish clear and consistent guidelines to when and where vehicles may lawfully park.

Alternatives:

Council could choose to not amend the municipal code which could lead to continued disputes over the space defined in this proposal.

Financial Impact:

Approximately \$2,500 annually for snow removal. Fine collection from parking violators.



ORDINANCE # 1-2026

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 335 ENTITLED
"VEHICLES & TRAFFIC" OF THE CITY OF GENEVA MUNICIPAL CODE

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Geneva, New York that Chapter 335, entitled "Vehicles & Traffic" of the City of Geneva Municipal Code be amended:

WHEREAS, the current section 335-17, entitled "Parking standing and stopping restrictions." Indicates No special parking restrictions for the south side of Lower Washington Street between the intersection of Park Place and Pulteney Streets in the City except for "No parking from the west curb line of Park Place to a point 60 feet westerly", and

WHEREAS, the City Director of Public Works has determined that the northern boundaries of properties at 101 Washington Street though 117-119 Washington Street are the South Street Line of Washington Street, and

WHEREAS, the City Director of Public Works has determined that the sidewalks and "parking" areas adjoining the northern boundaries of the properties at 101 Washington Street though 117-119 Washington Street are within the bounds of Washington Street, and

WHEREAS, the City Director of Public Works has determined that the sidewalks and "parking" areas adjoining the northern boundaries of the properties at 101 Washington Street though 117-119 Washington Street are located on property belonging to the City, and

WHEREAS, the City Director of Public Works recommends a two-hour parking limit be enacted for the South Side of Washington Street from 101 Washington Street though 117-119 Washington Street, effectively named as the Washington Street Parking Lot, two hour parking only, effective Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and

WHEREAS, the current section of 335-24, entitled "Parking time limits in public parking lots" prescribes time limits for specified public parking lots, and

NOW THEREFORE IT IS ORDAINED, as follows

Section 335-24 of the Geneva City Code, entitled "Parking time limits in public parking lots." be and the same is hereby amended to include the following:

Washington Street Parking Lot: The parking of vehicles is hereby prohibited between the hours of 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from December 1 – April 1

The parking of vehicles is hereby prohibited to a period of no more than two hours, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on Saturdays and Sundays, as follows: Washington Street Parking Lot

ADOPTED BY THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL ON January 7, 2026
ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk



GENEVA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

To: The Members of the Geneva City Council

From: Amie Hendrix, City Manager

Meeting Date: January 7, 2026

Item Title: Resolution Supporting a Sale of Surplus Real Estate Parcel located at 32 Middle Street

Action Required:

Approval of this resolution authorizes the City Attorney and City Manager to execute a sales agreement

Background:

Through the foreclosure process the City of Geneva has acquired the site located at 32 Middle Street in Geneva. The site has been identified as surplus property, not needed for municipal use. A public hearing on this property transaction has been noticed and held on January 7. The Staff Property Acquisition and Disposition team reviewed a request to purchase this property received on September 5, 2025 and recommends that City Council accepts the sale at a price of \$1,000 with the intention by the purchaser to demolish the existing single-family residence. The economic impact of the proposal is based on the redevelopment of the Wadsworth and Middle street corridor as the intended purchaser develops 36 Middle Street into a 9-unit apartment building. There is an expectation that 3-4 temporary jobs will be deployed on this site during demolition. The sale of this property would include a transfer of title from the current owner via foreclosure from the City to the property purchasers. The City would not retain ownership during the transfer.

Alternatives:

The purchaser is willing to pay \$21,000 for this parcel should the City wish to first demolish the structure. The City could retain the parcel.

Financial Impact:

\$1,000 in payment. Reduction in liability costs and return to the tax roll.

RESOLUTION # 1-2026

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A SALE OF SURPLUS REAL ESTATE PARCEL LOCATED AT 32
MIDDLE STREET**

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva has obtained property located at 32 Middle Street through the City foreclosure process, parcel number 104.8-3-3 (the "Property"), and

WHEREAS, said public hearing was held on January 7, 2026, in the Geneva City Hall Council Chambers, and all persons wishing to speak were given an opportunity to be heard; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed all comments received, finds the sale of the Property to David Linger and Wendy Marsh (the "Property Purchasers") consistent with the City's adopted goals for redevelopment, economic growth, and neighborhood revitalization, and determines that such sale will return the Property to productive use and the tax rolls; and

WHEREAS, the property purchasers will be required to obtain all necessary approvals for the redevelopment project from the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and any other reviewing agencies as ordinarily required;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geneva City Council hereby authorizes the foreclosure to be finalized and the parcel to be sold (Tax Parcel No. 104.8-3-3) for a purchase price of \$1,000 to the Property Purchasers in accordance with the terms and conditions approved by the City Manager, Comptroller, and City Attorney; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute all documents necessary to effectuate the sale, including but not limited to a foreclosure, purchase and sale agreement, deed, and any closing documents, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proceeds from the sale shall be applied in accordance with City policy and any applicable budgetary direction adopted by City Council.



GENEVA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

To: City Council

From: Amie Hendrix, City Manager

Meeting Date: January 7, 2026

Item Title: Resolution Establishing a Regular Council meeting Night for the City of Geneva

Action Required:

An affirmative vote by Council will set Regular Meetings for the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm beginning in February 2026.

Background:

Section three of the City Charter calls on City Council to approve certain institutions to execute various operational functions during your term. Specifically, the Charter calls for Council to establish an official meeting date and time. A resolution has been prepared to accomplish this objective.

Alternatives:

Council may amend the resolution

Financial Impact:

None

Office of the City Manager
Amie M. Hendrix

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RESOLUTION # 2 - 2026

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING NIGHT

WHEREAS, the Geneva City Charter provides that the City Council shall, at its organizational meeting, designate its official regular council meeting time, and

WHEREAS, in the past, City Council has met on the first Wednesday evening of each month as its official regular meeting night, and

WHEREAS, this Council is desirous to continue to conduct their regular meetings on the first Wednesday of every month beginning in February of 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Geneva, New York, that the official Council meeting for the conducting of its regular business for the City of Geneva shall be the first Wednesday of each month commencing at 7:00 PM beginning in February of 2026.



GENEVA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

To: City Council

From: Amie Hendrix, City Manager

Meeting Date: January 7, 2026

Item Title: Resolution Designating Official Newspaper for the City of Geneva

Action Required:

An affirmative vote by Council will designate the Finger Lakes Times as the official newspaper of the City of Geneva

Background:

Section three of the City Charter calls on City Council to approve certain institutions to execute various operational functions during your term. Specifically, the Charter calls for Council to designate an official newspaper. The NYS Open Meetings Law states each municipality shall designate a public place for posting agendas. A resolution has been prepared to accomplish these objectives.

Alternatives:

Council may amend the resolution

Financial Impact:

None

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RESOLUTION # 3 – 2026
DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

WHEREAS, the Geneva City Charter provides that the City Council shall designate an official newspaper for the publishing of public notices, and other official notifications for the City of Geneva, and

WHEREAS, The Finger Lakes Times has previously been designated as the official newspaper for the City for such purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Geneva, New York, that The Finger Lakes Times be and the same hereby is designated as the official newspaper for the City of Geneva.

RESOLVED this 7th day of January 2026



GENEVA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

To: City Council

From: Amie Hendrix, City Manager

Meeting Date: January 7, 2026

Item Title: Resolution Designating Official Depositories for the City of Geneva

Action Required:

An affirmative vote by Council will designate any bank with a branch office within the City limits, which is authorized to hold municipal deposits by the State of New York as an official depository for funds of the City of Geneva.

Background:

Section three of the City Charter calls on City Council to approve certain institutions to execute various operational functions during your term. Specifically, the Charter calls for Council to designate official Depositories. A resolution has been prepared to accomplish this objective.

Alternatives:

Council may amend the resolution

Financial Impact:

None

Office of the City Manager
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RESOLUTION # 4 - 2026

RESOLUTION DESIGNATED OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES FOR THE CITY

WHEREAS, the Geneva City Charter provides that the City Council shall designate official depositories for the City of Geneva at its first organizational meeting, and

WHEREAS, it benefits the City to have many institutions competing for deposit services; and

WHEREAS, New York State has rigid requirements for banks wishing to hold municipal deposits.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Geneva, New York, that any bank with a branch office within the City limits, which is authorized to hold municipal deposits by the State of New York, is designated as an official depository for funds of the City of Geneva.



GENEVA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

To: The Members of the Geneva City Council

From: Mayor Jim Cecere

Meeting Date: January 7, 2026

Item Title: A Resolution Amending the Rules of Procedure of the Geneva City Council Concerning the Introduction and Sponsorship of Resolutions

Action Required:

Consideration and adoption of an amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the Geneva City Council establishing sponsorship, co-sponsorship, and review requirements for the introduction of resolutions by Councilmembers.

Background:

The Geneva City Council operates under adopted Rules of Procedure that govern the conduct of meetings and the introduction of legislative items. The current rules do not specify formal requirements regarding sponsorship, co-sponsorship, or minimum review periods for resolutions prior to placement on the agenda.

The proposed amendment establishes a structured process for the introduction of resolutions, including: Identification of a Primary Sponsor and at least one Co-Sponsor, A mandatory thirty (30) day review and consideration period prior to agenda placement, and Defined exceptions for administrative or emergency matters.

The intent of the amendment is to promote transparency, allow adequate time for staff review and legal or fiscal analysis, encourage collaboration among Council members, and ensure that resolutions placed on the agenda are fully vetted prior to Council consideration.

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Sponsorship Requirement: All resolutions must have a Primary Sponsor and at least one Co-Sponsor.

Submission & Review: Resolutions must be submitted in writing and undergo a 30-day review period before agenda placement.

Agenda Placement: Only resolutions meeting sponsorship and review requirements may be placed on a Regular Meeting agenda.

Administrative / Emergency Exception: The City Manager may certify, with concurrence of the Mayor, that a resolution qualifies for expedited consideration without meeting standard requirements.

Administration: The City Clerk is charged with administering the rule, with interpretation by the Mayor subject to Council appeal.

Alternatives:

Adopt the proposed amendment as drafted.

Modify the amendment (e.g., adjust review period or sponsorship requirements).

Take no action and retain the current Rules of Procedure.

Financial Impact:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this amendment. The changes relate solely to internal legislative procedures and agenda management.

Section 9: Introduction and Sponsorship of Resolutions

A. Sponsorship Requirement

1. Any Councilor proposing a resolution for consideration by the Geneva City Council shall serve as the Primary Sponsor.
2. No resolution shall be placed on the agenda for any Regular Meeting of the City Council unless it has been co-sponsored by at least one (1) additional Councilor.
3. The names of the Primary Sponsor and Co-Sponsor(s) shall be listed on the resolution at the time it is submitted for review.

B. Submission and Review Period

1. All proposed resolutions shall be submitted in writing to the City Clerk for distribution to the City Manager, Mayor, and City Council.
2. Upon submission, a proposed resolution shall undergo a mandatory thirty (30) day review and consideration period prior to being eligible for placement on the agenda of a Regular Meeting.
3. During this review period, the City Manager, Mayor, and Council may request clarifying information, staff analysis, legal review, or fiscal impact assessment as appropriate.

C. Placement on Agenda

1. After the 30-day review period has concluded—and provided the resolution has at least one Co-Sponsor—the City Clerk shall place the resolution on the agenda of the next Regular Meeting.
2. Resolutions that do not meet both requirements (sponsorship + 30-day review period) shall not be placed on the agenda.

D. Exceptions for Administrative or Emergency Matters

1. The requirements of Sections A–C may be waived only for resolutions relating to administrative matters or emergency issues.
2. For a resolution to qualify for such an exception:
 - a. The City Manager must identify and certify in writing that the issue constitutes an administrative necessity or an emergency; and
 - b. The Mayor must concur with this determination.
3. When both conditions are met, the resolution may be placed on the agenda of a Regular or Special Meeting without the 30-day review period and without a Co-Sponsor, at the discretion of the Mayor and City Manager.

E. Interpretation and Enforcement

1. The City Clerk shall be responsible for administering this rule, ensuring compliance prior to agenda publication.
2. Any dispute regarding applicability or interpretation of this rule shall be resolved by the Mayor as the presiding officer, subject to appeal by a majority vote of the City Council.

RESOLUTION # 5-2026

**AMENDING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL CONCERNING THE INTRODUCTION
AND SPONSORSHIP OF RESOLUTIONS**

WHEREAS, the Geneva City Council has adopted Rules of Procedure to govern the orderly and transparent conduct of its meetings and legislative actions; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to establish clear standards for the introduction, review, and agenda placement of resolutions in order to promote thoughtful deliberation, adequate staff review, and collaboration among Council members; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment sets forth requirements for sponsorship, co-sponsorship, and a defined review period, while preserving flexibility for administrative and emergency matters; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Rules of Procedure of the Geneva City Council are hereby amended to add a new section #9 titled: INTRODUCTION AND SPONSORSHIP OF RESOLUTIONS which outlines the governing the introduction and sponsorship of resolutions, including requirements for councilmembers to have a Primary Sponsor, at least one Co-Sponsor, written submission, and a thirty (30) day review period prior to placement on the agenda of a Regular Meeting as detailed in the attached; and

RESOLVED, that the amendment shall further provide for limited exceptions for administrative or emergency matters upon written certification by the City Manager and concurrence of the Mayor; and

RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is hereby directed to administer and enforce this rule consistent with its terms, and to incorporate the amendment into the official Rules of Procedure of the Geneva City Council; and

RESOLVED, that this amendment shall take effect immediately upon adoption.



GENEVA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

To: The Members of the Geneva City Council

From: Mayor Jim Cecere

Meeting Date: January 7, 2026

Item Title: Resolution Urging the New York State Legislature and Governor to Amend State Bail Laws to Allow Judges to Consider Public Safety

Action Required:

Consideration and adoption of a resolution urging the New York State Legislature and the Governor to amend New York State bail laws to grant judges explicit authority to consider public safety and dangerousness when making pretrial release decisions.

Background:

New York State's bail statutes, as amended beginning in 2019, significantly limit judicial discretion by prohibiting judges from considering public safety or a defendant's dangerousness when determining pretrial release. As a result, judges are restricted to appearance-based criteria, even in cases involving violence, weapons, repeat offenses, or escalating criminal behavior.

The City of Geneva has experienced incidents in which individuals arrested for serious or violent offenses were released immediately due to current bail law requirements and subsequently reoffended, creating ongoing risks to victims, neighborhoods, businesses, and responding police officers. These repeat incidents have placed additional strain on the Geneva Police Department and other public-safety resources.

Numerous local governments across New York State, the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM), and bipartisan members of the State Legislature have called for reforms that would restore limited judicial discretion to consider public safety while maintaining fairness and equity in pretrial decisions. Governor Kathy Hochul has also indicated openness to further refinements to the bail law framework.

Mayor James Cecere

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This resolution expresses the City Council's support for a balanced, evidence-based approach to bail reform that protects defendants' rights while ensuring that judges have the tools necessary to address clear and demonstrable threats to public safety.

Alternatives:

Take no action and maintain the City's current position on state bail law.

Defer consideration of the resolution pending further state-level developments.

Financial Impact:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the adoption of this resolution. Indirectly, improved judicial discretion in pretrial decisions may reduce repeat calls for service and associated public-safety costs over time.

RESOLUTION # 6-2026

URGING THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO AMEND STATE BAIL LAWS TO GRANT JUDGES CLEAR AUTHORITY TO CONSIDER PUBLIC SAFETY IN PRETRIAL RELEASE DECISIONS

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva is committed to ensuring the safety, well-being, and quality of life of all residents, businesses, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York's current bail statutes, as amended since 2019, limit judicial authority by prohibiting judges from explicitly considering public safety or dangerousness when determining whether to set bail or remand a defendant pretrial; and

WHEREAS, New York State remains one of the only states in the nation where judges cannot detain an individual pretrial based on demonstrated public-safety risk, resulting in an appearance-based system that restricts the ability of courts to address violent or high-risk repeat offenders appropriately; and

WHEREAS, in the City of Geneva there have been multiple incidents in which individuals arrested for serious, violent, or escalating offenses were released immediately due to the constraints of current bail law and subsequently continued dangerous behavior that posed clear risks to victims, neighbors, businesses, bystanders, and responding officers; and

WHEREAS, such incidents have included recurring domestic violence offenses, repeated incidents involving weapons or threats of violence, persistent harassment and intimidation of residents, and other escalating situations in which the justice system lacked clear statutory authority to detain the individuals involved for the safety of the community; and

WHEREAS, these patterns have placed significant burdens on the Geneva Police Department, requiring officers to respond multiple times to the same individuals within short periods, increasing strain on public-safety resources and exposing officers and the public to preventable harm; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM), numerous local governments, and a bipartisan group of State Legislators, including Senator Pam Helming, have urged reconsideration of current bail statutes to incorporate public safety as a factor in pretrial release decisions; and

WHEREAS, Governor Kathy Hochul has signaled openness to further refinements of New York's bail laws to improve judicial discretion and enhance community safety; and

WHEREAS, granting judges clear authority to evaluate public-safety risks in appropriate cases—particularly those involving violence, weapons, repeat offenses, or escalating threatening behavior—would align New York with national practices and strengthen community trust in the justice system; and

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva recognizes the importance of maintaining fairness and equity in pretrial procedures and affirms that no individual should be detained solely due to economic status; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Geneva, New York, hereby urges the Governor of the State of New York and the New York State Legislature to amend the State's bail laws to grant judges explicit statutory authority to consider public safety and dangerousness when making pretrial release and bail determinations; and further

RESOLVED, that such amendments should provide courts with clear, transparent criteria and appropriate judicial discretion in evaluating public-safety risk, ensure that individuals who pose clear and demonstrable threats to victims or the community may be detained pretrial regardless of financial resources, and maintain a commitment to fairness by basing detention decisions on risk rather than wealth; and further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of the State of New York, members of the New York State Legislature representing the region, the New York State Conference of Mayors, Ontario County officials, local judicial and law enforcement leadership, and other relevant state and regional stakeholders; and further

RESOLVED, that the City of Geneva stands ready to collaborate with state policymakers, public-safety officials, and community partners to advance reforms that make the City of Geneva and New York State safer, fairer, and more just.



GENEVA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

To: Members of the Geneva City Council

From: Mayor Jim Cecere

Meeting Date: January 7, 2026

Item Title: Adoption of Resolution Affirming the Code of Ethics and Establishing Standards of Professional Conduct

Action Required:

City Council is asked to review and adopt the Resolution Affirming the City of Geneva Code of Ethics and Establishing the Highest Standards of Professional Conduct.

Adoption of the resolution will:

- Reaffirm the Council's commitment to the existing Chapter 26 Code of Ethics;
- Establish a set of professional conduct expectations for Council Members; and
- Serve as a guiding framework for ethical, transparent, and effective governance throughout the 2026–2027 Council term.

Background:

The City of Geneva maintains a Code of Ethics in Chapter 26 of the City Code, established in accordance with New York General Municipal Law §806, which requires every municipality to adopt ethical standards for all officers and employees.

The Code addresses:

- Conflicts of interest,
- Standards for conduct,
- Mandatory disclosures,
- The role and function of the Board of Ethical Review, and
- Procedures for handling ethics complaints.

The new City Council has expressed strong interest in establishing clear expectations for ethical governance, conduct, and professional interaction.

Mayor Jim Cecere

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Issue Summary

While the Code of Ethics establishes legal requirements, it does not comprehensively address standards of professional behavior, civility, communication, or collaboration among elected officials.

Adopting a supplemental Council commitment will:

- Provide clarity and structure for Council operations;*
- Establish expectations for conduct among all members;*
- Strengthen the City's adherence to best practices in governance; and*
- Set a professional tone for all Council proceedings.*

Policy Considerations

Legal and Ethical Compliance: The resolution affirms adherence to the existing Code of Ethics, ensuring clear alignment with state law.

Public Trust and Transparency: A formal written commitment promotes credibility and signals to residents that the Council values ethical behavior and professionalism.

Council Effectiveness: Establishing expectations for civility, cooperation, and stewardship supports a more functional and productive legislative environment.

Organizational Alignment: Clear standards benefit elected officials, City staff, boards, and residents by establishing predictable norms for interaction.

Annual Review Requirement: The Code of Ethics (§26-7) requires each new Council to review the chapter. Adoption of this resolution reinforces that obligation.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Geneva City Council adopt the Resolution Affirming the Code of Ethics and Establishing Standards of Professional Conduct.

This action will:

- Strengthen ethical governance;
- Clarify expectations for conduct;
- Promote a culture of transparency and collaboration; and
- Enhance Council-public relations.

Alternatives:

Passage of the resolution is strongly encouraged.

Next Steps:

Council Adoption: Place the resolution on the agenda for approval at the January 7, 2026 Organizational Meeting or subsequent meeting.

Execution of the Commitment Statement: Each Council Member will sign the Council Commitment Statement, which will be filed with the City Clerk. This will have been signed in advance of the passing of the resolution for the purpose of expediency.

Public Distribution: The signed statement and resolution may be shared publicly to reinforce the Council's pledge to the community.

Annual Review: As required by Chapter 26, Council will revisit the Code of Ethics annually and consider updates or refinements.

CITY OF GENEVA, NEW YORK

CITY COUNCIL COMMITMENT STATEMENT

Affirmation of Ethical Governance and Professional Conduct

January 7, 2026

As duly elected officials of the City of Geneva, New York, we recognize that the trust placed in us by the residents of our community carries significant responsibility. Our positions require the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, transparency, and respect for the democratic process.

In acknowledgment of these responsibilities, and in accordance with Chapter 26 of the City Code (Code of Ethics), New York State General Municipal Law, and the principles of good governance, we hereby affirm and commit to the following:

1. Commitment to Ethical Conduct

We will uphold, abide by, and promote the City of Geneva Code of Ethics. We will conduct ourselves with honesty and integrity, avoid conflicts of interest, make required disclosures, and act solely in the best interests of the City and its residents.

2. Commitment to Professional Behavior

We will treat all individuals—residents, City staff, fellow elected officials, and community partners—with civility and respect. We will maintain decorum in all public meetings and communications, recognizing our role in modeling constructive civic dialogue.

3. Commitment to Transparency

We will conduct City business openly, honestly, and in good faith, ensuring that our actions are accessible and accountable to the public we serve. We will recuse ourselves where required and disclose potential conflicts promptly.

4. Commitment to Collaboration and Effective Governance

We will work cooperatively with one another, with the Mayor, and with the City Manager and City staff to foster a functional and professional government. We will focus on shared goals, evidence-based decision-making, and responsible stewardship of public resources.

5. Commitment to Confidentiality and Legal Compliance

We will protect confidential information entrusted to us and comply with all federal, state, and local laws, including those governing open meetings, public records, personnel matters, and ethical conduct.

CITY OF GENEVA, NEW YORK

CITY COUNCIL COMMITMENT STATEMENT

Affirmation of Ethical Governance and Professional Conduct

January 7, 2026

6. Commitment to Continuous Improvement

We will participate in annual reviews of the Code of Ethics, seek opportunities for training and professional development, and strive to strengthen public trust in our governance.

Affirmation

By signing below, on this 7th day of January, 2026, we affirm our commitment to uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct and professional behavior throughout our term of service on the Geneva City Council.

We acknowledge that this Commitment Statement will be kept on file by the City Clerk and may be made publicly available.

Mayor Jim Cecere

Signature: _____

Date: January 7, 2026

John Brennan, Councilor At Large

Signature: _____

Date: January 7, 2026

Ahmad Whitfield, Councilor At Large

Signature: _____

Date: January 7, 2026

Chris Lavin, 1st Ward

Signature: _____

Date: January 7, 2026

Benjamin Gummoe, 2nd Ward

Signature: _____

Date: January 7, 2026

Patrick Grimaldi, 3rd Ward

Signature: _____

Date: January 7, 2026

Peter Gillotte, 4th Ward

Signature: _____

Date: January 7, 2026

James Petropolous, 5th Ward

Signature: _____

Date: January 7, 2026

Jamie Kaim, 6th Ward

Signature: _____

Date: January 7, 2026

RESOLUTION # 7-2025

**AFFIRMING THE CITY OF GENEVA CODE OF ETHICS AND ESTABLISHING THE CITY COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT
TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

WHEREAS, the City of Geneva has established, pursuant to Chapter 26 of the City Code and in accordance with New York General Municipal Law §806, a Code of Ethics that defines the standards of ethical behavior expected of all City officers and employees; and

WHEREAS, the Code of Ethics affirms that ethical governance is essential to maintaining public confidence, ensuring transparency, and promoting accountability across all levels of City government; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Members of the City Council serve as the highest elected officials in the City of Geneva, and as such are entrusted with stewarding the public's resources, making policy decisions that affect all residents, and setting the tone for integrity and professionalism within City Hall; and

WHEREAS, this City Council recognizes that adherence to the Code of Ethics is not merely a compliance requirement, but a foundational principle necessary for responsible governance, effective collaboration, and the advancement of a well-functioning City government; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to formally affirm its commitment to the existing Code of Ethics and to adopt additional expectations for professional conduct that reflect the values, responsibilities, and fiduciary duties associated with elected office;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Geneva hereby reaffirms full support for, and adherence to, the City of Geneva Code of Ethics, as set forth in Chapter 26 of the City Code; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all Council Members shall complete all required disclosures, including Statements of Economic Interest, and shall conduct themselves at all times in compliance with the letter and spirit of the Code of Ethics, New York State law, and all other applicable legal obligations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby establishes and affirms the following principles of Professional Conduct to guide its work throughout its term:

1. Commitment to the Public Trust

Council Members shall act in the best interest of the City of Geneva and its residents, placing public service above personal, political, or financial gain.

2. Respectful and Civil Engagement

Council Members shall maintain a professional, courteous, and respectful environment in all public meetings, Council communications, and interactions with residents, City staff, and fellow elected officials.

3. Transparency and Accountability

Council Members shall conduct City business openly, honestly, and with a commitment to full and fair disclosure, recusal

where appropriate, and timely reporting as required by law and policy.

4. Responsible Stewardship of City Resources

Council Members shall use City property, funds, time, and staff support solely for official purposes and in accordance with established policies.

5. Collaboration and Effective Governance

Council Members shall work cooperatively with one another, the Mayor, and the City Manager and City staff to ensure a functional, professional, and productive government focused on outcomes for the community.

6. Upholding Confidentiality and Legal Obligations

Council Members shall safeguard confidential information received in the course of their duties and comply with all laws governing public records, meetings, personnel matters, and ethics.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council directs that this resolution be included in the Council's Organizational Meeting materials and distributed to all newly elected and appointed officials as an affirmation of the Council's commitment to ethical and professional governance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council shall review these standards annually, as required by §26-7 of the Code of Ethics, and consider updates as needed to uphold the highest expectations of public conduct.