

Budget discussion Items for 2026 from Councilmember Grimaldi

City Information

Information from Councilmember Grimaldi

The City of Geneva is a small City of 12,391 residents. Residents below the poverty level in the City is about 18.1 percent, Of this amount 36% are under 18 years old and 9% are over 65 years young. Both of these numbers are rising. The median (middle number) income is \$68,242, and the median age is 33.3 years young.

The 2025 projected population is 12,323, showing an annual rate of change of -0.6%, this is consistent with 2023 to 2024.

Geneva has 4,878 households, with an average of 2 members in each. Of these, 50% are families, while the remaining 50% are made up of individuals living alone or with non-relatives, such as roommates.

There are 4,878 occupied housing units in Geneva. 49.2% are owner-occupied, while 50.8% are lived in by tenants. 10.3% of all homes on the local market sit vacant.

The City provides water and sewer services to the surrounding towns at a wholesale cost or reduced program cost. Many non-residents use City provided services and programs.

- All items highlighted in green are the councilmembers' statements.

Debt Review in 2026 Proposed

Information from Councilmember Grimaldi

At present 18% of every dollar spent in the City goes for payment of debt the City incurred by previous City Councils.

For 2026 Project year the budget would like us to approve a series of projects with a cost of \$16,250,000 in spending from Bond issuing, CHIPS and fund balance.

We need to look at the real cost to taxpayers of these programs.

Notes from Staff on Debt

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) page 93, outlines the City's multi-year schedule for major infrastructure investments, including roads, facilities, and equipment. It is included in the annual budget to link long-term planning with the City's operational and financial priorities, showing the timing, costs, and funding sources for each project.

Debt appears in both the budget and the CIP but serves different purposes: in the CIP, it represents planned borrowing to fund future projects, while in the budget it reflects the annual principal and interest payments on existing debt. The debt payments are found on page 105. The CIP is presented as part of the budget and then again as bond resolutions in 2026 to allow for pre-planning and formal authorization when projects are ready to advance. Cost shifting from 2026 projects will not be achieved until 2027, once borrowing and project implementation occur. Staff has recommended that Council consider developing a formal debt policy to guide future borrowing, such as limiting new debt to amounts no greater than what is being retired, to maintain fiscal stability and long-term affordability.

The interest rates for debt are variable based on a variety of factors including:

- on the timeframe the debt is taken on
- when the debt moves from BAN to bond
- the duration of the bond
- our current debt load/bond rating

Additional considerations regarding holding off on all capital projects until they can be paid for in cash, it's difficult to see a day where that will happen for a few reasons:

1. The longer we hold off on infrastructure improvements, the higher likelihood of there being emergency purchases to repair these items, defeating the purpose of "saving up money" to pay cash. At that point, we do not have the option to bond because we are in an emergency situation, so we end up paying cash before we have enough money saved to afford it.
2. Costs are increasing at an alarming rate. Two examples of this are the Marina project and the ATAD project. In both cases, City Council approved several million dollars in additional funding in 2025 because the bids came back significantly higher than the original estimated cost. The longer we hold off on projects, the more expensive they become.

Clinton & Cherry & Elmwood Street Reconstruction

Information from Councilmember Grimaldi

The **general budget** would bond this project at a, \$500,000 cost to the taxpayers would be:

- \$651,188 when finally paid off in 15 years.
- This would add \$43,412 dollars a year to future budgets for 15 years

The **water and sewer budgets** would bond \$1,500,000 each:

This would have a final cost of \$2,446,710 each at the end of the 30 year term. It would add \$81,556.50 to each year of the fund costs over the 30 term of the bond.

Additional Information:

- Delaying debt has no impact on 2026 Budget costs
- Water and Sewer debt is paid by fees for those services and is spread among all users; reducing this debt does not reduce the general fund debt load

Impact:

- Deferring could temporarily reduce new debt load with impact on 2027 budget
- An allocation of \$ in the general fund budget for initial survey/engineering work could provide additional time to seek state or federal cost-sharing for bonded projects.
- Street and underground utility conditions will continue to deteriorate, increasing repair costs by 12-15 % annually. Inflation peaked in 2022 however Western NY project costs have increased by significant percentages driven by nationwide trends of post pandemic inflation and rising materials and labor costs.
- Prolonged disruption for residents and businesses, more frequent patching and water main breaks.

Pulteney Street Reconstruction

Information from Councilmember Grimaldi:

- City budget bonding of \$3,000,000 for this project.
- Taxpayer cost of \$3,907,128; paid out at \$260,475 a year over 15 years.
- Water bonding of \$2,000,000.
 - Water fund user cost of \$3,262,280 over 30 years of the bonds life.
 - Users would pay out an additional \$108,742 a year in water fees.
- Sewer
 - Sewer fund user cost of \$4,893,420 over 30 years of the bonds life.
 - Users would pay an additional \$163,113 a year in sewer fees.

Additional Information:

- Delaying debt has no impact on 2026 Budget costs
- Water and Sewer debt is paid by fees for those services and is spread among all users; reducing this debt does not reduce the general fund debt load
- Neglected infrastructure leads to increased problems, from backups and flooding to potential health hazards and structural damages.
- Stormwater impacts - Six (6) water breaks last 5 years; pending litigation over storm sewer impacts

Impact:

- Deferring could temporarily reduce new debt load in 2026 with impact on 2027 budget
- With allocation of general fund money \$ for initial survey/engineering work it could provide additional time to seek state or federal cost-sharing.
- Street and underground utility conditions will continue to deteriorate, increasing repair costs by 12-15% annually.
- Prolonged disruption for residents and businesses, more frequent patching and water main breaks.
- Deferral may slow downtown connectivity improvements and economic momentum.

Cellular Water Meters

Information from Councilmember Grimaldi:

There would be a \$652,456 final cost to the water and sewer fund, paid out as \$21,750 per year to each fund over 30 years. Additional money would have to be spent on the 2027 budget.

Impact:

- Additional time for competitive procurement or vendor negotiation.
- Significant meter transmitter failures are increasing (+/-10 %); lost revenue from inaccurate reads will grow.
- May become emergency purchases utilizing reserve funds when meters continue to fail. Homeowners may face unexpected charges for inaccurate usage. Conversely, a completely non-functional meter might lead to zero billing until city can replace them.
- Without replacement we are losing revenue in the water and sewer funds by estimating bills every quarter, and that number continues to grow.
- This project is one that will give us a return on our investment. There is also a customer service component where we will have up-to-date information for each meter. Rather than capturing a reading once every quarter, we can get it daily, and so can the customer by logging on to their account.
- Reduced service reliability; more manual readings and customer complaints.

Fire Apparatus

Information from Councilmember Grimaldi:

Add funds to the equipment reserve fund for the next 3 years and buy it in year 3 for delivery in year 5.

Impact:

- Aging equipment increases maintenance costs and reliability concerns.
- High chance of CDBG funding in current year, funding may not be available in future years.
- May reduce service readiness or insurance rating if fleet ages out.
- The cost will only increase, and we are fortunate to have a potential funding source for 80-85% of the total cost. That is not guaranteed in the future.

Rink improvements

Information from Councilmember Grimaldi:

It has been 50 years, let's put money away until we can pay cash for the improvements and then do it. The number of residents using the rink is very small.

Additional Information:

- Days of Use: 304 in 2024
- Number of Visitors: Current baseline usage estimates approximately 25,500 annual visits, with post-project conservative estimates of 35,000 annual visits in Year 1, stabilizing at 45,000 annual visits by Year 3 if the complex was to be utilized as a community center. Sport-related activities including leagues, practices, public skating, and lessons currently account for 14,000 visits annually, projected to grow to 16,500 post-project and 20,000 at stabilization through expanded schedules and programming.

Impact:

- Allows accumulation of dedicated reserves and time to plan sustainable redesign.
- Recreation should be vital for our city because it improves the quality of life for residents by promoting physical and mental health, fosters social connections and enhances public safety. Boosts economic benefits by increased tourism and higher property values.
- Facility wear continues; repair costs rise; potential loss of operations.
- Amount included in this project is aligned with grant funding resources.
- Diminished recreational experience, possible loss of programs or rentals.
- Investment in recreation connects to increased economic activity both in the short-term and long-term.
 - o Strong offerings drive short-term gains through increased downtown foot traffic and visitor spending.
 - o Over time, they help attract new residents and investment by showcasing Geneva's quality of life.

Sewer Maintenance Program

Information from Councilmember Grimaldi:

\$250,000, we should use money from the sewer fund balance, not fair to put today's maintenance on future residents.

Additional Information:

- Bonding for sewer maintenance annually allows the City to fund long-term infrastructure needs in a responsible and predictable way. Sewer systems are capital assets that last for decades, so spreading costs over their useful life ensures that both current and future users contribute fairly to the system they benefit from.
- Annual budgets are designed to cover operations and routine maintenance, not large-scale repairs or replacements. Bonding helps avoid sudden spikes in sewer rates or taxes and maintains stable cash flow, allowing reserves to be used for emergencies rather than capital projects.
- In many cases, major sewer upgrades are required to meet state and federal environmental regulations. Having bond funding in place ensures the City can complete projects on time and remain in compliance, avoiding fines or environmental damage.
- By bonding annually or on a regular schedule, the City can plan for consistent investment in critical infrastructure, maintain a predictable debt service schedule, and prevent deferred maintenance that would be more costly to address later.
- Annual bonding is not about paying for routine work—it is a responsible financial tool that allows the City to maintain, upgrade, and protect essential sewer infrastructure in a sustainable way.

Impact:

- Deferred maintenance increases failure risk and emergency costs.
- Potential compliance issues and service interruptions.

Street Resurfacing

Information from Councilmember Grimaldi:

Continue using CHIPS money

Additional Information:

- Amount of CHIPS funds varies annually SFY 2025-2026 = CHIPS \$412k; PAVE NY \$95k; EWR \$63k; STR \$1.1M; POP \$63k + Any Rollover Balances.
- Eligible projects - 10 Year Rule. Must have service life of 10 years or more and be approved NYSDOT Highway Inventory
- Can be used for construction costs of projects to enable the existing pavement to achieve its design life or improve serviceability while not degrading safety; performed by contract, project survey costs, purchase of Right of Way; Some design and inspection; Milling and paver placed surface treatment
- CHIPS cannot be used for: Operation and maintenance activities such as pavement patching, pothole repairs, crack sealing, slurry seal, snow removal, brush and weed control, street cleaning; Highway planning studies; Sanitary sewers, water lines and other utilities; Municipal interest payments, debt services or principal; Indirect costs for local bonds.

Impacts:

- Can align with future complete streets or stormwater upgrades.
- Accelerated deterioration increases long-term costs.
- Resident satisfaction declines; higher DPW patching workload.

Business Improvement District

Information from Councilmember Grimaldi:

The BID should not be working outside of their district at the lakefront and the City should not be paying them to do work that the DPW should be doing.

Additional Information:

BID District Map: Defines the geographic boundaries of the BID. While their primary focus is within the district, certain lakefront activities are part of collaborative projects that benefit both the district and the broader community. Lakefront was incorporated into the district along with 41 Lakefront hotel.

Annual Contract Amount – Clearly outlines the City's investment in the BID for specific services. These funds are allocated for activities that complement, rather than replace, DPW responsibilities.

Current DPW Staff that assist with Lakefront (Mowing, Weeding)

Lakefront Park and DRI Improvement Green Infrastructure require full-time maintenance efforts that are not funded. City had invested in several lakefront improvement projects but zero maintenance efforts. Real potential structural failures to existing amenities such as concrete features, docks, walkways, and piers. Additional staffing costs by city would be significantly more than BID staff if the City would assume full personnel and benefit costs, including union rates, retirement, health insurance, and professional development.

Were the City to absorb back the BID's beautification responsibilities at the lakefront, it is clear from past experience that either A) the work would continue, but it would be more costly for the City to keep sole responsibility than for the BID to share, or B) the lakefront would suffer. It has been clear that there is not enough manpower or specialized knowledge within the teams on the ground for the past system to work, so it's in the best interest of the district to continue this new experiment of shared responsibility. Right now, we are remediating neglected areas, and we have plans for how to optimize the spaces, if given the time and resources to do so.

A primary focus of the GBID is on the driving force of beautification for economic development. By creating and maintaining better lakefront thoroughfares and public spaces, we are demonstrating for visitors and locals alike that this is a place we care about, where the environment we create for them matters, and that therefore this is a place they can want to come back to or stay in. The lakefront is a gateway to our downtown and the businesses housed there, and the BID intends to continue to treat it as such. With this as

an available space for us to use, it opens possibilities for grant programs (of which we have already secured two this year) to even further collaborate with the City and DPW to elevate the community.

Impact:

- The partnership allows for specialized focus on beautification, event support, and economic vitality projects that the DPW may not have the capacity or expertise to execute.
- Enhances efficiency by leveraging BID resources for seasonal and promotional projects, freeing DPW to focus on core infrastructure and maintenance tasks.
- Strengthens collaboration and coordination between City departments and the BID, improving overall service delivery and public experience.
- Without clear communication, there can be misunderstandings about overlapping responsibilities, which is why regular review of contracts and scopes of work is essential. BID is in on-going communication with the City.
- Increase visibility of community-focused improvements and events.
- Transparent reporting ensures residents understand how funds are used and the benefits realized.
- Examples of Impact Already Occurring, Due to BID Lakefront Partnership:
 - o \$38,000 Robert F Schumann grant, awarded to BID, to remediate district landscape
 - o \$5,000 Keep America Beautiful grant, awarded to BID, to continue anti-litter initiative begun in the downtown portion of the district last year
 - o In the last three weeks alone, over \$300 was spent in downtown district businesses in conjunction with improvement efforts
 - o Plans for applications (upcoming due dates) to at least four specific grants for maintenance, wayfinding, or programming at the lakefront that can create improvement and involvement for the district as a whole, and/or specific opportunities for district business partnerships/benefits

City Attorney

It may be time to look at going back to a City Attorney who is part of the staff. And not an outside firm. \$450,000 for this too high.

Additional Information:

- Retainers: \$222,000
- Outside Retainer Counsel YTD: ~\$100,000
- Current contract is for four years – 2024-2028
- YTD Legal Costs - \$267,685

Impact:

- Improves consistency in legal advice and enhance institutional knowledge of City operations.
- A staff attorney would be more integrated with departments, allowing for quicker responses and proactive legal guidance.
- The City would assume full personnel and benefit costs, including retirement, health insurance, and professional development.
- Recruiting and retaining qualified municipal attorneys in a competitive market could be difficult.
- Specialized legal matters, such as labor negotiations, litigation, or environmental law, would likely still require outside counsel.
- The transition period may temporarily increase costs due to overlaps in services, setup of legal systems, and contract closeouts.

Fire Department

Information from Councilmember Grimaldi:

The Fire Department has taken on EMS calls, this has caused the City to pay for additional training for its staff. These calls put a burden on the fire drivers and the ambulance crews are using our Fire staff to cover for them when they are under staffed. If we are going to continue to cover for them they should reimburse the City for some of our costs as they are being paid for their calls. This makes them different than the City helping our neighboring Fire and Police departments.

Additional Information:

The Geneva Fire Department (GFD) provides emergency medical service (EMS) response as part of its all-hazards mission to protect the residents of the City of Geneva. This program was developed in response to limited ambulance availability from Finger Lakes Ambulance (FLA). GFD's participation ensures that life-threatening medical emergencies within the city receive an immediate response and that critical care begins before an ambulance can arrive.

GFD currently responds to all ECHO-level and DELTA-level medical calls within the city when an ambulance unit is not immediately available or not present within city limits. These are the most critical classifications of medical emergencies under the New York State 911 dispatch system.

- ECHO-level calls are the highest priority and include situations such as cardiac arrest, patients not breathing, or life-threatening trauma.
- DELTA-level calls represent severe medical emergencies such as chest pain, stroke symptoms, major bleeding, or severe respiratory distress.

By responding to these calls, GFD ensures that advanced life support interventions can begin immediately, often minutes before an ambulance's arrival. The department's average response time for medical emergencies is under 2 minutes, compared to ambulance-only response times that have historically exceeded 30 minutes in some cases. This rapid deployment capability has directly contributed to improved patient outcomes and community confidence in emergency services.

Training and Certification

All volunteer members receive their Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training at no cost through New York State-approved regional training programs. Career staff are required

to maintain their EMT certification and complete recertification during duty hours, resulting in no additional overtime or cost impact to the City.

Aside from one previously resolved grievance, there have been no expenses associated with EMS training or certification renewals for the 2026 budget cycle.

Equipment and Supply Costs

All disposable EMS supplies and medications used on incidents are replenished directly by Finger Lakes Ambulance. This includes oxygen, bandaging materials, airway equipment, and other medical consumables. The Fire Department does not purchase or replace these items, and therefore there is no material expense to the City related to EMS response.

Call Volume and Response Data (2024)

In 2024, the Geneva Fire Department responded to 238 NFIRS Code 311 (Medical Assist, Assist EMS Crew) and 105 NFIRS Code 320 (Emergency Medical Service Incident, Other) calls — totaling 343 EMS-related incidents. These calls represented approximately 12.4% of the department's total 2024 call volume of 2,759 incidents.

It is important to note that a portion of these calls involved lift assists—instances where firefighters are requested by the ambulance service to help lift or move a patient safely. This assistance would be provided regardless of whether GFD operated an EMS program, as it is a standard component of mutual support between local emergency agencies.

Each EMS incident averages roughly seven firefighters on scene, ensuring an effective and coordinated response. The department currently maintains 22 members certified as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), 86 members certified as CPR, First Aid or Stop the Bleed training, providing a consistent level of medical capability across all shifts.

Fire units consistently arrived on scene before FLA in many cases, providing rapid patient care, scene stabilization, and life-saving interventions while awaiting transport units.

Relationship with Finger Lakes Ambulance and EMS Certificate of Need (CON)

Finger Lakes Ambulance (FLA) operates under a New York State Department of Health EMS Certificate of Need (CON) for the Geneva area. A Certificate of Need (CON) is a state-issued authorization that allows an agency to provide ambulance or advanced life support services within a defined geographic area. The CON establishes a primary service territory but does not obligate the agency to provide continuous coverage or guarantee unit availability at all times.

Although FLA holds the CON for the City of Geneva, there is no formal contract or service agreement between the City and FLA requiring them to cover calls within city limits or to meet specific response standards. FLA has previously indicated that a paid service agreement would be necessary for the City to receive priority or dedicated coverage.

FLA's current rate for a dedicated standby ambulance is \$170 per hour. To maintain one dedicated ambulance in the City of Geneva 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the annual cost would exceed \$1.4 million, not including fuel, maintenance, or personnel overhead.

The next closest ambulance service with a New York State CON is North Seneca Ambulance, based in Waterloo, NY. North Seneca responds to Geneva only when specifically requested and available, resulting in longer response times if FLA units are committed or unavailable.

The Executive Director of Finger Lakes Ambulance has expressed a willingness to explore the possibility of establishing a satellite ambulance station within the City or Town of Geneva. This initiative could improve response reliability and provide a more consistent EMS presence for both communities. GFD supports continued discussion on this proposal as a potential long-term solution to regional EMS coverage challenges.

Impact:

There has been no negative impact reported by fire personnel related to EMS operations. The additional calls are managed within existing staffing and duty schedules. Fire drivers and crews have adapted effectively, and the integration of EMS response has enhanced the department's overall readiness and skill set.

Future Discussions:

Municipal Certificate of Need (CON) or City-Operated Ambulance Service

Another long-term option for consideration is the City of Geneva pursuing its own municipal EMS Certificate of Need (CON) through the New York State Department of Health. Obtaining a municipal CON would allow the City to establish, operate, or contract its own ambulance service directly under local control—ensuring guaranteed coverage, standardized response times, and accountability to city leadership.

A City-run ambulance service, whether operated through the Fire Department or as a hybrid municipal/contracted model, would:

- Ensure continuous emergency medical coverage within the City's borders.
- Eliminate reliance on private agencies for primary response.
- Allow better integration with Fire Department operations and dispatch systems.

- Provide opportunities for cost recovery through billing of EMS transport services.

However, it is important to recognize that a City-operated ambulance service also comes with high costs and significant administrative challenges. These include:

- The need to purchase and maintain ambulances and medical equipment.
- Increased staffing requirements for licensed paramedics and EMTs, including 24/7 coverage.
- Liability exposure, insurance, and compliance with NYS Department of Health regulations.
- Complex billing, reimbursement, and medical documentation systems that must be established and maintained.
- Ongoing operational and training costs that could substantially impact the municipal budget.

Establishing a municipal CON requires a defined process through the NYS Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, including needs assessment, public hearing, and approval by the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council (REMSCO) and the State EMS Council (SEMSCO). While the process is complex and costly, it provides a path toward long-term independence and stability for EMS delivery in Geneva if pursued strategically and sustainably.

Police (and Recreation & Economic Development)

Information from Councilmember Grimaldi:

The Geneva Police Department is operating with two (2) positions less than they had a few years ago. This has shown that with those positions missing overtime has increased. I don't feel that we can bring bought of them back for 2026, but I think if we remove the new Coordinator position from Planning, and put that money into one of the officer positions we could bring one back this year and let the 2026 Counsel consider the other for 2027.

Additional Information:

Overtime report year over year for the Police Department

- 2023 OT was at 4,056
- 2024 OT was 3,175
- 2025 OT is at 1,811 as of September 1, 2025

Impact:

- The City's Recreation and Economic Development departments include five positions: a coordinator overseeing daily operations, a recreation supervisor, recreation maintenance mechanic, grants administrator, and special events coordinator. These roles support community engagement, economic growth, and recreation programming year-round. The Community Vitality Coordinator (CVC) provides 24/7 support across both teams, while the Assistant City Manager (ACM) oversees the CVC, Buildings and Grounds, and Code Enforcement.
- The development of the CVC was created by removing two directors and blending into an ACM and supervisor level, maintaining a cost neutral budget. Two positions are necessary for operations and this was created to enhance services from the previous mode.
- It's important to note that a Community Vitality Coordinator and a Police Officer serve very different functions. The CVC focuses on community engagement, event coordination, economic development, and grant administration—all of which build long-term community health and vitality. A Police Officer focuses on law enforcement, public safety, and compliance – which supports the safety of the community as well. One position cannot replace the other without losing essential capacity in its respective area.
- Geneva's long-term success depends on maintaining the balance between economic growth, community engagement, safe neighborhoods, and quality of life. Shifting funding from Community Vitality or Economic Development to other areas,

such as policing, would not be cost-neutral and would diminish the City's ability to attract investment, manage grants, and deliver programs that strengthen the local economy and community trust. Sustaining both areas together ensures Geneva continues to grow as a safe, vibrant, and economically resilient city.

- Economic development is more than business attraction—it is the process by which a community improves the well-being and quality of life for its residents. In Geneva, this means attracting and retaining businesses, creating jobs, supporting entrepreneurs, and ensuring a resilient local economy that benefits everyone. True economic development, however, does not exist in isolation. It depends on strong neighborhoods, active recreation, safe and well-maintained spaces, and an engaged community. These elements—housing, recreation, code enforcement, business support, and public safety—work in concert to make Geneva a vibrant place to live, work, and invest.
- Shifting funding from the CVC to create or restore a police position would not be cost-neutral. The anticipated difference in salary and benefits is approximately \$20,000. Additionally, removing funding from the Community Vitality and Recreation areas would reduce service capacity—limiting hours at the Recreation Complex, reducing community events and programming, and potentially lowering revenue from special events and development support.
- While adding a Police Officer could increase departmental capacity and help reduce mandated overtime, these impacts are influenced by variables such as staffing levels, medical or administrative leave, and mandated assignments like School Resource Officers.
- Investments in recreation, public spaces, and community programs are proven to yield strong returns—reducing crime, improving health outcomes, and increasing property values and economic activity. Likewise, maintaining grant and event coordination capacity ensures continued access to external funding and community partnerships that offset local costs.
- Both public safety and community vitality are essential city functions, but they serve distinct and complementary roles. Decisions should consider the long-term community impact, recognizing that reallocating funding from one will directly affect the City's ability to deliver on the other.

Information the Police Department:

- An additional officer could increase capacity at the police department to provide additional services.
- It is difficult to say if there will be an overtime expense reduction at the police department if we had the one/two positions that were previously defunded. There are a

lot of variables to consider such as current staff out on medical, administrative leave, and one employee on 207-c.

- Chief Eveland can say without a doubt that the department will be able to provide better services to the residents of Geneva and that raising staffing levels will reduce mandated overtime.
- Additional staffing, as well as retaining our current staff, will give us the opportunity to fill much-needed positions such as the Youth Detective and the Narcotics Officer positions. If the two lateral transfers accept their final offers, we will be fully staffed in the Police Officer line, but still not be able to fill these important positions.
- Having a Youth Detective that focuses on juvenile and family crimes, coordinates with the Child Advocacy Center and our School Resource Officers and oversees the family services unit will provide that extra level of support to both the department and the community for children in care.
- The narcotics officer position is also a much-needed internal vacancy. The narcotics officer is a police officer that would get assigned to work in the Drug Enforcement Unit under the Detective of the DEU for a period of 18-months. During this time, the narcotics officer learns about combatting drug problems in Geneva, assists in writing search warrants, working with confidential informants, etc.
- We made the decision in May 2025 to go with a 12-hour shift pilot. That has proven to help reduce the overtime spending despite our critically low staffing. One downside to the 12-hour shift model is officers interested in working required details, such as Stop DWI, traffic control assignments, and targeted enforcement initiatives. Having the additional staffing would allow us the opportunity to assign someone already scheduled to work to that detail instead of mandating an officer to come in on their off time.
- Current changes in NYS legislation has not made the job easier to be a police officer in NYS. Statistics have shown that our call volume and number of arrests made in Geneva are going up. The defunding of the two positions from the previous council had a negative impact on the quality of the services we are able to provide to the community.

Information on Recreation and Economic Development

- The City's Recreation and Economic Development departments include five positions:
 - o a coordinator overseeing daily operations
 - o a recreation supervisor
 - o recreation maintenance mechanic
 - o grants administrator
 - o special events coordinator.
- These roles are specialized and support community engagement, economic growth, and recreation programming year-round.
- The Community Vitality Coordinator (CVC) provides 24/7 support across both teams, while the Assistant City Manager oversees the CVC, Buildings and Grounds, and Code Enforcement.

- Studies on the economic benefits of investing in recreation and community programs show a strong return on investment (ROI). Information from National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)
 - o Reduced crime: Studies have found that greening vacant lots in cities like Philadelphia can significantly reduce violent crime rates in surrounding neighborhoods, with reductions of up to 30% reported.
 - o Improved health outcomes: By providing spaces for physical activity, recreation centers and parks reduce sedentary lifestyles, lowering healthcare costs associated with obesity and other related health issues.
 - o Increased property values and tax revenue: Proximity to well-maintained parks and green spaces can increase nearby property values, leading to higher property tax revenues for local governments.
 - o Stimulated economic activity: Recreation departments and outdoor spaces create jobs and attract tourism through events and activities. In 2021, local park and recreation agencies generated over \$201 billion in economic activity in the U.S. and supported more than 1.1 million jobs.
 - o Stronger communities: Investing in public spaces can foster social connections and civic engagement, which strengthens neighborhood bonds and promotes a greater sense of community safety.
- The CVC and Recreation and Economic Development team is charged with identifying, applying for, and managing grants which is a resource-intensive process that involves significant administrative and operational work across multiple departments.
- The front-end grant effort includes researching eligible programs, coordinating partners, gathering data, developing budgets, writing proposals, and completing required forms and certifications, all of which demand staff time and technical expertise. Larger infrastructure grants often require full engineering and design plans at the time of application.
- Once awarded, grants require ongoing compliance activities such as financial tracking, reporting, procurement oversight, documentation, and performance monitoring. These responsibilities often extend over several years and must meet strict state or federal audit standards.
- Most grants include limits on how much administrative cost can be recovered, typically between 5% and 10% of the total award. This cap means that the City must absorb the remaining indirect and staff costs, which can be substantial depending on the complexity of the grant. As a result, expanding grant activity without dedicated grant management capacity can strain existing operations and reduce efficiency in other service areas.

My opinion from Councilmember Grimaldi

It is my opinion that we have to stop sending the future residents of the City's funds. This City is getting smaller every year, and as it was pointed out to me the household medium income maybe \$68,000, but the average working person in Geneva makes closer to \$40,000 per year. If we want to keep these residents living in our City we need to make the City affordable for them. The people who make bigger money are moving out to the Towns were costs are lower and they can still use the City services that they want, paying only a small additional fee.

Let's help people afford to live in this City and only spend what we have. I was talking to a resident today and I said; wouldn't you like to live on South Main Street with a view of the lake, but most of us in the City can't afford that, so we live inside of our income and only spend what we have.