

TOWN OF GENEVA COUNCIL MEETING

February 11, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

Those present were asked to please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was called to order by President Lynn Burry. Roll call showed Council members Andrew Briggs, Stan Ringger, Arlen Mitchel, Agnes Schoch, Clerk-Treasurer, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney present.

PRESENT: General Public: Cathy Mitchel, Laura Schwartz, Bob Simon, Mark Schoch, Andrew Yoder, Duane Booth, John Hankins, Trent Shaffer, Shaun Fosnaugh, Steele Solid, and Jessica Miller

On a motion by Arlen Mitchel, seconded by Agnes Schoch, and passed unanimously, the Council approved the minutes from the January 14, 2025 meeting.

Police Report – Marshal Booth reported the Dodge Durango is back from being repaired from the accident and in good working order. **On a motion** by Andrew Briggs, seconded by Agnes Schoch, and passed unanimously, the Council approved an Executive Session for February 19, 2025 at 05:30PM to interview for a new police officer, followed by a public meeting the same date at 06:30PM to make decision regarding a new officer.

Fire Department Report – Chief Mark Schoch gave the January 2024 runs – total runs were 13 of which 9 were in the Town limits, and also consisted of 10 First Responder Runs and 3 Fire Runs. Chief Schoch is requesting approval to stylize, connect and paint the current hydrants in order to identify the water flow and standardize the connections of each of the 120 hydrants in Geneva. Chief Schoch is requesting the town contact homes that have put decorative items around the hydrants to have them removed. **On a motion** by Andrew Briggs, seconded by Stan Ringger, and passed unanimously, Council approved Chief Schoch's Fire Hydrant Spec request as well as giving permission for Chief Schoch to search for grants for this project. Chief Schoch invited all Council Members to participate in the Fire 101 Class that will be held in Decatur on June 28, 2025. Chief Schoch informed Council that the grass truck is experiencing issues with the engine, injector pump, and steering that will cost approximately \$2200 to repair. **On a motion** by Stan Ringger, seconded by Andrew Briggs, and passed unanimously, Council approved the repairs, not to exceed \$2500. Chief Schoch requested permission to start gathering information in order to replace the 1998 Fire

Engine, stating the costs could be near \$750,000, and could take up to 2 years to get a truck. He will also research refurbished fire trucks. **On a motion** by Stan Ringger, seconded by Agnes Schoch, and passed unanimously, Chief Schoch has been granted permission to spec out a new or refurbished fire truck.

Work Force Report – Bids for the Street Resurfacing project were opened by the Town Attorney. Two bids were received: DC Construction, Pendleton, Indiana, bid \$384,691.90 with bond included; Brooks Construction, Fort Wayne, Indiana, bid \$326,739.42, bond included. **On a motion** by Agnes Schoch, seconded by Andrew Briggs, and passed unanimously, Brooks Construction was selected for this project.

Special Recognition – Agnes Schoch presented former Council Member, Gary Hendershot, with a plaque recognizing his 6 years of service on the Town Council.

New Business – Mike Brown, Adams County IT, updated Council regarding the updates of the Town's IT, what the process has been, and what to expect. Mr. Brown was not able to provide a specific time frame as to when the upgrades would be completed. Mr. Brown asked the county, and was approved, for \$15,333 in additional ARPA funds for this project. Geneva will be responsible for purchasing UPS units for the town, but IT can spec those out for us.

On a motion by Andrew Briggs, seconded by Stan Ringger, to introduce Ordinance 2025-1, An Ordinance Enabling the Issuance of Liquor Retailer's Permits in the Town of Geneva, Indiana, and passed unanimously. **On a motion** to waive and suspend the rules by Agnes Schoch, seconded by Stan Ringger, Ordinance 2025-1, An Ordinance Enabling the Issuance of Liquor Retailer's Permits in the Town of Geneva, Indiana, and passed unanimously. **On a motion** to adopt by Stan Ringger, seconded by Andrew Briggs, and passed unanimously, Ordinance 2025-1, An Ordinance Enabling the Issuance of Liquor Retailer's Permits in the Town of Geneva, Indiana, was adopted.

Laura Schwartz, President of South Adams Trails, updated Council on their current trail project connecting Geneva to Berne, and requested permission to place a sign just south of the public bathrooms at S 27 and 950 S, which will not cost the town any money. **On a motion** by Agnes Schoch, seconded by Andrew Briggs, and passed unanimously, the sign project for South Adams Trails just south of the public bathrooms at S 27 and 950 S was approved.

Clerk-Treasurer Christina Booth appointed Sally Burry as her Deputy Clerk Treasurer for 2025.

110 Lincoln and the Hub status was updated by President Burry. There is no asbestos at 110 Lincoln. The town will accept bids for the third time for the demolition of 110 Lincoln. Bid due date will be 03/10/2025 at 4PM with bids to be opened at Council meeting later that evening. Mark Winn needs to complete structural survey on the Hub. **On a motion** by Arlen Mitchel, seconded by Andrew Briggs, and passed unanimously, permission is being given to Mark Winn to locate an engineering company regarding the HUB building, fees not to exceed \$8500.00.

Old Business – President Burry reported on the open house of the Medical Building at 100 High St that took place on 02/01/25. Approximately 20 people attended and several ideas were given. Lynn Burry and Agnes Schoch will be on the committee to research ideas on the best use of the medical facility and will present to Council. **On a motion** by Stan Ringger, seconded by Agnes Schoch, and passed unanimously, Trent Shaffer has been instructed to find a new company to repair and maintain the Town Hall elevator. **On a motion** by Stan Ringger, seconded by Agnes Schoch, and passed unanimously, the current invoice for \$962.70 from Elevated will not be paid at this time. Live Streaming of Council Meetings discussed, Attorney Nick Baumgartner provided a copy of IC 5-14-1.5-2.9 (Duty of governing body to provide live transmission of meetings; applicability and exemptions; archived copies; recording of meetings; public access to transmission or recording; technology failures) for council to review. This goes into effect 07/01/2025. Council Members Stan Ringger and Agnes Schoch will be responsible for heading up this project and will report progress in the March meeting. Adams County Health Department is working on a grant to build a safe passageway to Affolder Park from Hale Street, going east down 116, to the park. There will be no cost to the town. The homeowners affected will need to sign permission to allow this to happen and the Town needs to draft a letter regarding the necessity of this passageway.

Clerk-Treasurer – Utility Payment Direct Payment Deposit program through Boyce/Keystone was presented to Council. The initial cost is \$2390 with an annual maintenance charge of \$1050. **On a motion** by Stan Ringger, seconded by Andrew Briggs, and passed unanimously, this item will be tabled at this time as more research is needed.

Clerk-Treasurer notified council that check 24561, dated 11/10/2022 for Wes Timmons in the amount of \$362.23 needs to be considered stale and void per Indiana Statute IC 5-11-10.5, due to being over 2 years old and never cashed. EFT E20479 dated 02/29/2024 for O'Reilly in the amount of \$106.99 needs to be considered stale. EFT E20596 dated 04/22/2024 for Crossroads Pantry in the amount of \$81.93 needs to be considered stale. Starting the third Saturday in March 2025, the Town Hall will be open 10AM-12PM for walk-in water payments. The following additional appropriations are needed to be done once Gateway opens up the portal:

CREDIT \$73,100

SAFETY LOIT \$97,000

ECONOMIC DEV TIF \$270,000


MVH RESTRICTED \$24,000

On a motion by Andrew Briggs, seconded by Arlen Mitchel, and passed unanimously, the Council approved the January Bank Recon. **On a motion** by Agnes Schoch, seconded by Andrew Briggs, and passed unanimously, the Council approved APVs for January

On a motion by Andrew Briggs, seconded by Stan Ringger, and passed unanimously, motion to adjourn was passed.

Meeting adjourned.


Next Meeting: March 11, 2025 06:30PM



Lynn Burry, President




Andrew Briggs, Vice President



Arlen Mitchel, Council Member



Stan Ringger, Council Member



Agnes Schoch, Council Member



Christina Booth Clerk Treasurer