

## TOWN OF GENEVA COUNCIL MEETING

January 13, 2026 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, Arlen Mitchel, Agnes Schoch, Stan Ringger, Clerk-Treasurer, and Town Attorney present.

This meeting was livestreamed on the Town of Geneva's YouTube channel.

**PRESENT:** General Public: Cathy Mitchel, Trent Shaffer, Carol Lybarger, Marty Lybarger, Mark Schoch, Lindsey Hammond, Jessica Miller, Duane Booth, Alix Foster

**On a motion** by Agnes Schoch, seconded by Andrew Briggs, and passed unanimously, Council approved the Executive Session meeting minutes for 01/05/2026 and regular Council meeting minutes for 12/30/2025.

**2026 Committee/Council Appointments** – Lynn Burry opened the floor for nominations for Council President. **On a motion** by Stan Ringger, seconded by Andrew Briggs, and passed unanimously, Council appointed Lynn Burry as 2026 Council President. No other members of Council were nominated. Lynn Burry opened the floor for nominations for Council Vice President. **On a motion** by Andrew Briggs, seconded by Stan Ringger, and passed unanimously, Council closed nominations for president. **On a motion** by Stan Ringger, seconded by Arlen Mitchel, and passed unanimously, Council appointed Andrew Briggs as 2026 Council Vice President. No other members of Council were nominated. **On a motion** by Stan Ringger, there was no second, Lynn Burry closed nominations for Council Vice President. **On a motion** by Agnes Schoch, seconded by Andrew Briggs, and passed unanimously, Council approved the following 2026 appointments for the Geneva Volunteer Fire Department:

Mark Schoch – Fire Chief

Tony Lothridge – 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief

John Patch – 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief

**On a motion** by Andrew Briggs, seconded by Agnes Schoch, and passed unanimously, Council approved the following appointments for 2026:

Duane Booth – Town Marshal

Nick Baumgartner – Town Attorney

**On a motion** by Andrew Briggs, seconded by Arlen Mitchel, and passed unanimously, Council approved retaining all current employees. Lynn Burry advised Council that current committees require no further action due to terms not expiring until the end of 2026.

No citizen comments at this time.

**Police Report** – Marshal Booth reported the police department assisted the Geneva Youth Council with the 2025 Cookies with Claus event. Brad Shuler is currently training with the department to be a police reserve and is almost ready to be out on the road.

**Fire Report** – Chief Schoch thanked everyone for attending Cookies with Santa in December. On January 31, 2026, the fire department is holding a benefit breakfast for the Tinkham family due to medical issues. The bathroom remodel should be started this week with the plan of it being completed in April. The fire truck specs are still being worked on and Chief Schoch hopes to have that information for the February Council meeting.

**Work Force Report** – Trent Shaffer reported a few issues with lift stations. Indiana Pump Works came in last week due to rotten guide rails at a lift station. Trent is not sure what the cost will be, possibly up to \$5000, but no quotes were provided to Council for review. Trent reported Town may be running a bit low on salt for streets. He will try to look into where he can get some more salt if needed. Agnes Schoch asked if hydrant repairs will be started on the nice days. Trent stated they can be and he has called in for some locates.

**New Business** – Brightspeed tort claims were discussed. The Town of Geneva has received a total of 3 tort claims from Brightspeed in the last 12 months. The Town Attorney sent a denial response to Brightspeed regarding the second tort claim 2MN341763. Brightspeed's third party firm, The Claims Center (TCC) emailed a response to our denial on 1-13-26 indicating Brightspeed disagrees with our denial and the balance of \$2856.93 is due. The Town Attorney will handle a response to that answer. Councilman Ringger wants these claims to stop. He would like the Trent and his staff to take "before and after" pictures, including measurements, prior to digging. The third tort claim, 1MN228124, was discussed. Town Attorney stated the Town has 90 days to respond, and no response is a response. Brightspeed is using two different third-party firms, TCC and JNR. Based on the evidence presented, Town Attorney believes the third claim is valid. The locates were submitted and digging should not have started before May 23, 2024, and excavation was done prior to the locates being completed.

**On a motion** by Andrew Briggs, seconded by Agnes Schoch, and passed unanimously, Council approved paying the third Brightspeed tort claim 1MN228124 in the amount of \$3518.79. Shelly Brite contacted Lynn Burry requesting the Town to approve the use of the new police department as a voting center for 2026. Representatives would set up May 4, 2026, and voting is May 5, 2026. **On a motion** by Arlen Mitchel, seconded by Agnes Schoch, and passed unanimously, Council approved the use of the new police department for voting for May 2026.

**Old Business** – Workforce Manager hiring update. Interviews complete. Executive session will be held on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00PM for additional discussion and the announcement will be made at a later date. PASER certification discussed by Stan Ringger. Rather than an hourly rate, this will most likely be a yearly stipend. More research needs to be completed. Lynn Burry instructed Stan Ringger and Andrew Briggs work together to come up with a determination and bring it to the February meeting. New police department updates. Marshal Booth discussed the first estimate, \$13,216.00, received to move I.T. to the new building. More quotes will be obtained and Marshal Booth will be working with Bob Hakes at county I.T. Quote to clean the carpets through Gersh's is \$1350.00. Marshal Booth and his department will be working on patching/sanding/painting/cleaning before the department moves into the building. One small wall will need to be erected to create a locked/secure area for evidence. The police department can be secured and still accommodate voting. No renovations to the bathrooms, but Marshal Booth wants to sit down and discuss securing the front bathrooms after hours. The door on the north side of the building does need replaced, but some type of drain needs to be put in outside of the door to eliminate future water damage. Just cosmetic things to the outside. Reserve officer Brad Shuler has a power-washing business and will pressure wash the building. Lynn Burry confirmed the 2-inch water line has been changed to the one-inch line. Stan Ringger discussed internet/cloud-based phone updates. Agnes Schoch provided I.T. updates to Council. The two companies we have been working with are putting some things together for services and quotes. Possibility of one of the companies presenting to Council at the February meeting. The county will no longer service our phones mid-February 2026 and will no longer service our I.T. after June or July 2026. The town will be able to keep the townofgeneva.in.gov domain. Arlen Mitchel updated Council regarding replacing the windows at the Town Hall to start mold remediation. Pre-bid meeting was held earlier in the day. Town Attorney states the Town can take 3 quotes instead of sealed bids. One contractor priced the windows and obtained the specs. The contractors will

essentially be bidding on their labor. Arlen Mitchel will have three quotes at the February meeting. Lynn Burry said all quotes need to be in by end of business on Monday, February 9, 2026.

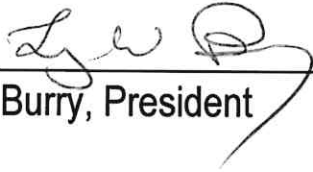
**Clerk Treasurer** – Nepotism and Conflict of Interest forms are due by the end of the week and forms were provided to Council members. Clerk Treasurer discussed adding a mobile device (cell phone) policy to the employee handbook. The Geneva Police Department now has town-issued phones. **On a motion** by Agnes Schoch, seconded by Stan Ringger, and passed unanimously, Council approved the mobile device policy being added/updated to the employee handbook. Clerk Treasurer appointed Sally Burry as the Deputy Clerk for 2026. **On a motion** by Andrew Briggs, seconded by Stan Ringger, and passed unanimously, Council approved December 2025 Bank Reconciliation. **On a motion** by Stan Ringger, seconded by Andrew Briggs, and passed unanimously, Council approved the December 2025 Accounts Payable Vouchers. **On a motion** by Agnes Schoch, seconded by Stan Ringger, and passed unanimously, Council approved the 2025 Year End Accounts Payable Vouchers.

**Town Attorney** – no updates at this time.

**Council Members** – Agnes Schoch discussed updates from the TIF Board meeting. Council should come up with some items that we can present to the TIF Board to utilize funds for the town. Further discussion at the February meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: February 10, 2026 at 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

January 13, 2026 Minutes

