

**CITY OF LAKE GENEVA REGULAR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025 - 6:00 PM
LAKE GENEVA CITY HALL; COUNCIL CHAMBERS (MAIN LEVEL)**

Members: Council President: Mary Jo Fesenmaier
Council Vice-President: Cindy Yager
Alderspersons: Sherri Ames, Shari Straube, Linda Frame, Peg Esposito, Joel Hoiland, Cathy Stoodley

Call to Order

Council President Fesenmaier called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Aldersperson Hoiland led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present: Fesenmaier, Yager, Ames Esposito, Frame, Hoiland, Stoodley

Absent: Straube

Approval of the Committee of the Whole Minutes from January 6, 2025

Motion by Ames to approve, second by Yager.

No discussion. Motion carried on voice vote.

Comments from the public as allowed by Wis. Stats. §19.84(2), except for public hearing items. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes. Be further advised that matters brought up at this time may be referred to the appropriate committee or individual for further discussion and consideration.

Sarah Hill, 1024 George St; spoke on public and elected official behavior.

Larry Larkin, Geneva Lake Level Corporation; spoke in opposition to the City replacing the piers in the lagoon, and explained the lake level action since September 2024.

JaNelle Powers, 1003 W Main St; introduced herself as a candidate for Aldersperson in District #1.

Presentation: Historic Preservation Commission-Local Landmark Designation; Chris Brooks and Aldersperson Peg Esposito

Aldersperson Peg Esposito introduced the Historic Preservation Commission, members in attendance, and activities and programs of the Commission.

Chris Brooks of the Historic Preservation Commission gave a presentation on the history of the Historic Preservation Commission and the local landmark designation program.

Sonja Akright, Historic Preservation Commission, explained the practical guide to homeowners for the application. Questions and discussion followed between Committee members and Ms. Brooks covering topics including the public hearing process and criteria of application.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS. The following Aldermen will be given the opportunity to make announcements or reports at the meeting in regards to committee activities they have been involved in since the last meeting on behalf of the City, future activities and citizen contacts. It is not contemplated that these matters will be discussed or acted on but referrals to the appropriate committees and/or individuals will be made.

Finance, License, and Regulation Committee-Chair Ames

Aldersperson Ames reported on recent topics including event permit applications, the Hwy 120 project, fee schedule for Building & Zoning, the Hillmoor Consultant contract, and various payments.

Request for an agenda item regarding an update on Channel 25.

Personnel Committee-Chair Yager

Alderson Yager reported on the status of the search for a City Administrator, the approval of the Building & Zoning Administrator job description, and that the Parks Director job description will be discussed at the next meeting before being forwarded to the other committees with interest.

Public Works Committee-Chair Fesenmaier

Alderson Fesenmaier reported on topics including issues with the brush drop off, a sidewalk evaluation report from the engineers, approval of the 2025 street program task order, native plantings in boulevards, and a grant application for a stop light on Townline at Edwards.

Piers, Harbor, and Lakefront Committee-Chair Frame

Alderson Frame reported on the lagoon pier replacement project, open water pier options, fees for the lagoon piers, and announced that the February meeting is canceled.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS. The following committee representatives will be given the opportunity to make announcements or reports at the meeting in regards to committee activities they have been involved in since the last meeting on behalf of the City, future activities and citizen contacts. These matters will be required to be placed on the agenda to comply with Wis. Stats.

Utility Commission-Fesenmaier and Stoodley

Alderson Fesenmaier spoke on utility acceptance for Symphony Bay phase 5, the White River culvert replacement, and the Big Foot lift station project.

Tree Board-Esposito

Alderson Esposito announced that Arbor Day is April 25, and the Board is planning an event with the Library and School.

She also followed up on the Maple Park tree removals concerns brought up at the last Committee of the Whole meeting, stating the Tree Board will now be receiving a report on all planned tree removals.

Police and Fire Commission-Straube

Mayor Krause reported the success of EMS & PD services at Winterfest, and a needs study recommending the need for a new fire station.

Commission meetings will be moved to 4pm instead of 6pm.

Plan Commission-Esposito

No meeting, no report given.

Board of Park Commissioners-Yager

Alderson Yager reported on the court resurfacing bids and an upcoming meeting with presentations for playground equipment companies.

Library Board-Ames

Alderson Ames reported on the 130th anniversary events, the meeting room renovation, the part-time youth service specialist, and encouraged signing up for the newsletter.

Historic Preservation Commission-Esposito

Alderson Esposito reported on restoring the Three Graces Statue.

Alderson Fesenmaier left the meeting at 6:59 pm, Alderson Yager took over presiding as chair.

Avian Committee-Yager

Alderson Yager reported on committee activities throughout the year. She announced the Bird City Resolution was recently passed, and spoke about linking the Avian Committee's Facebook Page with VISIT Lake Geneva's page, on potential commercial building regulations to mitigate bird strikes on windows above a certain height in commercial buildings, and Dark Sky regulations.

Tourism Commission-Fesenmaier and Stoodley

Alderson Stoodley reported on data received from Placer.AI, and the grant application form approval.

Alderson Fesenmaier returned at 7:03 pm and resumed presiding over the meeting.

Cemetery Board-Frame and Stoodley

Alderpson Stoodley reported on an updated pricing structure, the potential for restrooms, and an ordinance addressing spreading of ashes.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES SERVING ON OTHER BOARDS AND COMMITTEES. The following committee representatives will be given the opportunity to make announcements or reports at the meeting in regards to committee activities they have been involved in since the last meeting on behalf of the City, future activities and citizen contacts. These matters will be required to be placed on the agenda to comply with Wis. Stats.

***No meeting or materials posted on the City website.**

***VISIT Lake Geneva-Yager**

Alderpson Yager spoke on the success of Winterfest, and reported the yearly business plan is now available. Discussion followed among Committee members thanking VISIT for their work on Winterfest.

***Geneva Lake Museum-Hoiland**

Alderpson Hoiland announced that the Parade of Trees is over, but the Tuesday at 2 program starts back up again tomorrow.

***Lake Geneva Economic Development Corporation-Hoiland and Yager**

No meeting, no report given.

Geneva Lake Environmental Agency-Fesenmaier

Alderpson Fesenmaier reported that interviews for Executive Director continue. She followed up on the question of the Agency's position on piers in the lagoon brought up at the last Committee of the Whole meeting, clarifying that the Agency does not have an official statement on the lagoon.

***Geneva Lakes Family YMCA-Straube**

No report given.

***Geneva Lake Use-Frame**

No meeting, no report given.

Business Improvement District-Ames

Alderpson Ames reported that she has resigned from the BID Board. Mayor Krause stated that Alderpson Straube will be appointed to fill the vacancy.

***Geneva Lake Law Enforcement Agency-Mayor Krause**

The Agency will not meet again until spring, no report given.

Adjournment

Motion by Ames to adjourn, second by Stoodley.

No discussion. Motion carried on voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.

These minutes are unofficial until approved by the Committee.

Vanessa Jahns

Deputy City Clerk