



The City of Geneva

Office of the City Manager

Community-Wide Projects and Planning Updates Summer, 2023

Infrastructure and Community Planning

- West Main Street Infrastructure Improvement Project
 - We've been working diligently towards getting this major infrastructure project out to bid.
 - The project, spanning between Eagle St. and West St. along West Main (Rt 20), includes the replacement of sanitary and storm sewers, sewer laterals, manholes, catch basins, sidewalks and curb, a section of road widening, the removal of old trolley rails, the stabilization of poor subgrade materials and ultimately, the repaving of this entire section of roadway.
 - An additional \$3M from the Ohio Dept. of Development has recently been committed to the project. This enabled us to make minor project adjustments and re-estimate the total project cost at \$7.4M, which takes into consideration the current state of economy (increased supply costs, etc.). Additionally, receiving these new funds will enable us to reduce our total debt obligation through the WPCLF.
 - Having just received ODOT approval to move forward, our current timeframe has us advertising for bids in August and presumably, presenting a Contract recommendation to City Council in September, 2023.

- Under this revised scheduling, we seek to receive our notice to proceed in December, 2023, thus putting our new estimated project completion around July/Aug, 2025.
- WWTP Total Capacity Assessment
 - Currently working with our engineers on assessing the overall capacity of our Wastewater Treatment Plant. This assessment takes into consideration both planned and possible economic growth scenarios throughout the city and the JEDD's. Such a model will assist the city in preparing timely and proactively for needed capital expansion if and when necessary.
- Water Department Asset Management Plan
 - We're working with our engineers on updating our asset management plan to comply with OEPA mandates. The plan addresses key system-wide assets in relation to operational efficiency and the tracking of historical maintenance data.
- Street Paving and Maintenance Program
 - Our OPWC (Round 38) Application to pave Austin Rd. has been recommended for funding (total project est. \$127k), a FY 2024 project
 - We recently paved Aletha and Elizabeth Streets
 - We've targeted Centennial St., from Eastlawn to E. Main St. for paving
 - Chip-Fog-Seal program should commence around mid-August
- We were awarded \$137,200 in CDBG funding for a Senior Center ADA Improvement Project. This project will improve the rear entrance of the building by flattening the steep, non-ADA-compliant ramp at the door, as well as installing a vertical platform lift, handrails, guardrails, stairs and a unit heater in the entryway. Also, electrical work for new lighting, power to the vertical lift and two new doors with push pad openers will be installed.
- We put out an RFP for Event Planning Services at the Community Center. The intent of the new position is to grow the number of events at the Community Center, thus increasing revenues generated at the Center and increasing traffic in the downtown area, which will benefit existing businesses in the downtown business district.

- We're close to putting out an RFP for the preparation of a Stormwater Management Plan. Stormwater management has long been identified as a priority in the city and such a plan will enable the city to outline a proactive strategy in addressing long standing issues. Also, having such a plan will open new grant funding opportunities that currently aren't available to us.
- We're participating in the Appalachian Community Grant Program, having hosted a Stakeholder meeting with Environmental Design Group. In seeking some of the \$500M to be divvied up between 32 counties, we're brainstorming collaborative project ideas tied to downtown revitalization.
- The Gardiner Energy Efficiency Program, where the city upgraded lighting, HVAC and network-thermostatic infrastructure in all our facilities to achieve maximum energy efficiencies, is moving into the final stage, which is upgrading all city-wide streetlights to LED. The project (beginning the first full year after completion) is estimated to save the city approximately \$750,000 over a 10-year period.

Recreation and Quality of Life

- Through the Keep Ohio Beautiful Grant Program, supported by the Sherwin-Williams Company, we were awarded up to 40 gallons of stain to re-stain our playground at Memorial Field. Through volunteer and employee assistance, we're currently organizing the effort to get this project completed by the end of September.
- Our popular Summer Movies at Memorial Field and Concerts at the Pavilion continue as well as newer offerings like adult painting classes at the Rec Center, which are geared to residents of all ages.
- We're once again organizing our annual Back-to-school, school supplies distribution. Letters seeking donations are out and collecting items for this important event has been ongoing. The Giveaway will be held on Thursday, August 17th from 9-12 at the Recreation Center. For anyone that wants to donate items, they can drop them off at the Recreation Center or at Geneva's City Hall. Monetary donations are also appreciated, which can be delivered/mailed to City Hall (44 North Forest Street Geneva, OH 44041).

- We recently learned that the City of Geneva has been recognized as a “2022 Tree City USA” community. “Tree City USA communities see the positive effects of an urban forest first hand”, said Dan Lambe, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “The Trees being planted and cared for by Geneva are ensuring that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life. Additionally, participation in this program brings residents together and creates a sense of civic pride, whether it’s through volunteer engagement or public education”. Lambe continued, “communities worldwide are facing issues with air quality, water resources, personal health and well-being, energy use, etc.” and that “Geneva is doing its part to address these challenges for residents both now and in the future”.

Economic Development

- Several landmark building acquisitions in the city have either occurred or are in the discussion stage, with encouraging business plans in the works. An old Grocery Store, Pharmacy, Bank and Gas Station have either been purchased or are under contract with new business plans under consideration.
- A new Brewery has just opened on N. Broadway in Downtown Geneva. The official grand opening was held the end of July.
- Various Permits have been pulled in the past six months by different Industrial entities for purposes tied to business growth and expansion. Assisting existing businesses with job growth and expansion remains a key component of the city’s economic growth strategy.
- The Harpersfield/Geneva Joint Economic Development District’s (JEDD’s) I, II and III Board remains steadfast in our pursuit of continued development along the SR 534/I 90 corridor. We believe this intersection is among the most attractive in NE Ohio for ongoing growth and expansion. Nestled between Lake Erie and Wine Country, with the Spire Academy centrally located, this corridor is a hot market and positioned to take off as several new business opportunities are being explored.
- The City Zoning Code Update process is continuing. With the Planning Commission reviewing our consultant’s recommendations, we’re getting

closer to moving the updated recommendations to council for their review. Up to date zoning codes are intended to guide and encourage economic development, while at the same time protect the overall integrity of the community.

- I'm working with the Youngstown Business Incubator's (YBI) Ashtabula County Coordinator to brainstorm ideas on how to assist local businesses with information, resources and capital. This week, we've arranged for an introduction of the Director of Appalachia Growth Capital to local influencers, which includes local and county government officials and banking professionals. AGC is interested in supporting the Ashtabula County market and in doing so, local Geneva area businesses could benefit greatly from their services.

Respectfully,

Joseph J. Varckette
Geneva City Manager