

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT  
January 27, 2025 Council Meeting

1. W. Main Street (WMS) Project update:
  - a. Progress Meeting #10 Minutes have been emailed to Council members
  - b. Progress Meeting #11 is scheduled for February 12, 2025 at 10 AM in Council Chambers
  - c. Phase II: FYI- As we're still in need of funds for the balance of the WMS project, Phase II, we are actively seeking funding from various sources to reduce this funding gap (currently est. \$4.5M). One key-source we are aggressively pursuing is Ohio Small City Grant funding, which is a major source of funding for Phase I (\$2.25M). This is a lengthy process with the window for application submittal being May 1 – June 15. Our plan is to submit early within that time period. Timing for Phase II is completely dependent upon our ability to secure adequate funding, to assure our debt financing is minimal.
  
2. NOPEC 2025 Award: We have been awarded a NOPEC Energized Community (NEC) grant in the amount of \$11,308 for 2025. This is in addition to our remaining escrowed balance of \$25,197 (from 2023 and 2024) for a total of \$36,505. The 2025 funds must be disbursed by November 30, 2027. The funds are awarded with the intent of going towards energy efficiency projects. To accept the funds, we need to complete our community profile by June 30, 2025 (done annually) and approve a Resolution of acceptance. I respectfully request council approve the Resolution authorizing the city to accept the funds. *(On tonight's agenda)*
  
3. Appalachian Community Grant Program (ACGP) update:
  - a. Streetscape Project: Our planner has been busy with the preliminary design and is on-schedule to present the latest schematic concept at a Public Meeting scheduled for February 24, 2025 at 4:30 PM in Council Chambers.
  - b. Storefront Renovation (Façade) Program: The Ash. Co. Landbank has officially procured the construction management services of LDA Architects to oversee the façade program.  
Next steps:
    - i. Set up a kick-off meeting (targeting the week of Feb. 17) with Eastgate, the Landbank and local grant applicants (approx. 23) to review requirements under the ACGP.
    - ii. Set up a follow up meeting with LDA Architects and local grant applicants to review the process going forward.

Each program under the ACGP (a and b above) is on its own schedule and is not interconnected, unless coordination in specific instances makes sense.
  
4. Stormwater Master Plan update: FYI- While our harsh winter weather has slowed things down a bit our consultant continues to make progress towards the preparation of our Stormwater Master Plan. Field work is currently suspended, but they're continuing to evaluate the data already collected in our open fields and streams and once they can get back out and collect additional field work, we should be close to moving on to Phase III of the plan, which involves the identification of specific solutions. We're planning a late Feb. meeting to review their progress.

5. ODNR Division of Forestry Grant update: I, along with Mr. Griffiths, met recently with our newly contracted Forester/Arborist, Alan Siewert of Bur Oak, LLC, and reviewed the proposed goals and objectives of our Geneva Forestry Management Plan, which is in the process of being developed (he's also working with Geneva Twp. and G-O-T-L).

In short, the primary goals for the city being discussed include (among other things) maintaining the overall health and vigor of all trees in the Urban Forest with necessary strategic objectives including 1) Removal of dead or hazardous trees 2) Pruning trees on a regular schedule 3) Planting a diverse population of trees and 4) Educating the community decision makers (employees, volunteers, etc.) on the value and need for a sustainable urban forest. Completion of the first draft of the management plan is anticipated in Q1, 2025.

6. Ash Co. Treasurer's Office "Remote Tax Collection" in Geneva: FYI- The Ashtabula Co. Treasurer's office is doing "mobile" tax collections around the county and has included Geneva on their schedule. The following is an announcement from Ash. Co. Treasurer Angie Maki-Cliff:

"As part of our ongoing effort to serve you better, we're bringing tax collection directly to the community this collection cycle! On Fridays and two Saturdays, the Treasurer and a team member will be available to accept tax payments and answer questions at various locations throughout Ashtabula County". The *Geneva Collection Day is: Friday, February 7, 2025, 9AM – 3PM, at City Hall, in Council Chambers.*

"Please note: Cash payments will not be accepted at remote locations due to security concerns, but we will gladly accept checks, money orders, credit cards, and debit cards.

We understand that many taxpayers prefer to pay in person, but transportation or parking can be a challenge. By offering this service, we hope to make the process easier and more convenient for everyone."

For any specific questions concerning the mobile collection day in Geneva, please reach out to the County Treasurer's office directly. (*Handout enclosed*)

7. Winterfest 2025: Reminder- The City of Geneva and the Geneva Business Association (GBA) proudly announce that Winterfest 2025 is this Saturday, February 1. There's a whole lot going on during this all-day event, so come on down and check out the fun! See the City's website for more information.