

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
March 24, 2025 Council Meeting

1. W. Main Street Construction Project, Phase I:
 - a. Colin Wantz, Construction Manager from Mannik & Smith, will be presenting an update on the construction progress to date. He'll also briefly address some of the hiccups we've encountered and will provide us with an outlook on what's to come.
 - b. Minutes of the March Progress Meeting #12 have been emailed to council members
 - c. Progress Meeting #13 is scheduled for April 9 at 10 AM in Council Chambers

2. W. Main Street Construction Project, Phase II: The most recent estimate of probable cost: \$3.5M. Timing on Phase II is dependent on (among other things) our ability to secure adequate grant funding to assure our debt financing is minimal. At present, we're targeting the following funding sources for this project:
 - a. FY26 Community Project Funding (CPF) Request: We're currently working to submit an application for federal funding through the Congressional Appropriations process for Phase II. The deadline for submittal has been extended to March 27th, and our request for funding (which isn't yet finalized) will range between \$1.3M and \$2.7M (80/20 formula).
 - b. ODOT Small Cities Funding (OSCF) request: We're in the process of preparing our 2025 OSCF application, with the intent to submit in early May. This is a very tedious process and will most likely require an in-person presentation to ODOT officials in Columbus at some point before the funding decision is made (window closes June 15). Our anticipated request will not exceed \$2M.
 - c. OPWC: is another source of potential funding for this project. Est. application amount TBD.
 - d. Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) Nomination: Our WPCLF nomination (Pre-Application), submitted last August for possible future funding, was approved at a 1% I.R. This is considered a "placeholder" or an option for "gap" funding for this project. The amount eventually utilized will be dependent upon the amount of Grant funding ultimately secured.

3. PY 26 Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) Construction Loan Nomination: We've prepared and submitted a pre-application, or "placeholder" for design and construction funding for a potential project, "SR 84 Waterline Replacement". This would be the next highest priority waterline replacement project (after Lawn Street W.R.- OPWC, Round 39). This potential project would continue West on SR 84 (where the OPWC Round 35 project ended) to SR 534. This project would be a candidate for additional OPWC funding (assuming the OPWC program continues). The pre-app was submitted for an est. loan amount of \$510k. The I.R. is projected to be at-or near 1%.

4. ODNR Division of Forestry Grant update: The following is a response from the ODNR in regard to their previous letter encouraging us to pause the forestry program due to uncertainty of expenditure reimbursement due to federal Executive Orders:

"Federal grant recipient and valued partner, yesterday the division of forestry was informed that the federal grant that funds your subaward was approved for implementation. If you have paused

grant activities, please make plans to resume your project. I know many of you are concerned that this delay impacted your ability to complete the grant within the planned project period. We understand your concern and will work with you on any necessary amendments”.

We’ve contacted our Forester, Alan Siewert of Bur Oak, LLC, and we’re getting the program back on track.

5. Rural & Tribal Assistance (RTA) Pilot Program: We’re working on a 100% funding (no-match) grant app. titled “City of Geneva Multi-Use Path”, under a first-come-first serve process to seek funding for the *planning and preliminary design* of a “multi-use path” project addressing both pedestrian and vehicular connectivity between downtown and other key destinations within the city.

We’re mainly looking at preliminary design, environmental review, and permitting for a multi-use path similar to that as identified in the 534 Corridor Plan (2017). Specifically, the project will evaluate a multi-use path that connects key elements of the community from the southern edge of the city to the northern edge of the city. It would link critical elements such as schools, city parks, and the downtown. Preliminary Eng. plans would account for up to 13,000 LF of pathway.

Our primary goal under RTA would be to make all our local transportation amenities and conditions safer and more accessible for our residents and visitors. Estimated project total: \$265K.

Assuming we’re funded, planning activities would take between 4-5 months to complete and preliminary engineering and design would take between 10-12 months. Some activities would likely happen concurrently. It’s anticipated the project would take 18-24 months to complete.

6. Recreation- Bike Racks Project update: FYI- We’re happy to announce that we’re close to completing this exciting project! The bike racks are constructed and were delivered to the Street Dept. for temporary storage, and should be delivered to their permanent locations by the end of April. There are five (5) bike racks in total. We plan to prepare a press release outlining all the pertinent details behind the project at the time they are delivered to their permanent locations.
7. Street Department Retirement: I’m happy to announce that longtime Street Department Superintendent Tim Bittner has officially announced his retirement from the city of Geneva. Tim has been employed with the city’s Street Dept. for 31 years and has served as Superintendent for the past 21 years. Tim’s dedication and commitment to the city will certainly be missed and we wish him and his family well as he moves on to a new chapter in his life. His retirement will officially start at the end of this month.
8. Civil Service Commission Exam: FYI- The City of Geneva will be holding a civil service test on May 4, 2025. Applications and exam packets can be picked up at the Police Dept. Deadline to submit applications is April 21, 2025.
9. Annual Spring Clean-Up: FYI- This year’s city-wide spring cleanup for current Waste Management customers is Saturday, May 3rd.