

AGENDA

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF GENEVA, NEW YORK

March 22, 2023

**Public Safety Building
255 Exchange Street
Geneva, NY 14456**

COUNCIL MEETING STARTS AT 5:30PM

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- I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor, Steve Valentino
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DISCUSSION
- V. RESOLUTION TO URGE STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERS TO ENACT POLICIES TO PREVENT FURTHER ACCIDENTS LIKE TRAIN DERAILMENTS OCCURRING ACROSS THE NATION SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 2023 # 11-2023
- VI. 2021 FINANCE AUDIT PRESENTATION
- VII. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ANNUAL EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE CITY OF GENEVA FISCAL YEAR 2021 #12-2023
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT



Geneva City Council
Agenda Item Briefing

To: Geneva City Council

From: Amie Hendrix, City Manager

Meeting Date: March 22, 2023

Item Title: A resolution to urge state and federal partners to enact policies to prevent further accidents like train derailments occurring across the nation since the beginning of 2023

Action Required:

An affirmative vote by a majority of City Council is required to pass this resolution which will be sent to our state and federal partners as well as empower the City Manager to send letters to our railroad partners regarding communications and interactions between the railroad and the City of Geneva.

Background:

With the recent actions of the railway this resolution will urge our State and Federal partners to enact policies to prevent further accidents. Additionally, the resolution instructs the City Manager to create a communication with Norfolk Southern which will continue conversations regarding the safe passage of the rail through our city.

Financial Impact:

Minimal staffing time.

Office of the City Manager

CITY HALL - 47 CASTLE STREET - GENEVA, NEW YORK 14456

RESOLUTION # 11 - 2023

A RESOLUTION TO URGE STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERS TO ENACT POLICIES TO PREVENT FURTHER ACCIDENTS LIKE TRAIN DERAILMENTS OCCURRING ACROSS THE NATION SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 2023

WHEREAS, on February 3, 2023, a Norfolk Southern Railway Company train derailed in East Palestine, Ohio, spilling hazardous chemicals. Approximately 50 cars were involved. The spill killed wildlife, prompted hundreds of people to evacuate their homes, and caused many residents to complain about rashes, sore throats, and headaches; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2023, a Norfolk Southern Railway Company train derailed in Van Buren Township near a residential area 30 miles west of downtown Detroit. Approximately 30 cars were involved in the derailment, including one containing liquid chlorine. While no immediate environmental repercussions from this incident have been reported, this disaster could have been just as devastating as the derailment in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2023, a Seminole Gulf Railway train derailed near Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport in Florida. Six boxcars tipped over, including one carrying 30,000 gallons of propane. While the train was reported as being minimally staffed and carrying even more propane, the incident was luckily not as disastrous as it could have been; and

WHEREAS, every day the Norfolk Southern rail line passes through our City carrying a variety of materials which if derailed may cause harm to the Geneva community; and

WHEREAS, currently there is no process in place that allows for the provision of information to our local community regarding the content of the containers, even if hazardous materials are contained within the railway; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Railroad Administration, Federal and State Partners need to enact policies to improve railroad safety and prevent further derailments from occurring. These policies should entail mandating two-person crews on each train, shortening maximum train lengths, ensuring better communication with local emergency management officials and first responders whenever transporting hazardous waste through communities, reducing the frequency of blocked crossings, reducing the length of time that railroad crossings are blocked by passing or standing trains, giving local governments the authority to identify emergency routes that cannot be blocked by passing trains, regulating defect detectors and trains, and requiring Class 1 rails to implement the Confidential Close Call Reporting System. Congress should also amend the United States Code to remove provisions preempting state laws that could enhance railroad safety; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENEVA CITY COUNCIL, that we urge the Federal Railroad Administration, our Federal and State Partners to enact policies and practices to prevent accidents like train derailments occurring across the nation since the beginning of this year and empower the City Manager to directly communicate with these parties regarding these matters; and be it further

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge these bodies to enact policies and processes which require the railway to inform and coordinate with the local governments regarding the contents of the materials being

transported through their municipality and become active participants in hazard mitigation and response plans; and be it further

FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, Congressperson Tenney, Governor Hochul, Norfolk Southern Railway, Inc., Senator Helming, and Assemblymember Gallahan.



Geneva City Council
Agenda Item Briefing

To: Geneva City Council
From: Stefanie Newcomb, Comptroller
Meeting Date: March 22, 2023
Item Title: Resolution to Approve Audited 2021 Financial Statements

Action Required:

An affirmative vote by a majority of City Council is required to accept the financial statements received from the Mengel, Metzger, Barr firm.

Background:

Each year an outside audit firm reviews the financial activities of the City. This firm issued the audited financial statements on February 28, 2023. After reviewing the financial statements, the City Manager and I recommend the acceptance of the audited financial statements by the City Council.

Financial Impact:

No financial impact.

Additional Information:

The full financial statements will be distributed during the meeting. If members of council would like these documents prior to the meeting, they can retrieve them at the front counter of City Hall.

Office of the City Manager

CITY HALL- 47 CASTLE STREET- GENEVA, NEW YORK 14456

RESOLUTION # 12 - 2023

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ANNUAL EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT
AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE CITY OF GENEVA FISCAL YEAR 2021**

WHEREAS, an independent audit of the accounting and financial records of the City of Geneva for the City's fiscal year ending on December 31, 2021 was conducted by the public accounting firm of Mengel, Metzger, Barr and

WHEREAS, said audit resulted in no significant or adverse findings and an unqualified (clean) audit opinion from Mengel, Metzger, Barr of the City. Said results being verbally presented to the Geneva City Council by the City Comptroller on March 22, 2023; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Geneva City Council to approve the results of said audit and audited financial statements to facilitate the filing of the audit and other related reports with appropriate State and federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Comptroller and the City Manager have each reviewed, acknowledged and formally concur with the results of the audit; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has concluded that said audit report is acceptable and reflects an accurate statement of the fiscal status of the City of Geneva.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Geneva City Council hereby approves the results of the independent audit of the financial statements of the City of Geneva for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council directs its Comptroller and Clerk to file the appropriate reports of said audit findings and other reports with the various agencies and departments of New York State and the Federal Government.