

Galesburg City Council Regular Meeting  
City Council Chambers  
55 West Tompkins Street, Galesburg, Illinois  
May 15, 2023  
7:56 p.m.

Proclamation: Poppy Days

Called to order by Mayor Peter Schwartzman at 7:56 p.m.

Roll Call #1: Present: Mayor Peter Schwartzman, Council Members Bradley Hix, Wayne Dennis, Evan Miller, Dwight White, Heather Acerra, Sarah Davis, and Steve Cheesman, 8. Also Present: City Manager Gerald C. Smith, Interim City Attorney Paul Mangieri, and City Clerk Kelli Bennewitz.

Mayor's Appreciation Award: Liam Collins

Mayor Schwartzman declared a quorum present.

A moment of silence was given in lieu of an invocation.

Council Member Dennis moved, seconded by Council Member Miller, to approve the minutes of the City Council's regular meeting from May 1, 2023.

Roll Call #2:

Ayes: Council Members Hix, Dennis, Miller, White, Acerra, Davis, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

Interim City Attorney Paul Mangieri opened and read sealed bids for the following properties:

| <b>Bidder</b>      | <b>Tract Number</b> | <b>Amount of Bid</b> |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Greg & Jackie Saul | 2                   | \$103.00             |
| Greg & Jackie Saul | 3                   | \$103.00             |
| Elias Rogers       | 5                   | \$400.00             |
| Mark Rasmussen     | 7                   | \$151.00             |
| T.J. McNaught      | 8                   | \$400.00             |
| Darla Krejci       | 11                  | \$100.00             |
| David Christianson | 11                  | \$850.00             |
| Larry & Sue Knuth  | 12                  | \$255.00             |

### **CONSENT AGENDA #2023-10**

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion.

**23-2031**

Approve Resolution 23-28 establishing the date, time, and location for public hearing to consider the Redevelopment Plan and Project for the Grand Avenue TIF 6 Redevelopment Project Area.

**23-2032**

Approve Resolution 23-29 accepting the 2023 Open Space and Land Acquisition Development Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to fund 50 percent of the improvements to Lancaster Park.

**23-3033**

Approve Resolution 23-30 for the temporary closure of Main Street for the River 2 River Cruise Night.

**23-2034**

Approve Resolution 23-31 for the temporary closure of Main Street for the 2023 Railroad Days Festival.

**23-2035**

Approve Resolution 23-32 authorizing the application and acceptance of, if awarded, for a statewide funding initiative with Illinois Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA), Playcore, and GameTime to purchase playground equipment for H.T. Custer Park.

**23-2036**

Approve Resolution 23-33 authorizing the application and acceptance, if awarded, of a statewide funding initiative with Illinois Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA), Playcore, and GameTime to purchase playground equipment for Lancaster Park.

**23-4042**

Approve Budget Adjustment #1 for the budget year ended December 31, 2023.

**23-4043**

Approve an annual update of Title VI Plan that prohibits discrimination in the City's Transit Program.

**23-6002**

Approve the appointment of Stan Devlin to the Golf Commission, term expiring June 2026.

**23-8009**

Approve bills in the amount of \$1,519,950.03 and advance checks in the amount of \$167,238.83.

Council Member Hix moved, seconded by Council Member Dennis, to approve Consent Agenda 2023-10.

Roll Call #3:

Ayes: Council Members Hix, Dennis, Miller, White, Acerra, Davis, and Cheesman 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried by omnibus vote.

## **PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

### **23-1006**

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Cheesman, to approve Ordinance 23-3697 on final reading approving a zoning amendment for approximately the south 360 feet of Lot 4 of the Benny Schachtrup Subdivision Phase II, from Single Family (R1C) to Institutional (I).

Roll Call #4:

Ayes: Council Members Hix, Dennis, Miller, White, Acerra, Davis, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

### **23-1007**

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Miller, to approve Ordinance 23-3698 on final reading, annexing the property located at 694 U.S. Highway 150 East.

Roll Call #5:

Ayes: Council Members Hix, Dennis, Miller, White, Acerra, Davis, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

### **23-1008**

Ordinance on first reading directing the sale of City owned property located at 905 Maple Avenue.

Discussion was held regarding the bid process and whether the Council can deny a bid they feel is not suitable for the location. Community Development Director Gugliotta stated that the City Council would have final approval of the sale of the property. He also reminded the Council that School District #205 has the first right of refusal and would have 30 days to place a bid on the property.

Council Member Davis stated she would like to see the property be developed as low income housing if it is sold.

### **23-1009**

Ordinance on first reading amending section 30.06 regarding Public Participation.

Reverend Andrew Jowers stated that two minutes for public comment is not enough time to speak and the Council are all public servants and this is what they signed up for.

David Amor stated that from his experience on the Knox County Board, three minutes allows enough time for debates. He is in favor of moving the public comment to the beginning of the meeting and changing the time to 6:00 p.m.

Linda Miller stated that she contacted the Attorney General's office and asked what actions could be taken if a Council Member attempts to stop or ban someone during public comment. Miller was told that this is not legal and to contact the Attorney General's legal department if this occurred.

After further discussion it was the consensus that Council items 23-1009, 23-1010, and 23-1011 be tabled and discussed at the May 22, 2023, work session.

### **23-1009**

Council Member Hix moved, seconded by Council Member Dennis to table item 23-1009 until the June 5, 2023, Council meeting.

Roll Call #6:

Ayes: Council Members Hix, Dennis, Miller, White, Acerra, Davis, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

### **23-1010**

Council Member Hix moved, seconded by Council Member Dennis, to table item 23-1010 until the June 5, 2023, Council meeting

Roll Call #7:

Ayes: Council Members Hix, Dennis, Miller, White, Acerra, Davis, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

### **23-1011**

Council Member Hix moved, seconded by Council Member Miller, to table item 23-2011 until the June 5, 2023, Council meeting

Roll Call #8:

Ayes: Council Members Hix, Dennis, Miller, White, Acerra, Davis, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

### **23-1012**

Ordinance on first reading amending section 32.003 regarding the Public Works Director.

Council Member Acerra asked for clarification regarding the change in the job description for removing the requirement of being a Licensed Professional Engineer and an engineering degree for the Public Works Director. City Manager Smith explained that the change is to attract more applicants, the current salary would make it very difficult to find qualified candidates and the

market is very competitive. The director position needs to have more experience as a manager and currently the City already has an engineer on staff that is a Licensed Professional Engineer.

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member White to amend section 32.003 (C) removing The Public Works Director and to only state the City Engineer shall be a licensed professional engineer with the State of Illinois.

Roll Call #9:

Ayes: Council Members Hix, Dennis, Miller, White, Davis, and Cheesman, 6.

Nays: None

Abstain: Council Member Acerra, 1.

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

Council Member moved, seconded by Council Member White, to suspend the rules and place agenda item 23-1012 on final reading.

Roll Call #10:

Ayes: Council White and Davis, 2.

Nays: Council Members Hix, Dennis, Miller, Acerra, and Cheesman, 5.

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion failed.

### **23-2037**

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Hix, to approve resolution 23-34 to negotiate a lease agreement with the Members of the Downtown Depot for the property located at 120 East Main Street.

Council Member Hix explained that entering into a lease with the Downtown Depot is to protect both parties, it was never the intention to evict them. Council Member Dennis concurred with Council Member Hix and explained that a lease protects the tenants. If there is no agreement, the City could allow another party to occupy the space.

Molly Miller expressed her concern with the timing of the resolution. The current tenants have been in the space for over two years and don't understand why all of the sudden the City wants a lease.

Council Member Miller stated that there was never any intention to evict the current tenants.

Council Member Cheesman added that there has been a lot of misinformation regarding this matter and the Council needs to work on better communication with the public.

Diane Crock stated that she is willing to work with the City to make the space work for the Downtown Depot, she also questioned the timing of the lease being brought forth by the Council for approval.

Roll Call #11:

Ayes: Council Members Hix, Dennis, Miller, White, Acerra, Davis, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

## **BIDS, PETITIONS, AND COMMUNICATIONS**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

## **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (AGREEMENTS, APPROVALS, ETC.)**

### **23-4044**

Council Member Dennis moved, seconded by Council Member Cheesman, to approve authorization for the Galesburg Police Department to pay the invoice to the University of Illinois Police Training Institute (PTI) for the training of new officers.

Roll Call #12:

Ayes: Council Members Hix, Dennis, Miller, White, Acerra, Davis, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None.

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

### **23-4045**

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve the agreement with Brightspeed for installation of fiber in the ROW.

Roll Call #13:

Ayes: Council Members Hix, Dennis, Miller, White, Acerra, Davis, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

Council Member Miller moved, seconded by Council Member Dennis, to sit as the Town Board.  
The motion carried.

## **TOWN BUSINESS**

### **23-9010**

Trustee Miller moved, seconded by Trustee Acerra, to approve ordinance 23-01 amending the 2023 Township Budget.

Roll Call #14:

Ayes: Trustees Hix, Dennis, Miller, White, Acerra, Davis, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

### **23-9011**

Trustee Miller moved, seconded by Trustee Davis, to approve Town bills and warrants to be drawn in payment of same.

| <b>Fund Title</b>             | <b>Amount</b>      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Town Fund                     | \$6,748.14         |
| General Assistance Fund       | \$4,370.65         |
| IMRF Fund                     | \$696.36           |
| Social Security/Medicare Fund | \$2,262.41         |
| Liability Fund                | \$6,501.00         |
| Audit Fund                    |                    |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>\$20,578.56</b> |

Roll Call #15:

Ayes: Trustees Hix, Dennis, Miller, White, Acerra, Davis, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

Trustees Member Dennis moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to resume as the City Council. The motion carried.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS**

Council Member White stated that during the Council meeting he has been hearing other Council Members saying “we” while discussing items such as the sale of Churchill. He stated that he was not a part of their discussions and added that he has never asked or guided any Council Members on their vote.

Council Member White noted that he represents his Ward and all Council Members should represent their Wards and not other wards or political affiliations. He stated that certain Council Members will vote together and that is not democracy. Council Member White encouraged citizens to get involved and reach out to their aldermen.

Council Member Davis announced the Prairie Players Civic Theatre is hosting the female version of the production *The Odd Couple*, on May 19th through 21st and on May 26th through the 28th and encouraged everyone to come out and see the play and support the community.

Council Member Cheesman thanked the citizens for coming to the Council meeting. He also thanked Paul Mangieri for doing a great job as the City’s legal counsel. He emphasized that he will base his votes on what he feels is right. Everyone benefits by working together, showing respect to one another and communicating.

Council Member Dennis stated that he agrees with Council Member White that the alderman represents their ward, but they also represent the entire City. He was pleased that the resolution for the lease at 120 East Main Street passed with a unanimous vote. Council Member Dennis said that there are veterans bricks you can purchase to be placed at Bunker Links for \$100 and to contact David Selkirk if interested.

Mayor Schwartzman announced that May is veterans appreciation month and acknowledged Council Members White and Dennis and others for their service. He stated that there has been news in the media that he visited the Soviet Union as a child. Mayor Schwartzman spent five weeks there and talked to many people and learned about their inability to express themselves. This greatly affected him; he will always defend the First Amendment. Mayor Schwartzman believes that all Council Members want what is best for the community but the community cannot do better if only certain people are doing better.

Mayor Schwartzman noted that Bunker Links had record numbers in April, it is a wonderful facility and hopes that more people take advantage of the course. Bunker Links has been recognized as one of the top twenty-five municipal golf courses in the country.

Mayor Schwartzman thanked the media that attended tonight's Council meeting and appreciates that they made the long drive to attend.

Mayor Schwartzman intends to shake all the hands of the Council Members in hope to extend an olive branch for peace.

Council Member Cheesman moved, seconded by Council Member Hix, to adjourn into executive session at 9:52 p.m. for the purposes of discussing approval of the executive session meeting for December 5, 2022, December 19, 2022, March 6, 2023, and March 20, 2023, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21); property acquisition 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) and personnel, 5 ILCS/2(c)(1).

During the Executive Session, Council Member Hix moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:32 p.m.

Roll Call #16:

Ayes: Council Members Hix, Dennis, Miller, White, Acerra, Davis, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

There being no further business, Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Dennis, to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:33 p.m.

Roll Call #17:

Ayes: Council Members Hix, Dennis, Miller, White, Acerra, Davis, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

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Peter D. Mayor Schwartzman, Mayor

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Kelli R. Bennewitz, City Clerk