

Galesburg City Council Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
55 West Tompkins Street, Galesburg, Illinois
April 1, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Called to order by Mayor Peter Schwartzman at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call #1: Present: Council Members Bradley Hix, Wayne Dennis, Evan Miller, Dwight White, Heather Acerra, Sarah Davis, and Steve Cheesman, 7. Also Present: City Manager Eric Hanson, Attorney Jason Jording, and Deputy City Clerk Ericka Gugliotta.

Mayor Schwartzman declared a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Proclamation: Library 150th Anniversary

Council Member Miller moved, seconded by Council Member Hix, to approve the minutes of the City Council's regular meeting from March 18, 2024, meeting.

Roll Call #2:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Amor spoke regarding the bid being approved for the widening of the Lake Storey Trail. Mr. Amor expressed his excitement towards the project, considering there is only a difference of a couple of hundred dollars between bids, he asked the council to reconsider and to keep the work and funds in Galesburg.

Tracy Robertson also spoke regarding the bid for the Lakey Storey project. She implored the council to keep the funds local, our tax dollars would be better kept here than to be given to an out-of-town company.

Anthony Robertson encouraged the City Council to hire a local contractor for the Lake Storey Trail project and to keep as much of the taxpayer's money local as possible.

CONSENT AGENDA #2024-06

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

24-3012

Approve the bid from Davies Imperial Coates Inc. for 2024 traffic paint supplies.

24-3013

Approve the three-year agreement with Rock Valley Health to provide annual medical evaluations for Fire Department staff.

24-4021

Approve MFT resolution for purchase of salt, hot mix, asphalt, concrete, CA-6 gravel, and high-performance patching mixture for the 2024 calendar year.

24-4022

Approve Joint funding agreement with Illinois Department of Transportation for the Safe Routes to School Project.

24-6000

Approve the following reappointments and new appointments to Board and Commissions:

COMMISSION

TERM EXPIRES

Community Relations Commission

Courtney Wallace

February 2025

Carrie McKillip

February 2026

Christina King

February 2026

Electrical Licensing Board

Dale Sugden

May 2027

Nathan Brunnelson

May 2027

Ken Swanson

May 2027

Fire Pension Board

Kelli R. Bennewitz

April 2027

Bradley Nolden

April 2027

Fire & Police Commission

Bernie Cowan (New)

April 2027

Diane VanHootegem

April 2026

Tom Peters

April 2025

Golf Commission

Rodney Bunch	June 2027
Robert Reedy (New)	June 2025
Jerry Reynolds	June 2026

Overall Code Review Commission

Cody Basham	June 2025
Dale Sugden	June 2026

Planning & Zoning Commission

Mark Lee	June 2025
Jason Paulsgrove (New)	June 2025

Police Pension Board

Kelli Bennewitz	May 2027
David Christensen	May 2027

Tree Commission

Ann Pennington	June 2027
Bill Sime	June 2026
Daniel Thompson	June 2027

Youth Commission

Andrew Jowers	December 2025
Courtney Wallace	December 2025
Mia Haneghan	December 2025
Chantiara Jackson	December 2025
Zakary Warfield	December 2024
Leontez Glenn (New)	December 2024
Addison Painter (New)	December 2024
Landon Sweitzer (New)	December 2024
Makayla Medley (New)	December 2024

24-8005

Approve bills in the amount of \$1,062,794.08 and advance checks in the amount of \$577,777.74.

Council Member Miller moved, seconded by Council Member Dennis, to approve Consent Agenda 2024-06

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

24-1002

Council Member Miller moved, seconded by Council Member Dennis, to approve Ordinance 24-3724 on final reading to amend Chapter 112 regarding transportation network companies.

Roll Call #4:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

24-1003

Council Member Dennis moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve Ordinance 24-3725 on final reading repealing the additional fee for all grave openings in Linwood Cemetery and East Linwood Cemetery after 2:00 p.m. on any day. It was noted that there had been no additional fees collected since the ordinance was adopted on January 1, 2024.

Roll Call #5:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

24-1004

Ordinance on first reading on first reading authorizing the sale of surplus city owned real estate. Community Development Director Gugliotta stated that anyone wanting information in regards to these lots can contact Community Development.

24-2006

Council Member Miller moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve Resolution 24-07 supporting Career and Technical Education (TCE) in Illinois, and specifically the Galesburg Area Vocations Center (GAVC). The resolution illustrates the City's strong support for the request for additional funding for Career and Technical Education in Illinois.

Roll Call #6:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

24-2007

Council Member Miller moved, seconded by Council Member White to approve Resolution 24-08 authorizing the acceptance of the OSLAD 2024 Grant Award Agreement from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to fund fifty percent of the cost of developing Cooke Parke.

Roll Call #7:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

24-2008

Council Miller Moved, seconded by Council Member Dennis, to approve Resolution 24-09 and MFT Resolution 24-2008 appropriating the funds for the City's local share of the construction for the Safe Routes to School (STRS) project for sidewalk improvements near King School and Lombard School.

Roll Call #8:

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

24-3014

Council Member Dennis moved, seconded by Council Member Accera, to approve the bid from Brandt Construction Co. in the amount of \$71,433.55 for widening and resurfacing a section of the Lake Storey Park multi-use path.

Council Member Cheesman moved, seconded by Council Member Dennis, to amend the bid awarding it to Gunther Construction in the amount of \$71,620.07. Council Member Cheesman explained that due to the minimal difference between bids, it would be better to support a local company.

Roll Call #9:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

24-3015

Council Member Miller moved, seconded by Council Member Accera, to approve the bid from Sebis Direct, Inc. for a five-year agreement to provide utility bill printing and mailing services for the city. The anticipated cost over the first four years is approximately \$25,000 annually, with a five percent increase in year five of the agreement.

Roll Call #10:

Ayes: Council Members Hix, Dennis, Miller, White, Acerra, Davis, and Cheesman, 7.
Nays: None
Absent: None
Chairman declared the motion carried.

24-3016

Council Member Miller moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve the bid from J.P. Benbow Plumbing & Heating in the amount of \$56,565.00 for the removal and replacement of the two 1.2M BTU outdoor pool heaters at Lakeside Pool.

Roll Call #11:

Ayes: Council Members Hix, Dennis, Miller, White, Acerra, and Cheesman, 6.
Nays: Council Member Davis, 1.
Absent: None
Chairman declared the motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Hanson recognized city staff for the nearly \$750,000 that was received from grant funding and their hard work bringing money back into the community.

Hanson also wanted to thank the entire Fire Department, especially Deputy Fire Chief Seitz for their efforts in the recent fire. The structure was challenging within itself and somehow, they were able to leave the building next to it unharmed.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (AGREEMENTS, APPROVALS, ETC.)

24-4023

Council Member Miller moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve a \$10,000 minority and/or woman owned Business Startup Assistance Program and a \$10,000 Southside Occupancy Assistance grant for Taste of Candy, LLC.

Candy Webb, owner of Taste of Candy, LLC explained since opening there have been a number of requests for candies to be sold due to the name of the store. The funds from the grants will be used towards expanding their candy to include unique, hard to find candies and snacks as well as assisting in hiring additional staff.

Roll Call #12

Ayes: Council Members Hix, Dennis, Miller, White, Acerra, Davis, and Cheesman, 7.
Nays: None
Absent: None
Chairman declared the motion carried.

24-4024

Council Dennis moved, seconded by Council Member Miller, to approve the Minor Plat of the Senneff Subdivision at 435 East Third Street.

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 Dennis moved, seconded by Council Member Miller, that the City Council sit as the Town Board. The motion carried by voice vote.

TOWN BUSINESS

24-9006

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

Fund Title	Amount
Town Fund	\$4,273.59
General Assistance Fund	\$4,227.03
IMRF Fund	
Social Security/Medicare Fund	
Liability Fund	
Audit Fund	
Total	\$8,500.62

Roll Call #14:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

Trustee Miller moved, seconded by Trustee Davis, to resume as the City Council. The motion carried.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Council Member Miller reminded citizens that farming season is upon us and to give farmers space on the road for their safety. Miller complimented the recent improvements at H.T Custer Park. He is looking forward to everyone coming out to use the park this summer.

Council Member White stated the answer to his question from the last council meeting, Honoring Women's History Month, are current women serving as City Council Members for St. Paul Minnesota.

White also announced that March 29th was Vietnam Veteran War Veteran's Day. Mr. White was unaware of the holiday until he read it in the paper that day. This is disheartening and people should be made more aware of the holiday. Mr. White is a proud Vietnam Veteran and there are many people that still suffer from illnesses due to the war. White urged citizens to learn about the Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017.

Council Member White left the meeting at 6:53.

Council Member Accera expressed her support for the Galesburg Area Vocational Center and the opportunities they provide to the community. Accera also thanked Rob Benedict and Bob Senneff for the development of the Senneff Subdivision. Since the closing of Cottage Hospital there has been a great need for more medical facilities. Accera is excited to see new businesses opening downtown, which keeps it vibrant and provides many options for shopping. Accera commended the Fire Department and the demolition crew for the tremendous work they did on keeping the area safe from the fire on North Broad Street.

Council Member Davis also commended the Galesburg Fire department for their response to the recent house fire. Davis also reminded everyone to file their taxes by the April 15th deadline.

Council Member White entered the meeting at 6:55.

Council Member Cheesman noted all the positive things going on in the community. Cheesman congratulated the Galesburg Public Library on their 150th Anniversary. Cheesman recognized the recent loss of Gary Johnson the first Arborist for the City, who was a dedicated employee and was excellent at what he did.

Cheesman commended the Fire department and Public Safety who helped with the recent fire. Cheesman stated that buildings and homes in poor condition need to be a top priority for the community. These unsafe properties are a poor image of the city, and Firefighters and Public Safety employees are risking their lives to protect the neighboring properties.

Council Member Hix expressed his appreciation to former interim City Manager John Schlaf for his role with KCAP and his efforts with economic development. Hix also congratulated Candy Webb on her new business Taste of Candy. Hix also expressed his appreciation for the Fire Department.

Mayor Schwartzman commended the Fire department as well as the Police department for their recent efforts in finding suspects and making our community safer.

The Mayor also added that if you notice a pot hole on city streets please report it to him or your alderman.

Lastly, the Mayor announced that it is Earth Month and encouraged everyone to celebrate earth this month. Along those lines he is also teaching a new course called Environmental Matters in Municipalities. This is the first time he has been able to teach a course that is related to his job as a public servant. Typically, he keeps those separated but with this course he can teach a lot of the interworking's of the city. He will be posting weekly videos of the class for people to view and welcome the council to come to the class.

Council Member Cheesman moved, seconded by Council Member Accera, to adjourn into Executive Session a 7:05 p.m. for the purpose of discussing approval of the minutes from the February 19, 2024, executive session meeting (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21) and Collective Negotiating (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).

Roll Call #15:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None.

Chairman declared motion carried.

During the Executive Session, Council Member Schwartzman moved, seconded by Council Member Hix, to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:29 p.m.

Roll Call #16:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared motion carried.

There being no further business, Council Member Miller moved, seconded by Council Member White, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:29 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.

Peter Schwartzman, Mayor

Ericka Gugliotta, Deputy City Clerk