

Galesburg City Council Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
55 West Tompkins Street, Galesburg, Illinois
October 7, 2024
6:00 p.m.

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

Roll Call #1: Present: Mayor Peter Schwartzman, Council Members Wayne Dennis, Bradley Hix, Evan Miller, Dwight White, Heather Acerra, Sarah Davis, and Steve Cheesman, 8. Also Present: City Manager Eric Hanson, City Attorney Dan Alcorn, and City Clerk Kelli Bennewitz.

Mayor Schwartzman declared a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Proclamations: Lindstrom's 100th Anniversary
Manufacturing Month

Council Members White and Davis left the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Proclamation: Respect Life Month

Council Member White returned at 6:11 p.m.

Council Member Davis returned at 6:12 p.m.

Council Member Miller moved, seconded by Council Member Dennis, to approve the minutes of the City Council's regular meeting from October 7, 2024.

Roll Call #2:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nicole Roman, sophomore student at Knox College representing the group Students for Sustainability, addressed the Council regarding a request made to the City for a pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection of Academy and Berrien Streets. She stated that since 2019, the college and students have transformed that space and operated the Knox Farm on the west side of Academy Street, across from Berrien Street. They offer produce and have a lot of visitors and volunteers and programs for youth, but no sidewalk ramps or crosswalks for pedestrians. She

added that the group feels that the absence of a pedestrian crossing lends itself to a lack of equity for them to be included and that they believe the project is worth it to the entire community.

Larry Findahl, Moon Towers, addressed the Council and stated that he lives on the south side of the building, facing the new Library. He has contacted Council Member White and the Library director is unwilling to help. He stated that there are many squatters sleeping at the library overnight, many in an undressed state, with clothes and belongings piled high, and other families and children are walking near these individuals. He understands that they are not breaking the law but wishes something could be done about the situation as the community has seen a large increase and he hates to see the new Library used like this.

Darla Krejci addressed the Council and announced that the Lakeside Nature Center has their "Second Saturday" programs, as well as Little Sprouts, Nature at Night, and others, and they are funded by the Walk of the Dead. In its eighth year, all the proceeds from the event are split with the City to help fund these types of programs. She personally invited everyone to attend one of the two last weekends in October.

CONSENT AGENDA #2024-18

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

24-2025

Approve MFT Maintenance Resolution for the purchase of salt, hot mix asphalt, concrete, CA-6 gravel, and high-performance patching mixture for the 2025 calendar year in the amount of \$410,000.

24-5012

Receive the rate schedule for Pit Stop Shop to be placed on the City's wrecker rotation list.

24-8017

Approve bills in the amount of \$1,844,102.31 and advance checks in the amount of \$1,021,473.92.

Council Member White inquired about the increase in tennis court fees. Don Miles, Parks & Recreation Director stated that the fee is being recommended to increase from \$9 to \$10 per hour.

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve Consent Agenda 2024-18.

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

24-1020

Ordinance on first reading adjusting various rates and fees collected by the City of Galesburg.

24-1021

Ordinance on first reading amending Chapter 93, Section 93.22, regarding calls for lift assistance and establishing a fee for non-emergency, mobility-related service calls.

24-1022

Ordinance on first reading amending Chapter 94 of the Development Ordinance regulating the length of abatement for tall grass and weed nuisances from ten days to five days.

24-2026

Council Member Miller moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve Resolution 24-23 determining the 2024 Property Tax Levy, which is not more than 105 percent and therefore will not require a truth in taxation public hearing. The tax levy request will not exceed \$10,691,517.

Roll Call #4:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

24-2027

Council Member Miller moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve Resolution 24-24 authorizing the purchase of the following properties from the Knox County Trustee:

1. 213 Pine Street
2. 286 Fulton Street
3. 61 North Elm Street
4. 946 South Pearl Street
5. 325 South Chambers Street
6. 526 West South Street
7. 494 Clark Street
8. 246 North Kellogg
9. 751 Michigan Avenue
10. 84 Division Street
11. 793 South Seminary Street
12. 404 West Brooks Street
13. 362 West Fourth Street
14. 874 South Seminary Street
15. 1041 Lancaster Street
16. 1149 McClure Street

17. 917 West Third

Mayor Schwartzman inquired when the property could be available for purchase through a City auction. Steve Gugliotta, Community Development Director, stated that reimbursement of the demolition cost through the IDHA Strong Communities Grant will likely take until early next year and the property then be in the spring 2026 City auction.

Roll Call #5:

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Traffic Advisory Committee Report for October
 - a. City Manager Hanson stated that Knox College owns the property surrounding the crosswalk in question at Academy and Berrien Streets. However, City staff will need to do their due diligence as well as talk to the college before any decision is made.
- B. Staff is working on the Capital Improvement Plan and a draft should be sent to Council Members later this week. The City Manager plans to discuss the CIP at the November 4th Council Meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (AGREEMENTS, APPROVALS, ETC.)

24-4069

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve a supplemental engineer agreement for right-of-way negotiation for the Lake Storey Path project in the amount of \$36,961. Aaron Gavin, Interim Public Works Director, stated that he anticipates the project to start in the spring of 2025.

Roll Call #6:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

24-4070

Council Member Dennis moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve Addendum #3 to extend the cash rent lease agreement at the City's Business Park for an additional year.

Roll Call #7:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

24-4071

Council Member Dennis moved, seconded by Council Member Miller, to approve a settlement agreement and release which provides for the repair of the City's sidewalk in exchange for the release of the insurance proceeds held by the City of Galesburg.

Roll Call #8:

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 Acerra, to sit as the Town Board. The motion carried.

TOWN BUSINESS

24-9021

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

Fund Title	Amount
Town Fund	\$7,637.05
General Assistance Fund	\$5,043.37
IMRF Fund	
Social Security/Medicare Fund	
Liability Fund	
Audit Fund	
Total	\$12,680.42

Roll Call #9:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

24-9022

Trustee Cheesman moved, seconded by Trustee Davis, to approve Resolution 24-01 determining the 2024 Property Tax Levy, which is not more than 105 percent and therefore will not require a truth in taxation public hearing. The tax levy request will not exceed \$531,000.

Roll Call #10:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS

Council Member Acerra announced that the Friends of Hope Cemetery will be hosting a “Run For Your Life” 5K Run/1K Walk on Friday, October 25th at Hope Cemetery. There will be food trucks and prizes and more information can be found on WGIL’s Community Events page.

Council Member Davis reminded the community about Trick or Treat hours from 5-8 p.m. and the Walk of the Dead, which will continue each weekend through the end of October. She also stated that she could not stand in support of the proclamation from a group that claims to respect life but does not. They are also attached to a directive from the Catholic Church and she does not believe religious or political organizations should be recognized at a City Council meeting.

Council Member Dennis left the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Council Member Cheesman congratulated the Lindstrom’s on their anniversary adding that they are the best of the best. He also wanted to reinforce the words of the Manufacturing Month proclamation and the great GAVC program, which is bigger and better than ever. He also stated his anticipation for the Lake Storey path, which will be another great addition to our community. Council Member Cheesman noted that the most common communication he receives from the public is regarding streets and sidewalks, safety and the upkeep of properties. It is sad that there were so many on the demolition list, but this is something that is important to the community and to the City Council.

Council Member Hix stated that he was offended and embarrassed by Council Member Davis’s remarks, especially towards the Catholic religion. He also noted that he enjoyed the Illini game from this past weekend.

Council Member Miller reminded everyone that the harvest season is still going on and to be watchful of machinery on the roads.

Council Member White stated that he left the meeting during the proclamation because he is a cancer survivor and needed to use the restroom and he finds it disrespectful and hurtful if anyone thinks differently. He believes that people need to respect others' opinions since everyone won’t think alike and to not judge others.

Mayor Schwartzman is thankful for Lindstrom’s and their family and for their store being the foundation of our downtown. He also stated that it was a great announcement about the GAVC growing and teaching great skills to students for the future. He noted that he has received several complaints about road work or closures and reminded everyone that this is all the result

of the City investing an additional \$2.5 million into infrastructure. He asked people to be patient and respectful of the workers.

The Mayor reminded the community about the farming vehicles that are still on the road, as well as the upcoming Halloween hours of 5-8 p.m. He asked that bicyclists remember that they need to follow the same rules of the road and that motorists be careful and thoughtful when sharing the road. He also thanked the Knox students who attended the meeting.

There being no further business, Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Miller, to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Roll Call #11:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Dennis, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

Peter D. Mayor Schwartzman, Mayor

Kelli R. Bennewitz, City Clerk