

5:00 p.m. Public Hearing: DCEO CDBG Public Infrastructure Grant

5:15 p.m. Presentation: Housing Study

5:50 p.m. Public Hearing: FY 2025 City of Galesburg Budget

Public Hearing: FY 2025 Township Budget

Galesburg City Council Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
55 West Tompkins Street, Galesburg, Illinois
November 18, 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 Bradley Hix, Wayne Dennis, 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.

Semenya McCord gave the invocation.

Council Member Dennis moved, seconded by Council Member Miller, to approve the minutes of the City Council's regular meeting from November 4, 2024.

Roll Call #2:

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 Cheesman, to approve the minutes of the City Council's executive session meeting from April 15, 2024.

Roll Call #3:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Holly McDorman, Ward 6, addressed the Council and stated that she has been talking to other residents, many of whom won't attend a meeting for fear of not being heard, who feel the Council is not progressive or accomplished much. She hopes that potential candidates for the upcoming spring elections will talk to people and find out their needs. She also remarked that the cold weather is coming and that those that are unhoused will need a place to stay and a warm meal. She also feels that the Library is a treasure in our community, with the best employees, and that they deserve all that they have asked for in their budget.

CONSENT AGENDA #2024-20

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

24-2028

Approve Resolution 24-25 in support of the submission of a Community Development Block Grant application to the State of Illinois for storm sewer rehabilitation near South Street and Monmouth Boulevard in the amount of \$4,280.

24-3050

Approve the bid from Wight Chevrolet in the amount of \$76,514 for the purchase of two 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 double cab pickup trucks to be utilized by the Engineering Division.

24-4077

Approve waiving normal purchasing policies and approve the fiscal year 2025 Springbrook maintenance fees for the government-wide software utilized by the City and allow the Director of Finance to sign the annual maintenance fee order form.

24-5013

Receive the September 30, 2024, Investment Schedule.

24-8019

Approve bills in the amount of \$422,130.79 and advance checks in the amount of \$35,092.70.

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve Consent Agenda 2024-20.

Roll Call #4:

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

24-1023

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve Special Ordinance 24-627 on final reading approving the 2024 Property Tax Levy in the amount of \$10,453,414, which is an increase of 2.66 percent compared to the 2023 tax levy extension.

Roll Call #5:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

24-1024

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve Special Ordinance 24-628 on final reading approving the 2024 levy for the Special Service Area #1 (Downtown Area) in the amount of \$174,250.

Roll Call #6:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

24-1025

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to discuss this Ordinance on final reading amending Chapter 118 of the Galesburg Municipal Code amending the limitation on video gaming licenses and other gaming regulations.

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to table agenda item 24-1025.

Roll Call #7:

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (AGREEMENTS, APPROVALS, ETC.)

24-4078

Council Member Davis moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve an agreement for John Robertson to provide professional services as an independent Administrative Hearing Officer for the City in the amount of \$200 per hour.

Roll Call #8:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

24-4079

Council Member Cheesman moved, seconded by Council Member Davis, to extend the independent auditing services with Baker Tilly for the City's annual financial audit for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024, through December 31, 2028.

Roll Call #9:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

24-4080

Council Member Dennis moved, seconded by Council Member Miller, to approve the purchase of playground equipment from GameTime as part of the 2024 Gametime Community Champions Playground Grant in the amount of \$111,018.30.

Roll Call #10:

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

TOWN BUSINESS

24-9024

Trustee Acerra moved, seconded by Trustee Dennis, to approve Ordinance 24-05 on final reading approving the Township Budget and Appropriation for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025, showing the following:

General Town Fund	\$562,900.00	
Audit Fund	\$19,000.00	
Liability Fund	\$13,200.00	
Social Security/Medicare Fund	\$36,000.00	
Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF)	\$36,000.00	
General Assistance Fund	\$429,825.00	
Total Appropriations		\$1,096,925.00

Roll Call #11:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

24-9025

Trustee Davis moved, seconded by Trustee White, to approve Ordinance 24-06 on final reading approving the 2024 Property Tax Levy for the Town of the City of Galesburg in the amount of \$531,000.

Roll Call #12:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

24-9026

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

Fund Title	Amount
Town Fund	\$9,404.70
General Assistance Fund	\$6,790.07
IMRF Fund	
Social Security/Medicare Fund	
Liability Fund	
Audit Fund	
Total	\$16,200.77

Roll Call #13:

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 Dennis announced that he and other Council Members attended the grand opening of the beautiful new Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic and that Council Member Cheesman did a great job representing the City Council. He also announced that the City will be presenting a check to the VFW tomorrow in support of the great work the organization does in supporting veterans in our community and that everyone is invited to attend.

Council Member Miller added that he also attended the VA Clinic opening and that Council Member Cheesman did a great job. He also encouraged citizens to look on the City's website for winter weather and snow route information.

Council Member White stated that he is a disabled veteran who uses the VA Clinic regularly and knows most of the employees there personally. He wasn't able to make it to the opening, but will be visiting the top-notch facility soon. He also commented that he is looking forward to the breakfast and presentation at the VFW in the morning.

Council Member White thanked Representative Dan Swanson for taking an idea he had and running with it. He is very thankful for the work he did honoring the twelve black Galesburg soldiers who fought for freedom with the famed 54th Massachusetts during the Civil War. He added that it has been the greatest point of pride he has been involved in to date. He was accompanied to Springfield by the Mayor, Pastor Antonio Franklin and Jim Jacobs, who has also put a lot of work into gathering information. He also thanked Owen Muelder and Knox College.

Council Member Acerra stated that she would definitely be at the VFW tomorrow morning as the veterans have a special place in my heart. She and her husband ran a youth group for years, and is proud to support them and their mission. She also wanted to say happy early Thanksgiving to everyone and remind everybody to shop local if they can. Galesburg has so many great shops downtown, along Henderson Street, Seminary Street and across Galesburg. She specifically pointed out the bookshop, which even if they don't have a certain book, they can order it for you. She noted that for people who don't need anything more, maybe buying a gift certificate for a favorite local restaurant would be ideal.

Council Member Davis appreciated Council Member White's talk about personal experiences with the VFW and loves getting to hear about personal connections and experiences. She also wanted to add that November 13-19 is Transgender Awareness Week.

Council Member Cheesman thanked those for getting the wonderful resolution read at the State House for the 54th Massachusetts and for the representatives who were able to attend from Galesburg. He also expressed that the grand opening of the VA Clinic was marvelous and though he is not a veteran, he takes his dad out there and the care they show is tremendous. Also, he believes the City's ability to help the VFW is an incredible thing and that he is old enough to recall our veterans, especially those that came back from Vietnam, were treated terribly.

Council Member Cheesman added that he is looking forward to the work with the Housing Study so that the City can do things to help move forward since housing is such an important part of everyone's lives. He also announced that at the high school, there is a group called Foster's Voice, which is a group that helps students with suicide awareness and education, which is a message that is imperative to be shared. Also, while our community does a great job with this, there are a lot of food drives and other kinds of movements at this time of the year to try to help those that are in need and with gifts, food, coats, etc. He asked everyone to please think about those in need and to be involved if they can.

Council Member Hix reiterated that the event at the opening of the Lane A. Evans VA Clinic was very nice and thanked Council Member Cheesman for handling the comments for the City. He added that one of the most interesting things about that event was the recognition of the 102-year-old soldier that was a prisoner in World War II in Japan for three and a half years. He also stated that his wife, who works at the Clinic actually takes care of him when he goes there, and has told him stories about meeting him. He will also be attending the VFW event in the morning. Council Member Hix also wanted to add that he had the opportunity to play Frisbee golf recently and commented that Director Don Miles and the Parks & Recreation Department did an excellent job with the course.

Mayor Schwartzman reported that it was great to see the participation in these very special events related to our veterans. He also announced that it is also Native American Heritage Month as well. He commented that he was also in attendance in Springfield for the phenomenal event of Representative Swanson reading the resolution on behalf of the 54th Massachusetts. He added that Council Member White and he have both posted that speech on their Facebook pages and noted that it was a really powerful event for those who attended.

The Mayor reiterated that November 30, 2024, is Small Business Saturday and encouraged residents to support our local small businesses, including our downtown and all the small businesses that benefit from our patronage. He also reported that he had a meeting with the Hunger Collaborative, an organization that was formed through the Galesburg Community Foundation, and has been gifted over \$2.2 million in grants recently. There is a lot of great work that's being done through that organization and he hopes to get that word out in conjunction with the Community Foundation. The Mayor stated that he has been hearing the concerns people have around mental health in our community and that there was a report issued by Bridgeway a few months ago, that is posted on his website, that has a lot of great information. With that information in hand, he wanted to announce that on Thursday, December 5th, 6:00 p.m. there will be a public forum on mental health be held at the Public Library. A press release will be sent out soon as well.

There being no further business, Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Dennis, to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Roll Call #14:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

Peter D. Mayor Schwartzman, Mayor

Kelli R. Bennewitz, City Clerk