

5:50 p.m. Public Hearing: FY 2026 City of Galesburg Budget

Public Hearing: FY 2026 Township Budget

Galesburg City Council Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
55 West Tompkins Street, Galesburg, Illinois
November 17, 2025
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 Wendel Hunigan, Evan Miller, Dwight White, Heather Acerra, Greg Saul, and Steve Cheesman, 7. Absent: Council Member Angelica Mangieri, 1. Also Present: City Manager Eric Hanson, City Attorney Dan Alcorn, and Deputy City Clerk Ericka Gugliotta.

Mayor Schwartzman declared a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Deacon Michael Crummer gave the invocation.

Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve the minutes of the City Council's regular meeting from November 3, 2025.

Roll Call #2:

Ayes: Council Members Hunigan, Miller, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 6.

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Mangieri, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pastor James A. Hailey of Allen Chapel AME thanked everyone who attended the fish fry held at the Allen Chapel AME on Veterans Day. Hailey also thanked those who attended the Chapel's Anniversary Celebration which included many City Council Members. The event was a great success and he has hopes for an even better turnout next year.

Deborah Moreno, Editor-In-Chief, Galesburg Community News (GCN), addressed the Council on behalf of the GCN founding board and reporting team. Moreno explained that the goal of the Galesburg Community News is to provide local coverage focusing on local government, education, arts and events. Since the launch of GCN, they have seen tremendous growth in engagement from citizens who want more local reporting. GCN hopes to build strong

relationships with the City's departments and thanked the Galesburg Police Department for providing daily reports.

Bruce Cook spoke to the Council addressing a term he's heard a lot lately, white privilege. Cook stated the term applies to him because he is white despite not understanding the term or experiencing it. Mr. Cook knows what racism is, and does not understand it, however, he does understand hate. To hate someone because of their skin color or ethnic background is something he's never understood. Except for the radicals on both ends of the spectrum, most people want to live together in peace. Cook believes this will never happen if we are creating labels. He stated he is an individual and refuses to accept a label or to be put in a box. Mr. Cook added that he has come to terms with someone hating him without knowing him. Lastly, Cook noted that some might think he is part of the problem because he is not actively working to solve racism. He cannot solve something he doesn't understand.

CONSENT AGENDA #2025-22

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

25-3046

Approve the bid submitted by Knapheide Truck Equipment in the amount of \$85,035 for the purchase and installation of a dump body, snowplow, and salt spreader for the Park Division.

25-3047

Approve the bid from D&T Demolition LLC in the amount of \$129,340 for the demolition and clean-up of 224-240 South Seminary Street.

25-4070

Approve the lease agreement with Jefferson Lines to use the depot at Colton Park, 225 South Seminary Street for intercity bus service.

25-4071

Approve a service contract between the City of Galesburg Public Transportation and the Galesburg Rescue Mission to provide discounted pricing on both single and punch passes for the fixed route system.

25-4072

Approve a service contract between the City of Galesburg Public Transportation and Safe Harbor to provide discounted pricing on both single and punch passes for the fixed route system.

25-4073

Approve a service contract between the City of Galesburg Public Transportation and the Salvation Army to provide discounted pricing on both single and punch passes for the fixed route system.

25-4074

Approve a service contract between the City of Galesburg Public Transportation and Thrive Community Service to provide discounted pricing on both single and punch passes for the fixed route system.

25-8021

Approve bills in the amount of \$1,082,422.17 and advance checks in the amount of \$20,471.92.

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve Consent Agenda 2025-22

Roll Call #3:

Ayes: Council Members Hunigan, Miller, White, Saul, and Cheesman, 5.

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Mangieri, 1.

Abstain: Council Member Acerra, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried by omnibus vote.

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**25-1018**

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve Special Ordinance 25-631 on final reading approving the 2025 Property Tax Levy in the amount of \$10,871,732, which is a 4% increase compared to the 2024 tax levy extension.

Roll Call #4:

Ayes: Council Members Hunigan, Miller, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 6.

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Mangieri, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

25-1019

Council Member Cheesman moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve Special Ordinance 25-632 on final reading approving the 2025 levy for the Special Service Area #1 (Downtown Area) in the amount of \$166,875.

Roll Call #5:

Ayes: Council Members Hunigan, Miller, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 6.

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Mangieri, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

25-1020

Special Ordinance on first reading authorizing the sale of surplus firearms from the Police Department. These firearms, including pistols and rifles will be sold through a licensed federal firearms dealer (FFL).

BIDS, PETITIONS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (AGREEMENTS, APPROVALS, ETC.)

25-4075

Council Member Miller moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve the recommendation by the Landmark Commission designating 325 North Prairie Street as a local landmark.

Council Member Acerra expressed her gratitude to the City Council's consideration to approve the designation of her home, 325 North Prairie Street, as a local landmark. Acerra stated that they have used their own funds to refurbish the home back to its original state and will see no financial gain from designating the property as a local landmark.

Roll Call #6:

Ayes: Council Members Hunigan, Miller, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 5.

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Mangieri, 1.

Abstain: Council Member White, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

25-4076

Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member Miller, to approve two agreements for Administration Adjudication Hearing Officers; one with H. Wayne Statham as the primary officer and another with John Robertson of Barash & Everett, LLC as the substitute officer.

Roll Call #7:

Ayes: Council Members Hunigan, Miller, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 6.

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Mangieri, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

25-4077

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Cheesman, to approve a two-year tourism agreement between the City of Galesburg and the Galesburg Tourism and Visitors Bureau (GTVB) from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027. The City will allocate \$190,000 annually from hotel-motel tax revenues to support GTVB's tourism marketing program.

Roll Call #8:

Ayes: Council Members Hunigan, Miller, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 6.

Nays: None.
Absent: Council Member Mangieri, 1.
Chairman declared the motion carried.

25-4078

Council Member Miller moved, seconded by Council Member White, to waive normal purchasing policies and approve the 2026 maintenance fees in the amount totaling \$92,982.73 for Springbrook government-wide software used by the City.

Roll Call #9:

Ayes: Council Members Hunigan, Miller, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 6.
Nays: None
Absent: Council Member Mangieri, 1.
Chairman declared the motion carried.

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

TOWN BUSINESS

25-9028

Ordinance of first reading approving the Township Budget and Appropriation for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026:

General Town Fund	\$747,860.00
General Assistance Fund	\$436,325.00

25-9029

Ordinance of first reading approving the 2025 Property Tax Levy for the Town of The City of Galesburg in the amount of \$531,000.

25-9030

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

Fund Title	Amount
Town Fund	\$9,987.44
General Assistance Fund	\$7,868.25
IMRF Fund	
Social Security/Medicare Fund	\$4,217.58
Liability Fund	
Audit Fund	
Total	\$22,073.27

Roll Call #10:

Ayes: Trustees Hunigan, Miller, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 6.

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Mangieri, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS

Council Member Acerra wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Acerra also stated she visited Knox County Community Artisan (KCCA). The business is a 13,000 square foot facility that offers education and training for various woodworking techniques. She stated that KCCA offers different memberships for people to learn new skills.

Council Member Saul wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member Cheesman stated that there are many accomplishments that our community can be grateful for during the Thanksgiving holiday, such as the City's shelter now being open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Also, there are many food pantries available to the community, most of which need volunteers.

Cheesman recognized the many local businesses, highlighting Lindstrom's TV and Appliances and Templeton Roofing who are both celebrating mile marker anniversaries. Cheesman expressed his appreciation for all the citizens who are making positive changes in the community.

Council Member Hunigan announced that the City along with the Western Illinois Regional Council (WIRC) will be accepting applications for home repairs, replacement roofing and improving accessibility to older homes. These funds were made possible through a \$600,000 grant awarded to the City through the Illinois Housing Development Agency's Home Repair and Accessibility Program.

The program focuses on owner occupied homes with low to moderate income. To be eligible for a grant up to \$50,000, homeowners must be current on their property taxes and have no liens on their property. If anyone is interested they can contact Steve Gugliotta, Director of Community or WIRC. Hunigan added that if anyone needs assistance with the application, he is also available for assistance.

Hunigan reported that since 2019, 197 homes have been repaired through various grants totaling four million dollars in funding.

Hunigan stated he attended the party held by Mayor Schwartzman celebrating Galesburg accomplishments and congratulated Allen Chapel AME on their 172nd anniversary.

Council Member Miller stated that the City is working hard to bring jobs to the area as well as finding ways to address the issue of mental health and the unhoused. Miller wished everyone safe travel during the holiday season.

Council Member White stated that as a veteran he enjoyed many nice meals on Veterans Day. White also attended the event held at Wal-Mart recognizing several veterans.

White also stated that he has spent some time with Mr. Cook and respects his point of view and believes that one day people can move forward. White expressed his concern when watching people in other cities get hauled away by someone with a mask on and in a military uniform. What is more concerning, is that the Police are under no obligation to protect them.

Mayor Schwartzman stated that he attended the event at Wal-Mart for Veterans Day. Ten veterans were given handmade quilts and the City presented two special proclamations. Schwartzman recognized Linda Howarter for her contributions to Veterans and coordinating the event.

Schwartzman also enjoyed attending the fish fry at Allen Chapel AME for Veterans Day and hopes to attend more in the future. Schwartzman also attended The Galesburg Area Chamber of Commerce Legislative Luncheon where Representative Dan Swanson and Senator Mike Halpin tackled many difficult questions.

Lastly Mayor Schwartzman thanked Best Western and its staff for hosting his party celebrating Galesburg. Schwartzman created a slideshow highlighting many accomplishments and that anyone can view it.

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

Roll Call #11:

Ayes: Council Members Hunigan, Miller, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 6.

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Mangieri, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

Peter Schwartzman, Mayor

Ericka Gugliotta, Deputy City Clerk