

Galesburg City Council Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
55 West Tompkins Street, Galesburg, Illinois
April 20, 2026
6:00 p.m.

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

Roll Call #1: Present: Mayor Peter Schwartzman, Council Members Angelica Mangieri, Wendel Hunigan, Chuck Reynolds, Dwight White, Heather Acerra, Greg Saul, and Steve Cheesman, 8. 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.

Proclamation: Arbor Day 2026

Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to approve the minutes of the City Council's regular meeting from April 6, 2026.

Roll Call #2:

Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kyle Thierry addressed the Council regarding the corner of Seminary and Grove Streets and his safety concerns at that intersection, specifically with the proximity of Graham Medical Group and the bus stop. He noted that disabled individuals frequently use that bus and then have difficulties crossing Seminary Street due to the speed of traffic from the bridge. He asked that the City consider installing crosswalks, noting that drivers exceed the 30 mph speed limit already. He added that car crashes have happened in this area, including to his property, a fire hydrant, and utility pole on Grove Street. He urged the Council to evaluate the intersection to enhance safety for patients of the medical group and bus users.

Greg Vickers addressed the Council in support of the safety concerns raised by Mr. Thierry and he noted that he lives directly across the street and stressed that crosswalks would provide protection for pedestrians. He shared his personal concerns regarding his grandchildren, stating that the speeding traffic coming over the bridge makes it very unsafe. He urged the City to install crosswalks and pedestrian crossing signs, noting that these measures could save lives. He asked

that the City prioritize the safety of residents who pay taxes and live in the area over the convenience of drivers passing through.

Yolanda Nanez addressed the Council reiterating her opposition to Flock cameras, citing her concerns over surveillance and shared databases. She highlighted domestic terrorism definitions in the federal FBI guidelines and budget requests that could potentially target individuals for their beliefs or First Amendment activities. She also has issues regarding citizen intimidation, low crime-related scan rates, and inaccurate alerts. She also referenced human rights concerns from the ACLU and other organizations, and urged the City to prioritize transparency over technology, which she believes threatens the community. She provided supporting materials to the City Clerk.

Robert Cain addressed the Council and stated that he initially planned to speak about the community center, but he instead wanted to bring up his wife's concerns regarding bicycle path safety. He noted that other municipalities use white lines to define dedicated lanes for cyclists and suggested the City adopt something similar. He added that frequently, cyclists pull out in front of motor vehicle traffic which causes hazards. He also expressed optimism for Galesburg's future despite recent population loss. He also hopes to participate more actively in community solutions as his health continues to improve.

CONSENT AGENDA #2026-08

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

26-6004

Approve the appointment of Hannah Lyon to the Landmark Commission, term expiring June 2029.

26-8007

Approve bills in the amount of \$1,381,711.46 and advance checks in the amount of \$188,069.02.

Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve Consent Agenda 2026-08.

Roll Call #3:

Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried by omnibus vote.

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

26-1006

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve Ordinance 26-3768 on final reading directing the sale of 13 vacant City-owned lots.

Roll Call #4:

Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-1007

Council Member Reynolds moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve Ordinance 26-3769 on final reading amending Traffic Appendix K of Chapter 76 of the Galesburg Municipal Code reducing the speed limit on South Lake Storey Road from 45 mph to 35 mph, beginning at the intersection of Henderson Street and extending 2,700 feet west.

Council Member Cheesman stated that while he has commented on this matter previously, he would support the speed reduction because he believes it improves safety. He noted that he drove the road again and believes that 35 mph is appropriate for the straight section, but expressed continued concern regarding the steep curve. He urged law enforcement to monitor the curve closely, as he remains of the opinion that it is dangerous even at the reduced speed. He expressed appreciation for the work done on this issue.

Mayor Schwartzman asked about the new path extension near that stretch of road, specifically whether the path would extend around the curve. He also asked for clarification on the construction of additional land to accommodate the path and if a safety barrier would be installed between the roadway and the walkway. City Manager Hanson noted that the pathway would involve creating new land by building into the Lake and confirmed that the existing guardrail would remain through that section of the curve. Aaron Gavin, Public Works Director, also stated that additional guardrails would be installed to ensure the curves are fully protected.

Roll Call #5:

Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-1008

Ordinance on first reading authorizing the submission of the Section 5311 and the Downstate Public Transit Operating Assistance Grant applications for the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, to provide public transportation.

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Acerra, to suspend the rules and move agenda item 26-1008 to final reading.

Roll Call #6:

Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

Council Member Reynolds moved, seconded by Council Member Cheesman, to approve Ordinance 26-3770 on final reading authorizing the submission of the Section 5311 and the Downstate Public Transit Operating Assistance Grant applications for the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, to provide public transportation.

Roll Call #7:

Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-2010

Council Member Reynolds moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve Resolutions 26-09 authorizing the submission of the Section 5311 and 26-10 authorizing the submission of the Downstate Public Transit Operating Assistance Grant Applications for the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, and authorizing the acceptance of Special Warranty 5333(b) and Certificates and Assurances.

Roll Call #8:

Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

BIDS, PETITIONS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

26-3013

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to approve the bid from Mechanical Services of Galesburg, Inc., in the amount of \$117,770 to replace water piping on the Police Department side of the Public Safety Building

Roll Call #9:

Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-3014

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve the bid from Davies Imperial Coatings, Inc., in the amount of \$31,163 for the purchase of white and yellow traffic paint for 2026.

Roll Call #10:

Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Council Member Hunigan stated that he is the Council Liaison for the Library Board and that they have been having issues with the paint in the Library's parking lot. He noted that the Library has spent significant funds attempting to maintain the parking lot lines, yet the paint continues to peel and disappear every few months. He asked if the City had any recommendations or solutions. City Manager Hanson suggested that Library staff coordinate with City staff for guidance and that they would be willing to provide advice regarding specific types of paint or vendors that might be more effective.

City Manager Hanson addressed the safety concerns raised regarding the intersection of North Seminary and Grove Streets. He reported that staff does not recommend the installation of an unregulated crosswalk at the base of the hill on such a major arterial roadway, as it's unrealistic to expect vehicles to stop. He noted that preliminary recommendations propose evaluating the potential relocation of the bus stop to prevent passengers from needing to cross Seminary Street. He emphasized that an unregulated crosswalk is not advised at this location and that any crossing would require a fully regulated intersection, which poses challenges due to the curve, or an alternative pedestrian path. He stated that staff are currently exploring options to either move the bus stop or modify pedestrian traffic flows to account for the high volume of three-lane traffic on Seminary Street. He also noted that signage alone would be insufficient to reduce the safety risks.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (AGREEMENTS, APPROVALS, ETC.)

26-4028

Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to waive normal bidding requirements and approve an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with the Galesburg Sanitary District for the purchase of a used 2019 Vactor Jet-Vac truck in the amount of \$150,000.

Roll Call #11:

Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

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

TOWN BUSINESS

26-9008

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

Fund Title	Amount
Town Fund	\$16,076.66
General Assistance Fund	\$8,059.62
IMRF Fund	

Social Security/Medicare Fund	
Liability Fund	
Audit Fund	
Total	\$24,136.28

Roll Call #12:

Ayes: Trustees Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

Trustee Reynolds moved, seconded by Trustee White, to resume as the City Council. The motion carried.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Council Member Reynolds congratulated Chief Hovind and the American Red Cross for the successful “Sound the Alarm” event held over the weekend. He noted that while he was unable to attend as originally planned, the event appeared to have an excellent turnout.

Council Member White reported that he and Mayor Schwartzman attended the “Root Out Poverty” conference in Bettendorf on April 9th. He noted that the conference provided valuable information regarding strategies to alleviate poverty and homelessness. He also shared that he has been reading *The Burglary: The Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover's Secret FBI* by Betty Medsger and recommended it to the Council, stating that he believes it offers insight into current issues, including surveillance. He also recommended a short book titled *War is a Racket* by Major General Smedley Darlington Butler. He expressed his belief in the “trickle-down” effect from the national administration and urged others to read these books to better understand today’s challenges.

Council Member Acerra also underscored the relevance of the book *War is a Racket*. She also thanked Ward 5 citizens who raised safety concerns about the Seminary Street crossing and she also pointed out that speeding is a persistent problem on North-South routes in her Ward, specifically Academy, Broad, Prairie, and Seminary Streets. She stated that while the Police Department provides enforcement and additional signage can offer some help, she has concerns regarding the safety of crosswalks. She agreed with the staff's finding that a crosswalk at the hill's base is hazardous and that the bus stop should be moved. Council Member Acerra invited the public to a capital campaign fundraiser for the Post 285 American Legion baseball team. The “Dancing through the Decades” event will take place on Saturday, May 2, at Smokin Willies BBQ, where she will be the DJ.

Council Member Saul thanked everyone who attended the music trivia event held over the weekend to support the Great Balloon Race, noting that it was a successful event. He also thanked the City for being proactive regarding the water piping replacement project and added that the courthouse is currently experiencing significant plumbing issues, requiring the use of

portable restrooms, and he's glad the City is taking preventative measures to avoid similar problems at the Public Safety Building.

Council Member Cheesman commended the American Legion baseball program, noting its historical success within our community and is glad to see the program's resurgence and the dedicated involvement of citizens. He also recognized the recent National Public Safety Dispatchers Week, praising the City's dispatchers for their resilience and the critical role they play in managing emergency information during high-stress situations. He also addressed the seasonal issue of grass being mown into the streets, reminding residents of the ordinance against this practice and emphasizing that keeping debris out of the street culverts helps prevent the clogging of the City's sewer system.

Council Member Cheesman also noted the "Pay It Forward" initiative by Michael Knight, a student at Knoxville Junior High, who has been collecting donations for Habitat for Humanity. He also recognized the observation of Jackie Robinson Day on April 15th, pointing to Robinson's life as a model of exceptional character and essential life skills. He mentioned a historical feature by Evan Massey on Rose Hoben Welch, a well known figure in Galesburg known for her advocacy of educational access. He was a former student of the elementary school bearing her name, and he wanted to honor her legacy within the community.

Council Member Mangieri reported that she attended an event at the Galesburg Public Library on the evening of the recent tornado, and while a portion of the time was spent in the stairwell for safety, the event was successful. The tasting dinner, inspired by the movie *Julie & Julia*, served as a fundraiser for the Library. She encouraged the public to check out the Library's website for free community events and future special events. She also announced that she will host her third "Let's Chat" session this Thursday from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the CBI Room and invited residents to attend to discuss their concerns or ideas.

Council Member Hunigan reported that on Friday, April 10th, he was provided a tour of the Public Works Department by Director Aaron Gavin. He noted that he was welcomed by many City employees, some of whom were his former students. He expressed his appreciation for the high level of employee dedication and longevity within the Department, noting that many staff members have served for over 10 years. He also commended the Department for their efficiency during the major snowstorm on March 15th, noting that the crew of 10 workers managed to clear main roads, bus routes, and residential streets within days. He also stated that this same crew transitioned quickly to pavement repairs and pothole filling.

Council Member Hunigan also shared information regarding the City's water facility, stating that while the water currently shows some "forever" chemicals, the City remains in compliance with EPA standards. He reminded the Council that the water equipment, which sources from an aquifer 40 miles west in Oquawka, is very old and will likely require replacement in the near future. He thanked the Public Works staff for their professional management and essential service to the community.

Mayor Schwartzman reported that the city recently experienced an EF-0 tornado, the mildest classification on the Fujita scale. He noted that while damage was minimal, Illinois had already recorded 59 tornadoes by April 10th, matching the state's annual average. He urged residents to take sirens and emergency alerts seriously. He also offered his congratulations to Baked, our local pizza establishment, for recently being named the best hole-in-the-wall pizza spot in Illinois.

The Mayor also shared that he participated in a volunteer tree planting event over the weekend organized by Mark Rasmussen. Despite the windy conditions, a group of volunteers planted 40 fruit trees near Avenue A and First Street. He commended Mr. Rasmussen for his decade-long effort to transform vacant City lots into orchards and expressed his appreciation for the volunteers, many of whom were seniors, for their dedication to improving the community for future generations.

There being no further business, Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member White, to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Roll Call #13:

Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

Peter D. Schwartzman, Mayor

Kelli R. Bennewitz, City Clerk