

Galesburg City Council Regular Meeting  
City Council Chambers  
55 West Tompkins Street, Galesburg, Illinois  
April 6, 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.

Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve the minutes of the City Council's regular meeting from March 16, 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**

Steve Jackson, a local music instructor, addressed the Council regarding the Flock Safety cameras. He acknowledged that the Police Department has successfully used the system to apprehend criminals, such as a registered sex offender at Lake Storey. However, he expressed concern over the potential for data misuse within Flock's nationwide network. He noted that while Chief Legate assured the public that no personal information is attached to images and data is not shared with federal or private entities, the ACLU has raised concerns about the system's integration with commercial data brokers. He warned that sharing data with other municipalities could lead to warrantless searches or privacy breaches. He urged the Council to adopt more stringent measures, suggesting a "one strike and you're out" policy for data breaches within the Flock contract. He also supports a broader community discussion on the matter.

Illinois Accountability addressed the Council, wanting to know why a man on a bicycle was stopped, forced to show ID, and restrained, while simply crossing the street. He believes there was no justification for this and that using minor street crossings as an excuse to run warrants is unacceptable. As taxpayers who fund the Police Department and their equipment, people deserve unedited body camera footage to hold the government accountable. He demanded that

the department release the unedited footage of this arrest and a press release regarding this incident.

Marian Spurgeon addressed the Council regarding data privacy, following up on the earlier comments about the Flock cameras. She noted that data privacy is an increasingly significant and complex issue involving many jurisdictional layers and shared that she is researching how other municipalities manage privacy related to AI, data sharing, and storage. She suggested that the City consider establishing a task force or collaborating with the County on these matters.

Jeanette Chernin addressed the Council making them aware that Child Abuse Awareness Month is in April. She noted that she has ten years of experience as a CASA volunteer, and shared national and local statistics concerning child abuse and neglect. She noted that while abuse occurs across all demographics, poverty is strongly linked to neglect, while abuse in affluent households is frequently underreported. She noted that in Knox County, over 80% of child removals by DCFS are related to drug use. She urged the community to remain observant of signs of abuse, such as poor hygiene or children wearing inappropriate clothing for the weather.

Yolanda Nanez addressed the Council regarding her concerns with Flock security cameras and the potential for their misuse. She noted that while there have been no documented instances of misuse in our community or Illinois, it has occurred in other jurisdictions and could be exploited by federal or other governments. She is opposed to a national database, stating that current City cameras are sufficient. She also questioned why the cameras are positioned at eye level if they are only intended to collect license plate data, suggesting they may be capturing biometric information.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA #2026-07**

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

##### **26-2009**

Approve Resolution 26-08 authorizing the temporary closure of Main Street for the River 2 River Cruise Night on Saturday, July 18, 2026.

##### **26-5003**

Receive the 2026 renewal application for Cantrell's Towing.

##### **26-6003**

Approve the appointment of Dusty Scott to the Planning & Zoning Commission, term expiring June 2027.

##### **26-8006**

Approve bills in the amount of \$689,674.30 and advance checks in the amount of \$934,547.88.

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to approve Consent Agenda 2026-07.

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**

Ordinance on first reading directing the sale of 13 vacant City-owned lots.

### **26-1007**

Ordinance on first 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.

Discussion was held on the proposal to reduce the speed from 35 to 25 mph on the curves. The City Manager stated that the current plan maintains a consistent 35 mph limit throughout that stretch and that ultimately the County Board authorized a 35 mph limit for the section extending to Henderson Street, matching the existing speed on the remaining road. He also noted that the County already passed an ordinance in March and have updated the signs, as the road falls under their jurisdiction, and that the City's vote is intended to align its own ordinances with the County's. City Manager Hanson explained that without this matching ordinance, the City would lack the authority to enforce the 35 mph limit on that stretch, even though the County could. The primary goal is to avoid conflicting jurisdictions and remain consistent with the County's established recommendations.

## **BIDS, PETITIONS, AND COMMUNICATIONS**

### **26-3010**

Council Member Reynolds moved, seconded by Council Member Mangieri, to approve the bid from Otto Baum Company, Inc., in the amount of \$89,225 for the exterior masonry repairs at City Hall.

Roll Call #4:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

### **26-3011**

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Cheesman, to approve the bid from Gunther Construction, a Division of UCM, Inc., in the amount of \$286,736.50 for the 2026 annual seal coating contract.

Roll Call #5:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

### **26-3012**

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to approve the bid from Gunther Construction, a Division of UCM, Inc., in the amount of \$63,889.45 for the 2026 annual parks seal coating contract.

Roll Call #6:

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**

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (AGREEMENTS, APPROVALS, ETC.)**

### **26-4025**

Council Member Reynolds moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve a license agreement with Flix North America, Inc., for non-exclusive use of common areas at the City-owned depot, 225 South Seminary Street, for the purposes of operating an intercity passenger bus operation.

Community Development Department Director Steve Gugliotta reported that Burlington Trailways ceased operations last fall, and the Council approved an agreement with Jefferson Lines in December. This additional agreement with Flix North America, Inc. is compatible with existing services, as Jefferson Lines and Flixbus work in cooperation. This partnership will ensure coordinated schedules and prevent an excessive volume of intercity buses at the depot.

Roll Call #7:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

### **26-4026**

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Mangieri, to approve the minor plat of the 144 North Broad Street subdivision.

City Manager Hanson stated that this proposal involves dividing an existing building into two separate units. One business will remain in its current space, while a secondary business will occupy the second space. This process includes addressing zoning requirements, firewall

separation, and the detachment of utilities to facilitate independent ownership and the operation of two distinct businesses.

Roll Call #8:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

#### **26-4027**

Council Member Reynolds moved, seconded by Council Member Mangieri, to approve the Budget Adjustment #2 for the budget year ended December 31, 2025.

Roll Call #9:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

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

### **TOWN BUSINESS**

#### **26-9007**

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

| <b>Fund Title</b>             | <b>Amount</b>      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Town Fund                     | \$9,649.01         |
| General Assistance Fund       | \$7,773.93         |
| IMRF Fund                     |                    |
| Social Security/Medicare Fund |                    |
| Liability Fund                |                    |
| Audit Fund                    |                    |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>\$17,422.94</b> |

Roll Call #10:

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 Mangieri, to resume as the City Council. The motion carried.

## CLOSING COMMENTS

Council Member Mangieri announced that on April 10, as part of the Community Read program, she will participate in a panel discussion regarding food insecurity and resources at the Galesburg Public Library. She noted that multiple local organizations will be represented on the panel, which is scheduled from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in the Community Room. She invited the public to attend to learn about available resources and the adversities faced within the community.

Council Member Hunigan stated that he had been invited to tour the Public Works Street Division facility, and invited other Council Members to join him this Friday. He also commented on the "No Kings Day" rally, commending Mayor Schwartzman and Council Member White for their participation. He expressed his concerns regarding the President's fitness for office, lack of decorum and the potential for negative impacts on international standing and the global economy. He noted that approval ratings have reached an all-time low and urged the community to welcome those who have reconsidered their political support.

Council Member White emphasized the need for community compassion, particularly for children and those facing challenges such as depression or homelessness, noting that these individuals often lack the capacity to fend for themselves. He also reported attending the "No Kings Rally," and that as a veteran, he is upset by the remarks regarding former POW John McCain and remarked that leadership should not commission others for service that they are not prepared to undertake themselves. He also voiced his concern regarding current news, describing the state of world events as troubling. He stressed the need for empathy and the basic tenet of showing love to one another, advocating for community support over the exploitation of others. He highlighted the importance of sacrifice and fostering a community where members truly look out for one another.

Council Member Acerra agreed with Council Member White's comments and stated that faith requires action, especially concerning the protection of children from abuse. She noted that although mandatory reporters like educators might fear the repercussions of an incorrect report, it remains essential to prioritize doing what is right. She also pointed out various community resources and spring activities such as the Discovery Depot programming for children, Orpheum Theatre concerts, the Experience Galesburg site and the City of Galesburg's Parks and Recreation webpage.

Council Member Saul stated that he believes he is qualified to speak on child abuse through his experience as a foster parent to a 14-year-old girl. She originally came into their care because of her mother's drug abuse, and at nine years old, she had already witnessed her mother nearly die three times. He also noted that the terminal at the airport was demolished this week and that there are positive developments occurring at the airport that many people may not be aware of, but is resulting in a much better facility for the public. He encouraged everyone to go out and see the progress for themselves. He also reminded everyone to stay alert as motorcycle season has begun.

Council Member Cheesman stated that in recognition of Child Abuse Awareness Month, he is proud of the educators who look out for children and navigate challenging situations to ensure their well-being. He noted that the current system often requires older children to fend for themselves and emphasized the need to support them as well. He also expressed his frustration with national leadership but noted that the City Council remains dedicated to serving all residents, regardless of their political affiliation or situation. He highlighted the upcoming Career Expo at Carl Sandburg College, which will feature over 50 businesses and various employment opportunities. He also congratulated Trinity Lutheran Church on hosting their 102nd annual Holy Week services, noting that the participation of various denominations enriches the community. Council Member Cheesman also thanked those who spoke during public comment, assuring them that their input is respected and used to help make the community a better place.

Mayor Schwartzman echoed the concerns raised by the Council and noted that with spring, residents need to exercise caution while driving and to be mindful of motorcycles, bicyclists, pedestrians, and wildlife. He addressed the current political climate and emphasized the necessity of community unity and collaboration. He stated that the City is in control of its own destiny and expressed his belief that Galesburg can become the best city in the world through collective effort. He also highlighted Evgenia, the new restaurant on Seminary Street, which was recently opened by local residents.

The Mayor announced that the fourth series of Scrabble tournaments would be held at the Community Arts Center over the weekend, featuring a national champion and would be live-streamed on the "Let's Play Scrabble" YouTube channel. He also noted that Galesburg would be one of the few communities who would be celebrating National Scrabble Day the following Monday.

There being no further business, Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Cheesman, to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Roll Call #11:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

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Peter D. Schwartzman, Mayor

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Kelli R. Bennewitz, City Clerk