



**Galesburg City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE: August 3, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: City Council Chambers, 55 West Tompkins Street, Galesburg, IL

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members Angelica Mangieri, Wendel Hunigan, Charles Reynolds, Dwight White, Heather Acerra, Greg Saul, and Steve Cheesman.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Peter Schwartzman

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Eric Hanson, City Attorney Dan Alcorn, and City Clerk Kelli Bennewitz.

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

Roll Call #1: Present: Deputy Mayor Steve Cheesman, Council Members Angelica Mangieri, Wendel Hunigan, Charles Reynolds, Dwight White, Heather Acerra, and Greg Saul, 7. Absent: Mayor Peter Schwartzman, 1.

Deputy Mayor Cheesman declared a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Semenya McCord gave the invocation.

Council Member Reynolds moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve the minutes of the City Council's regular meeting of July 20, 2026.

Roll Call #2:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Council Member Mangieri, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marian Spurgeon addressed the Council and stated that she had a critical statement about Flock Safety and that her remarks were directed at the corporation and not City officials. She referenced Mark Zuckerberg's philosophy as a representative of Silicon Valley startups and

emphasized the importance of informed consent. She argued that neither the public nor the City Council fully understood the implications of the Flock contract at the time of its approval. She noted that concerns raised by Council Member White in November 2023 regarding data usage have since been validated, as well as previously stated comments that data from non-criminal vehicles wouldn't be accessed have proven inaccurate. She cited several organizations which argue that the scale of data collection violates the Fourth Amendment and that the implementation of this technology undermines public trust in local government and law enforcement. Ms. Spurgeon stated that taxpayer funds are supporting mass surveillance infrastructure without the public's meaningful consent, and that residents would continue to express their opposition to these measures.

Jeannette Chernin addressed the Council and invited everyone to the annual NAACP community cookout this Saturday at Kiwanis Park, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Backpacks filled with school supplies will be distributed and free food provided. Volunteers are also needed for food service and cleanup.

CONSENT AGENDA #2026-14

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

26-4051

Approve a Special Event application for K-Pop Warriors Live.

26-8013

Approve bills in the amount of \$552,499.91 and advance checks in the amount of \$682,759.96.

Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve Consent Agenda 2026-14.

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

26-1013

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve Ordinance 26-3773 on final reading amending Chapter 94 of the Galesburg Municipal Code establishing minimum maintenance standards for private parking 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.

26-2014

Council Member Reynolds moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve Resolution 26-13 authorizing a feasibility study on the designation of a Tax Increment Financing District 7.

Council Member White stated that the area represents a significant portion of the Fourth Ward and noted that many residents were formerly employed by industries such as Admiral, Maytag, and Butler Manufacturing located in that area. He noted the current blighted state of the neighborhood and expressed his strong support for the TIF and shared his hope for future revitalization. City Manager Hanson and Community Development Director Gugliotta estimated that the process typically takes six to eight months for the feasibility study to be completed.

Council Member Hunigan inquired about the use of TIF and if there are other methods of stimulating economic growth. City Manager Hanson stated that while various programs exist for redeveloping blighted areas, TIF Districts remain a highly popular urban renewal tool. He noted that program choice depends on the specific project proposal and its financial needs. TIF Districts reinvest property tax increments back into properties, serving as a deferred revenue stream for those needing capital, while Enterprise Zones focus on providing tax abatements rather than deferred revenue. He still believes that TIF remains a vital tool across Illinois and is used regularly, including in the downtown area where the facade program operates as part of the downtown TIF in certain cases.

Roll Call #5:

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**26-3029**

Council Member Reynolds moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve the bid submitted by Miller and Son Construction Co. in the amount of \$108,632 for the Soangetaha culvert rehabilitation project.

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

Tomorrow evening from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Standish Park will host National Night Out, a community event spearheaded by the Galesburg Police Department. City Manager Hanson announced that the gathering will feature approximately 30 vendors alongside various agencies, including the Fire Department and the Sheriff's Department and complimentary food will be provided. He noted the event's growth over the years, praising public safety for successfully

expanding its reach since its inception, and noting that it offers an excellent opportunity for residents to interact with public safety personnel in a positive setting.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (AGREEMENTS, APPROVALS, ETC.)

26-4052

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve an engineering agreement with Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc., in the amount of \$151,000 for the design and engineering of two new wells in Oquawka.

Roll Call #7:

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

TOWN BUSINESS

26-9015

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

Fund Title	Amount
Town Fund	\$256.17
General Assistance Fund	\$5,094.68
IMRF Fund	
Social Security/Medicare Fund	
Liability Fund	
Audit Fund	
Total	\$5,350.85

Roll Call #8:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS

Council Member White encouraged researching C.T. Vivian, a civil rights leader who worked with Dr. King and lived in Macomb. He also announced that he and Macomb's mayor will attend an

August 25th park dedication for William "Bill" Thorpe, the area's first African American police officer. He noted he will attend Saturday's NAACP Back to School Picnic and praised the TIF district development as a positive step. Regarding Galesburg's water quality and PFAS, he has reassured residents that the City is actively addressing it and directed them to the website for updates. Lastly, he highlighted a moving article about Korey Wise of the exonerated Central Park Five, who was wrongfully imprisoned for 13 years at age 16, calling it a powerful reminder of flaws in the legal and police systems.

Council Member Acerra shared that her daughter-in-law and grandchildren had been staying with her for a week and stated that hosting out-of-town guests provides a wonderful opportunity to see the town through fresh eyes and truly appreciated it. During that time, they enjoyed walking around downtown, visiting local spots like Innkeepers and Mother Goosebumps and she noted that the beautiful flowers downtown make a significant difference in making the area attractive to visitors.

Council Member Saul shared that 27 years ago, he and his wife had the idea to bring a balloon race to Galesburg. Now in its 26th year, the goal of the event remains to boost local business and provide a free family activity. This year's race attracted numerous visitors and pilots from across the country, and he noted that the best part of the balloon race is how it brings people together regardless of political affiliation only simply to talk and enjoy themselves. He extended his thanks to everyone who helped make the event possible.

Council Mangieri announced that this Sunday, August 9th, from Noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Lake Story Pavilion, will be the Community Grow Summer Social. The event is completely free to attend and will feature a variety of fun activities, including a sidewalk chalk competition and a cardboard boat race, with registration spots still available for both. Participants for the boat race will be provided with starter kits containing cardboard and duct tape. The fastest boat will win a \$100 cash prize, and there are also other special awards and prizes for the race and sidewalk chalk contest. Attendees can visit a small farmers market highlighting local growers, makers, and farmers. Food and refreshments will be available from several food trucks.

Council Member Hunigan congratulated Council Member Saul and his volunteers for a successful balloon race at Lake Storey, which featured 24 balloons. This family-friendly event drew a massive crowd and featured a spectacular night glow. He also reported that musicians Pippi Ardenia and Dan Leahy (Pippi and Daniel) and their 10-piece band delivered an outstanding two-hour concert at the Orpheum Theater where they raised funds for the Orpheum Gift of Performance Initiative, providing live theater tickets to local nonprofits. A key highlight was the stage debut of their seven-year-old grandson, Easton, performing a Michael Jackson song.

Council Member Hunigan also thanked the City Council for their recent approval of the one-time \$260,000 grant to Michael Spinks and the All-Star Sports Academy for the purchase of the Skate Palace property and for the clearing of debt. The facility, vacant for nearly a decade, recently hosted a community open house and he noted that it will serve as a safe space offering roller skating, mini-golf, go-karts, food distribution, and after-school learning.

Council Member Reynolds congratulated the City on the wonderful Big Bang Boom festivities held at Lake Storey and stated that he attended the balloon glow and extended thanks to Council Member Saul for a great event. He was also able to attend the Taste of Galesburg and congratulated Kraig Boynton for putting together such a wonderful event. In closing, he shared how amazing it is that a city of our size offers so many things to do and expressed his appreciation for all our community activities.

Deputy Mayor Cheesman stated that City staff, Council, and the community continue making wonderful progress in so many areas, and he congratulated the Galesburg American Legion Post 285 baseball team on their impressive third-place state finish. He also remembered the 2014 second-place team and honored player Jason Maulden and his grandfather, who tragically passed away in an automobile accident twelve years ago today. He added that the community lost Clint Haynes last week, a community pillar who improved Galesburg, and who he met at the Carver Center and deeply respected his leadership.

He also noted that City-funded projects like the All-Star Sports Academy and the newly opened YMCA are thriving. The YMCA provides life-changing opportunities, serving 3,200 lunches monthly and hosting 120 children daily. Together with ongoing park improvements, our community offers fantastic activities for everyone. He also stated that he fully supports Mayor Schwartzman's recent comments on our unhoused population and that addressing this complex issue involves expanding shelter hours and adopting best practices through collaboration between government, private entities, and nonprofits, balancing human dignity with clear accountability. Ultimately, progress relies on actionable solutions rather than misinformation or complaints. He added that he is optimistic that by working together constructively, we will continue making our town the best place it can be.

There being no further business, Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Roll Call #9:

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