

Galesburg City Council Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
55 West Tompkins Street, Galesburg, Illinois
January 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, Dwight White, Heather Acerra, Greg Saul, and Steve Cheesman, 7. City Manager Eric Hanson, City Attorney Dan Alcorn, and City Clerk Kelli Bennewitz. Vacant: Council Member, Ward 3, following the resignation of Council Member Evan Miller, effective December 31, 2025.

Mayor Schwartzman declared a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Semenya McCord gave the invocation.

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve the minutes of the City Council's regular meeting from January 5, 2026.

Roll Call #2:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Jacobs addressed the Council and explained that on November 22nd he lost a friend, Marte Glass, who was struck by an oncoming car on South Lake Storey Road, near the campground and a subdivision. Mr. Jacobs introduced Janine Glass, Marte Glass's sister, who together were there to propose a change in the speed limit on the road, suggesting it be reduced from 35 mph to 25 mph.

Ms. Glass addressed the Council and read a statement from a petition that had been circulated to lower the speed limit in the residential area of South Lake Storey Road. She is recommending a speed limit reduction from Henderson Street to Carl Sandburg College, citing safety concerns for residents and campers. The current limit is 45 mph, dropping to 35 mph near Allison Campground. She stated that residents feel this is too fast, especially for traffic meeting campers exiting the campground, as well as for the volume of young drivers from Carl Sandburg College. Ms. Glass's sister recently died in a horrific, high-speed, head-on crash on this road, motivating this request. Her sister, a lifelong Registered Nurse and Army Major, died on November 30, 2025, after the November 22nd accident. She asked the Council to consider a reduction to 35 mph from Henderson Street to Allison Campground, and then 25 mph on the

curves, arguing this could reduce accidents caused by excessive speed. Ms. Glass presented City Clerk Bennewitz with the petition signatures.

Kurt Farber addressed the Council, stating that he lives in Lincolnshire, between South Lake Storey Road and North Lake Storey Road. When the weather is good, he frequently observes vehicles and motorcycles traveling at speeds dangerously exceeding the speed limit. He supports reducing the speed limit, but his main concern is the need for increased police presence in this area. He noted that his wife was involved in a collision when leaving the Lincolnshire area to merge onto Route 150, and although no one died, a speeding vehicle partially caused the incident. Any assistance the Council can provide to address this safety issue would be greatly appreciated.

Jeff Woolsey addressed the Council and stated that he is a resident of Knoxville but camps at Allison Campground and is concerned about visibility when exiting the campground. He noted that while it is easy to enter the campground, the treeline along the road severely restricts the view to the right when exiting onto the highway. When turning left (eastbound), visibility is good, extending all the way to the stoplight. However, cars approaching from the west are often unseen, leading to several near-accidents. He strongly supports reducing the speed limit on Lake Storey Road.

Sarah Peterson addressed the Council and expressed her concerns regarding the staff at the warming center. She reported that they use abusive language and many people are made to feel disliked and unwanted. She questioned the appropriateness of the behavior simply because they are homeless and hopes the City can find an alternative place for people to go.

CONSENT AGENDA #2026-02

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

26-2000

Approve an MFT Resolution for the 2026 Street Sealcoating in the amount of \$300,000.

26-3000

Waive normal purchasing policies and approve the purchase of phosphate inhibitors from Hawkins, Inc. at a cost of \$0.6699 per pound.

26-3001

Approve the bid from Alexander Chemical Corporation in the amount of \$1,710 per ton for the 2026 annual supply of gas chlorine.

26-6000

Approve the following reappointments to the Airport Advisory Commission:

David Carlton, Term Expiring September 2028

Ken Springer, Term Expiring September 2028
Phillip Wolford, Term Expiring September 2028

26-8001

Approve bills in the amount of \$972,248.56 and advance checks in the amount of \$130,030.38.

Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve Consent Agenda 2026-02.

Roll Call #3:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried by omnibus vote.

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

26-1000

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Cheesman, to approve Ordinance 26-3763 on final reading amending Appendix E of Chapter 76 of the Galesburg Municipal Code by designating stop intersections at Highland Avenue at North Street and Marston Avenue at North Street.

Roll Call #4:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-1001

Ordinance on first reading amending Appendix X of Chapter 77 of the Galesburg Municipal Code prohibiting parking on the east side of Willard Street from Fifer Street to Yates Street during school hours.

26-2001

Council Member Cheesman moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve Resolution 26-01 showing support and commitment of \$365,000 in local funds for a federal-state partnership for an Intercity Passenger Rail Program application for a project planning study at the South Street railroad underpass.

Roll Call #5:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

BIDS, PETITIONS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

26-3002

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve the bid from Lockwood Excavating & Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$26,000 for the demolition and clean-up of 363 East South Street.

Roll Call #6:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**A. January Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting Report.**

City Manager Hanson reported that the discussion on reducing the speed limit on South Lake Storey Road, which is under the County's jurisdiction, requires a collaborative effort between the City and the County. He added that the County has indicated its intention to recommend a speed reduction. If approved, staff would then bring matching action for the Council to consider and implement, particularly in relation to the campground. He also noted that staff is reviewing sight lines along the roadway, specifically where the trail is being developed. Some obstructions are expected to be removed as part of this project, which should significantly improve visibility. He wanted to let Council know that staff is aware of the concerns and intends to present recommendations to them that should alleviate most issues, in conjunction with the County's cooperation.

Public Works Director Aaron Gavin confirmed that North Lake Storey Road is 45 mph.

Council Member Cheesman stated that he is in full support of any measure to enhance safety, especially considering the heavy traffic and problematic drivers in that area. He believes that lowering the speed limit is a necessary step, and is committed to advocating for this with the County Board. While the recent accident was terrible, it underscores an existing safety issue that must be addressed regardless. He also feels that reducing the speed limit on the other side of the lake is also beneficial. That area experiences significant congestion with people entering and exiting, and a lower speed limit will make it a much more safety-conscious zone.

City Manager Hanson reported multiple steps to monitor speeding are already underway, including increased surveillance, ongoing communication with agencies in the area, and specific plans for enforcement, of which Chief Legate is aware. He emphasized that these actions are being considered and implemented to change driver behavior and assured Council and citizens that the City is employing a comprehensive strategy to deal with drivers exceeding the limit, a challenge present on all roadways, not just South Lake Storey Road.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (AGREEMENTS, APPROVALS, ETC.)

26-4004

Council Member Cheesman moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve a Redeveloper Agreement with Judy's Kitchen LLC for the property located at 51 North Prairie Street. The property is located within the TIF IV Redevelopment Area and the TIF incentive would not exceed \$17,781.40.

Roll Call #7:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-4005

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve an agreement with Western Illinois Regional Council for grant administration assistance for a storm sewer rehabilitation near South Street and Monmouth Boulevard.

Roll Call #8:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

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

TOWN BUSINESS**26-9001**

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

Fund Title	Amount
Town Fund	\$52,265.02
General Assistance Fund	\$10,694.62
IMRF Fund	\$4,177.70
Social Security/Medicare Fund	\$4,938.38
Liability Fund	
Audit Fund	
Total	\$72,075.72

Roll Call #9:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS

Council Member Acerra thanked those who spoke about the issues on Lake Storey Road and added that she deeply regrets the tragedy and their loss; noting it shouldn't have taken such an event to bring this to the City's attention. She assured the public that following discussions with other Council Members and the City Manager, there is a sincere commitment to addressing this issue, and that addressing safety concerns, including speed limits, is a priority as the City develops the trail around the area. Council Member Acerra also added that she is excited to see Judy's making arrangements within the restaurant space and believes there's significant potential with the space available. She's looking forward to seeing the results and is happy to support her business's growth and appreciates everything she does in the community.

Council Member Saul also extended his condolences to the Glass family on their loss. He also stated that the community lost another leader this past week, Don Fike. For over 40 years, he created homes, services, and jobs for thousands of developmentally disabled people. He was active in the community and will be missed by many. Last week, the City also celebrated the retirement of three members of the Police Department: Lieutenant Steffanie Cromien, Sergeant Chris Hootman, and Records Clerk Sadel Gash. He congratulated all of them and wished them luck in retirement.

Council Member Cheesman congratulated Judy's and thanked her for all her contributions. He also mentioned Mr. Fike's monumental contributions and assistance in healthcare, where he was a true pioneer. He apologized for missing the NAACP Martin Luther King breakfast, but has been fortunate to have attended for many years. He added that the NAACP does a wonderful job, especially in raising scholarship money and featuring outstanding essays. He noted the honor of the Gale Scholars attending the Knox College Martin Luther King Day convocation, where Dr. Rogers from Brown University gave an excellent presentation on Dr. King's values and the need to realize them globally.

Council Member Cheesman addressed the serious issue of speeding on Lake Storey Road. He acknowledged Chief Legate's efforts, but emphasized that the severe speeding in that area is a significant concern that the Council must recognize. He noted that the speeds observed there are significant and create dangerous conditions. This issue makes it difficult for other drivers to safely enter the roadway since they cannot accurately judge the speed of approaching vehicles. He urged everyone to seriously consider this safety concern and contemplate the potential accident consequences.

Council Member Mangieri announced that she will be hosting monthly town hall meetings at the Library in the CBI Bank Room, which are open to everyone, not just constituents of Ward One. She noted that they are intended as an easy, direct way for people to share ideas or concerns with her in person, without relying on email or phone. The meetings will take place

on the fourth Thursday of the month, starting in February, and continuing through April, 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Council Member Hunigan reported on the 38th Galesburg High School Hall of Fame induction ceremony held January 17th in the newly renovated GHS auditorium, honoring six inductees in the Class of 2025. He noted the Hall of Fame recognizes GHS graduates for excellence in athletics and other fields. He emphasized the vital role he feels sports plays in instilling school and community pride, teamwork, self-discipline, and promoting youth well-being. He noted he was deeply moved by the inductees' speeches, confirming Galesburg as a wonderful place to live and raise a family. He also reminded the community of the School District's investment of millions of dollars, including over \$40 million, in facility upgrades at both the Junior and Senior High Schools, stating the high school auditorium now rivals Knox College's facilities.

Council Member White expressed a wish for people to be blessed.

Mayor Schwartzman expressed his appreciation for everyone who spoke at the meeting, noting that bringing these important issues to the attention of the wider community is vital. When citizens speak at these meetings, comments are televised and archived so that people who couldn't attend can remain informed about what matters. He stated that he knew Ms. Glass personally and that her passing is a terrible loss, but her contributions to our community were immense. He was glad there was a mention of some of her accolades tonight, and is also thankful that both the City and the County are taking this matter seriously and moving forward.

The Mayor stated that the issue of the unhoused situation is something people are aware of if they follow social media and is very significant to him. He added that it's a very difficult situation, but that the City is communicating daily with various agencies, trying to find resolutions and that all complaints are taken seriously. He and the City Manager are personally meeting with different entities and communicating these concerns to address them as effectively as possible. He added that it is extremely cold, and it looks like it will remain so for another month or more, and that it is sobering to consider the hardship faced by those without shelter. He stated that the unhoused are people who, like many, have faced difficulties without a support system and that it's vital that we collectively provide support. This issue requires ongoing effort from the Council and local nonprofits and he anticipates further discussions in the coming months.

On a personal note, the Mayor stated that his daughter, Juniper, will play basketball for Grinnell College against Knox College Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. at Knox. He encouraged the community to come cheer on the former Galesburg High School graduate. Tickets are free, and the game can be streamed online, too.

There being no further business, Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member White, to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Roll Call #10:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

Peter D. Mayor Schwartzman, Mayor

Kelli R. Bennewitz, City Clerk