

Galesburg City Council Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
55 West Tompkins Street, Galesburg, Illinois
June 1, 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, Charles Reynolds, Dwight White, Greg Saul, and Steve Cheesman, 7. Absent: Council Member Heather Acerra, 1. 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.

Semenya McCord gave the invocation.

Council Member Mangieri moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve the minutes of the City Council's regular meeting from May 18, 2026.

Roll Call #2:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Acerra, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

City Attorney Dan Alcorn opened and read sealed bids for the following City-owned properties:

Bidder	Tract	Bid Price
Christopher A'Hearn	1	\$2,750.00
No Limb it Landscaping LLC	1	\$100.00
Michael Holeman	1	\$300.00
No Limb it Landscaping LLC	2	\$100.00
Galesburg Christian School Association	2	\$251.01
No Limb it Landscaping LLC	3	\$100.00
Lomac Payton	3	\$400.00

Bidder	Tract	Bid Price
Shannon Scott	4	\$100.00
No Limb it Landscaping LLC	4	\$100.00
Asencion Duran	4	\$150.00
No Limb it Landscaping LLC	5	\$100.00
Griselda Gandarilla	5	\$100.00
No Limb it Landscaping LLC	6	\$100.00
Mark Rasmussen	6	\$351.00
No Limb it Landscaping LLC	7	\$100.00
No Limb it Landscaping LLC	8	\$100.00
Marc Bailey	8	\$2,000.00
Mark Rasmussen	8	\$351.00
No Limb it Landscaping LLC	9	\$100.00
Jason Ericson	9	\$2,000.00
No Limb it Landscaping LLC	10	\$100.00
Mark Rasmussen	10	\$251.00
iRentals, Inc.	10	\$1,399.00
No Limb it Landscaping LLC	11	\$100.00
Cashton Hillery	11	\$500.00
Mark Rasmussen	11	\$351.00
No Limb it Landscaping	13	\$100.00
Eiker's Outdoor Creations	13	\$1,000.00

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robin Erickson addressed the Council regarding the Pride flag and noted that she flies it year round to signal a safe environment, but emphasized that citizens look to city leadership to establish standards for the entire community. She stated that seeing the Pride flag at City Hall

provided a sense of belonging and served as a visible shield for LGBTQ+ students facing bullying and harassment in school. She stated that proclamations are often stored away and that symbols, such as the flag, provide visibility. She expressed concern that not flying the flag suggests that support for marginalized groups is negotiable and she feels that the Pride flag represents human dignity rather than a political lobby. She urged the City Council to reconsider the ordinance banning flags in favor of a more intentional one or policy framework that allows the City to celebrate historically marginalized groups during recognized heritage months.

CONSENT AGENDA #2026-11

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

26-4034

Approve a Special Event application for the Bridgeway Family Fun Day.

26-5005

Receive a petition to annex the property adjacent to Lincoln Park and Bunker Links Golf Course.

26-8010

Approve bills in the amount of \$531,180.83 and advance checks in the amount of \$772,837.56.

Council Member Reynolds moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve Consent Agenda 2026-11.

Roll Call #3:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Acerra, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried by omnibus vote.

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

26-1011

Ordinance on first reading annexing the property adjacent to Lincoln Park and Bunker Links Golf Course, Property Identification Number 05-34-101-002.

Council Member Cheesman noted that while several options exist, including potential park improvements or alternative projects, the Bunker Links Golf Course represents a significant success story for the City. He highlighted that the course hosted 31,000 rounds of golf and has been recognized as one of the best-kept secrets in the nation. He commended the professional staff and the outstanding course conditions that attract players from across the Midwest. He stated that while modest investments have been made as funds allowed, the City should consider further enhancements to improve the experience. He expressed his support for the proposal as a means to expand options for the golf course and other areas. The City Manager also noted that for now, the seven acres will continue to be farmed.

BIDS, PETITIONS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The City Manager highlighted the newly formed employee volunteer committee, Galesburg GIVES, and announced their upcoming food drive scheduled for June 12th, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. He added that a fire truck will be on-site and City staff will volunteer throughout the day to collect donations for the FISH Food Pantry. A press release regarding the event has been issued. He also announced that on Wednesday, June 10th, the Galesburg Police Department will host a fundraiser at McDonald's on Henderson Street in support of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

The City Manager added that this staff-led committee is dedicated to identifying opportunities for City employees to contribute to the community and to formalize its commitment to public service. He noted that staff participation is anticipated at the Taste of Galesburg, and the group continues to support various initiatives, including food pantry donations and community event volunteering. He expressed his pride in the team's dedication, noting that these efforts encompass a wide range of activities, such as the "Fill the Boot" campaign—where Galesburg's collections currently rank second in the state—and ongoing support for Special Olympics and St. Jude's, and highlight how City staff feel toward the citizens of our community.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (AGREEMENTS, APPROVALS, ETC.)

26-4035

Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to approve a Minor Plat of the Fieldview Subdivision which is located approximately 1.25 miles outside the City limits. The owner is proposing a two-lot subdivision located at 119 County Road 1300 North.

Roll Call #4:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Acerra, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-4036

Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve a Minor Plat of the Prina2 Resubdivision. The owner of the property is proposing to subdivide the parcel located at 2320 Grand Avenue into two lots.

Roll Call #5:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Acerra, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

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

TOWN BUSINESS

26-9011

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

Fund Title	Amount
Town Fund	\$96.00
General Assistance Fund	\$3,836.14
IMRF Fund	
Social Security/Medicare Fund	
Liability Fund	
Audit Fund	
Total	\$3,932.14

Roll Call #6:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Acerra, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS

Council Member Cheesman noted numerous positive initiatives currently taking place throughout the City, adding his appreciation for the collaborative efforts between various organizations and private citizens that contribute to the community's success. He commended Council Member Mangieri for her expertise and involvement in the Galesburg Orchard Bicycle Cruise, noting the positive publicity it has received. He also highlighted the recent milestones of several local non-profits, including the 50th anniversary of Choral Dynamics and the 30th anniversary of Discovery Depot. He also acknowledged the continued growth and community impact of Judy's, specifically mentioning the recent renovations and new product. He also thanked the students of Galesburg Junior High School for their service in placing flags at the graves of veterans prior to Memorial Day, assisting the VFW and American Legion. He also added that he's a White Sox fan.

Council Member Mangieri expressed her gratitude for the recognition of her steering committee's efforts for the Galesburg Orchard Bicycle Cruise, noting that the work is a collaborative team achievement. She announced that the Cruise is scheduled for June 23rd at 5 p.m. and that registration is \$10, with a deadline of June 18th. Additionally, she noted that she is a loyal St. Louis Cardinals fan, which is how she first learned the game of baseball.

Council Member Hunigan noted that while he is a Cubs fan, he's currently not happy with the team's performance. He announced that Cooke Park is scheduled to open within the next few weeks and expressed his appreciation for the Rotary Clubs of Galesburg's contribution of a Little Free Library along one of the park's paths. He stated that they hope to partner with the nearby daycare center to serve as the steward for the library and expressed his hope that the entire community, not just park visitors, will enjoy this new resource.

Council Member Reynolds stated that he is looking forward to the upcoming bicycle cruise. He also requested that everyone take a moment to reflect on the Tulsa Massacre of June 1, 1921, noting that more than 300 American citizens were killed solely because they were African American. He also noted that he is a Chicago Cubs fan.

Council Member White echoed the sentiments regarding the 105th anniversary of the Tulsa Massacre. He shared that his personal commitment to reading was inspired by former Council Member Hix, leading him to complete books such as "On Tyranny" by Timothy Snyder, "Before the Mayflower" by Lerone Bennett, and "Cry Like a Man" by Jason Wilson. He emphasized the critical importance of education and knowledge as a foundation for all other pursuits. He expressed his support for the Galesburg GIVES food drive and indicated that he plans to contribute. He also highlighted the positive developments at Cooke Park, noting that residents from all portions of the City are coming together to enjoy it, and appreciates the way the facility is serving as a unifying resource for the entire community.

Council Member Saul noted that he has been a loyal St. Louis Cardinals fan since 1964 and a Chicago White Sox fan since his father was raised on Chicago's South Side. He reflected on the certainty of death and taxes, noting that he recently received his tax bill and also extended sympathies on the passing of three friends and fellow graduates: Larry Gutierrez, Sam Rescinito, and Kurt Becker. He also shared that he recently saw the film "Michael" with his family, which he highly recommended for fans of Michael Jackson and Motown music. He also wished Craig Carpenter, Knox County Sheriff's Department, a happy retirement after 36 years of service. Council Member Saul compared this to his experiences at Maytag, where he saw workers stay on the job long after they were eligible to retire, often for only a small increase beyond their pension, and then pass away shortly after retiring. Based on these observations, he urged others to take the opportunity to retire when it becomes available. He also noted that he recently flew his hot air balloon from the former Churchill School and added his appreciation for the beautiful trees planted by Tom Simkins and his volunteers.

Mayor Schwartzman commented on the recent tree planting initiative at the former Churchill School also, noting the participation of several community members, including Community Development Director Steve Gugliotta. He stated that twenty trees were planted and expressed his gratitude for the volunteers who have committed to watering them as well. He reminded the community of the Galesburg GIVES food drive on June 12th from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the Public Square, featuring City volunteers, as well as the Bridgeway event on June 13th.

The Mayor extended his congratulations to Lily Furrow, a Galesburg High School student who was honored with the Don Morris Award, the highest distinction for athletes in the Western Big Six.

He noted her excellence in swimming, basketball, and track, and mentioned that she is only the 12th Galesburg student to receive the award. Reflecting on the Memorial Day parade, he commended Gerald Wright and his team for the ceremony at the Knox County Courthouse to honor those who served and also noted the performance by the Junior High School band. With the start of meteorological summer on June 1st, he urged residents to exercise caution while driving, particularly near parks and neighborhoods where children may be playing. Noting the loss of his father last year, he stressed how important it is to spend time with family during the summer months and shared that he plans to visit his mother later this season.

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

Roll Call #7:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Acerra, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

Peter D. Schwartzman, Mayor

Kelli R. Bennewitz, City Clerk