

Galesburg City Council Regular Meeting  
City Council Chambers  
55 West Tompkins Street, Galesburg, Illinois  
May 18, 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, 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 Reynolds, to approve the minutes of the City Council's regular meeting from May 4, 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.

Mayor Schwartzman asked for nominations for Deputy Mayor.

Council Member Acerra nominated Council Member Cheesman. Nominations were closed via voice vote. Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to approve Council Member Cheesman as Deputy Mayor through May 2028.

Roll Call #3:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried and Council Member Cheesman was elected as Deputy Mayor.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **CONSENT AGENDA #2026-10**

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

**26-2011**

Approve Resolution 26-11 in support of the Illinois Housing Development Authority's Strong Community Program Grant, Round 3.

**26-5004**

Receive the quarterly investment schedule.

**26-8009**

Approve bills in the amount of \$1,325,844.86 and advance checks in the amount of \$3,931,137.23

Council Member Reynolds moved, seconded by Council Member Cheesman, to approve Consent Agenda 2026-10.

Roll Call #4:

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****26-1009**

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve Ordinance 26-3771 on final reading amending Section 113.043 (A) of Chapter 113 of the Galesburg Municipal Code regarding the limitation on the number of Class A-1 liquor licenses.

Roll Call #5:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried by omnibus vote.

**BIDS, PETITIONS, AND COMMUNICATIONS****26-3019**

Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to approve the bid from Brandt Construction Company in the amount of \$556,350.65 for the 2026 intermittent resurfacing 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.

**26-3020**

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to reject the bid from Brandt Construction Company for the BNSF Peoria Subdivision improvements project and rebid the project with proposed modifications.

Roll Call #7:

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**

The City Manager announced that Tom Simkins and volunteers have planted nearly 75 trees in the last three weeks, progressing toward the goal of planting 1,000 trees by the end of the year. He expressed appreciation for the volunteers and the long-term impact of their efforts. He also recognized the Police Department for the "Coffee on a Rooftop" event, which raised funds for the Special Olympics. He also noted that OSF will hold a ribbon cutting tomorrow at 11 a.m. for their \$5 million expansion to their ER facility, highlighting the hospital as a vital community asset. He recognized Public Safety Telecommunications Week, National Police Week, and National Public Works Week, thanking employees across all departments for their continued service and dedication to the City of Galesburg.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (AGREEMENTS, APPROVALS, ETC.)****26-4033**

Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to approve a professional engineering agreement with PGAV Planners, LLC to continue to provide consulting services for the proposed creation of a new Tax Increment Financing District along South Henderson Street between west Third Street and just south of Enterprise Avenue.

Roll Call #8:

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

**TOWN BUSINESS****26-9010**

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

| <b>Fund Title</b>             | <b>Amount</b>      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Town Fund                     | \$26,886.79        |
| General Assistance Fund       | \$4,556.77         |
| IMRF Fund                     |                    |
| Social Security/Medicare Fund |                    |
| Liability Fund                |                    |
| Audit Fund                    | \$5,725.00         |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>\$37,168.56</b> |

Roll Call #9:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

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

### **CLOSING COMMENTS**

Council Member Mangieri announced that Community Grow will host a Galesburg Orchard Bicycle Cruise fundraiser on June 23rd. The event is designed to showcase various orchards within the City and will start at 5 p.m. and is expected to last approximately ninety minutes. The route will include scheduled stops for refreshments and facilities, followed by a box lunch provided by her. Registration information is available on the Community Grow Facebook page and website. The cost to participate is \$10.00.

Council Member Hunigan shared that he was invited to speak with Professor Mary Barr's urban sociology class at Knox College. The students expressed interest in the daily life of a Council Member and the motivations for seeking public office at age 80. He explained that his decision to run was driven by the impact of a neighboring drug house in his ward. During his time with the class, he noted the students' desire to explore and understand Galesburg. The class, which included international students and individuals from both large and small cities, had recently read Chad Broughton's *Boom, Bust, and Exodus*.

Council Member Hunigan remarked on the 25th anniversary of the Maytag closure, noting that while the renovated facility now houses Western Smokehouse and Dick Blick Art Materials, the workforce is smaller than in years past. He observed that Galesburg remains a resilient community of 30,000 residents and recognized the vital roles of organizations such as River Bend Food Bank, Fish Food Pantry, and Blessings in a Backpack in addressing local poverty. The students also conducted a walking tour of downtown, visiting historic sites, Seminary Street, and the Galesburg Community Arts Center. When asked for feedback, students suggested improvements such as more trees, public benches, and the installation of public restrooms.

Students also questioned the high density of video gaming establishments, especially within neighborhoods of the city characterized by lower socioeconomic status.

Council Member Reynolds congratulated Andy Gibbons on his 35-year retirement from Knox College and shared that he was able to attend Mr. Gibbons' celebration held over the weekend at Reserve Artisan Ales.

Council Member White shared that he grew up in the proposed TIF District and recalled the period when businesses such as Butler Manufacturing and ADM were prominent in the Fourth Ward. He's optimistic that the new district would revitalize the area, promote job creation and provide an economic boost to the City. He also noted his participation in the Galesburg Scholarship Award Day, where approximately \$75,000 in scholarships were awarded to local students. Representing the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee, he noted that the committee successfully awarded four \$1,000 scholarships. He emphasized that these awards are made possible through the generosity of citizens during the Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast and that every dollar donated is directed toward youth scholarships. He encouraged citizens to remain engaged and involved in the community in whatever capacity they are able.

Council Member Acerra announced that the Public Library will host a community blood drive tomorrow, sponsored by the Lions Club, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. She also noted that the Library is currently hosting an Underground Railroad exhibit and reminded everyone what a significant part it played in the City's history. She shared that she was able to attend the Cooke Park celebration at the Galesburg Community Arts Center, organized by Gayla Pacheco. She expressed appreciation for the diverse community involvement that made the project possible, and that during the event she had the opportunity to visit with retired police officer Jesse Perez. She recognized Mr. Perez for his long-standing service as "Officer Friendly" and his positive impact on youth relations within the community.

Council Member Saul shared that he attended Food Truck Friday and noted that while the event was successful, he hopes they can get additional vendors in the future. He also attended the visitation for Bill Hayes, noting that he was the individual who initially encouraged him to seek the office of Council Member. He expressed his gratitude for Mr. Hayes's mentorship and stated that he will be greatly missed by the community.

Council Member Cheesman stated that the positive developments shared by the Council are the result of significant time, energy, and dedication from individuals striving to improve the community. He extended his condolences to the family and colleagues of City employee Dave Pruett, describing him as an outstanding individual and worker. He also recognized the efforts of Council Member Hunigan and the support group for African American studies for their mentorship and scholarship contributions. He also noted the induction of a new class of Gale Scholars, who will receive scholarships to Carl Sandburg College and Knox College while committing to community service. Council Member Cheesman also highlighted the release of the City's Annual Report, expressing appreciation for Cathy St. George and Administration for producing a comprehensive and accessible document that reflects the City's collective progress.

In closing, he shared his love for the White Sox over the Cubs, especially in light of their current standings.

Mayor Schwartzman also recognized City employee Dave Pruett, noting the City's fortunate history regarding the longevity and service of its employees. He highlighted several upcoming community events, including a healthcare listening session sponsored by Illinois People's Action, scheduled for Wednesday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Galesburg Public Library. He shared his recent visit to the Rescue Mission, where he met with approximately 50 clients. He described the interaction as powerful and encouraged citizens to visit the Mission for a meal to help dispel stigmas associated with the unhoused population, noting that they are a vital part of the community. He also announced the Memorial Day parade on Monday, which will begin at 10 a.m., followed by a ceremony at the Courthouse to honor those who have lost their lives in service. Reflecting on his 15 years of elected service and five years as Mayor, he expressed gratitude for the dedication of the City Council, Administration, and staff. He urged the public to review and share the positive developments outlined in the City's Annual Report, and emphasized the importance of collective efforts in promoting Galesburg as a desirable place to live and invest.

There being no further business, Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member Mangieri, to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Roll Call #10:

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