

Galesburg City Council Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
55 West Tompkins Street, Galesburg, Illinois
May 4, 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. Absent: Council Member Charles Reynolds, 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.

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of an invocation.

Proclamation: Stamp Out Hunger

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve the minutes of the City Council's regular meeting from April 20, 2026.

Roll Call #2:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Reynolds, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeanette Chernin addressed the Council regarding property maintenance concerns at 63 Sumner Street, noting that she had provided photographs to several Council Members and staff. She stated that she saw the property while taking the train to Chicago, noting that it provides a negative first impression of the City to Amtrak passengers. She stated that a fire occurred at the location in October 2025 and she questioned if it was occupied or on the demolition list. She also stated that the condition of the yard, which contains a stove, a couch, and other debris, needs to be cleaned up and asked if the City could provide assistance with the removal of the garbage.

Lia Sloan, Junior Miss Illinois 2025, addressed the Council regarding her community service projects, "Hand in Hooves, Working Together." She stated that her goal is to raise awareness and support for Rainbow Riders Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center and the benefits of therapeutic horseback riding. She noted that while April was Autism Awareness Month, autism exists all year round. She shared that her brother, David, is autistic, which is how she became involved with Rainbow Riders. She stated that she has ridden horses with her brother for the past three years.

and has seen him gain confidence and a voice through his interactions with the horses. She noted that this summer will be her first year as an official volunteer and that last year, Rainbow Riders supported over 300 people and celebrated their 20th anniversary, and she hopes to help the organization grow to serve more people with special needs in the future. She explained that bonding with horses teaches trust, communication, and emotional regulation. She noted that for children on the autism spectrum who may struggle with social bonds, the connection formed with a horse can serve as a bridge for better communication with people. She provided cards to the City Clerk which will have a link for those interested in learning more about Rainbow Riders or following her year of service.

CONSENT AGENDA #2026-09

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

26-4029

Approve the Food Truck Fridays special event series for the second Friday of each month from May through September in Parking Lot H.

26-4030

Approve membership with the Western Illinois Regional Council (WIRC) for an annual membership fee of \$15,997.20.

26-8008

Approve bills in the amount of \$1,278,298.82.

Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member Cheesman, to approve Consent Agenda 2026-09.

Roll Call #3:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Reynolds, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried by omnibus vote.

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

26-1009

Ordinance on first 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.

26-2010

Special Ordinance on first reading authorizing the disposal of retired, confiscated or abandoned property utilizing the most fiscally responsible method.

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to suspend the rules and move agenda item 26-1010 to final reading.

Roll Call #4:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Reynolds, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve Special Ordinance 26-635 on final reading authorizing the disposal of retired, confiscated or abandoned property utilizing the most fiscally responsible method.

Roll Call #5:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Reynolds, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

BIDS, PETITIONS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

26-3015

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve the bid from Miller & Son Construction Company in the amount of \$88,552.90 for miscellaneous sidewalk replacement at various locations within the City.

Roll Call #6:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Reynolds, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-3016

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve the bid from N.E. Finch Company in the amount of \$214,240 for the demolition and clean-up of the following ten properties:

1. 874 South Seminary Street
2. 1149 McClure Street
3. 46 North Pearl Street
4. 99 North Elm Street
5. 362 North Broad Street
6. 714 Mulberry Street
7. 794 East Berrien Street
8. 862 South Seminary Street
9. 1786 Bateman Street
10. 1217 South Pearl Street

Roll Call #7:

Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 6.
Nays: None
Absent: Council Member Reynolds, 1.
Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-3017

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve the termination of the bid that was awarded to Fowler Enterprises LLC for the demolition and clean-up of the City-owned property located at 647 Maple Avenue.

Roll Call #8:

Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 6.
Nays: None
Absent: Council Member Reynolds, 1.
Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-3018

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve the bid from D&T Demolition LLC in the amount of \$94,680 for the demolition and clean-up of the City-owned property located at 647 Maple Avenue.

Council Member Cheesman asked the City Manager to give a brief synopsis of this project for the public since it is coming before the Council again.

City Manager Hanson stated that the Fire Department had made the property available for public tours and although multiple contractors inspected the site, none submitted an offer for rehabilitation due to the anticipated costs. He further noted that an assessment conducted by Estes Construction estimated that making the facility usable and ADA compliant would cost approximately \$1.5 to \$1.6 million. He explained that utilizing the second floor for public use would necessitate the installation of an elevator for ADA compliance, increasing the total projected cost to approximately \$1.8 million. He stated that because no credible repurposing options were identified, staff determined that demolition was the most fiscally responsible course of action and recommended moving forward with the project.

Council Member Acerra noted that this property is located within her Ward and stated that she and the City Manager had discussed the building's role as a buffer between the pickleball courts and neighboring residents. She explained that a wall or fence would be erected at the site to provide a continuing buffer for those concerned about the impact of the demolition.

Roll Call #9:

Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 6.
Nays: None
Absent: Council Member Reynolds, 1.
Chairman declared the motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Hanson thanked the volunteers involved in the recent tree planting initiative at Hawthorne Center, noting that thirty trees were planted. He noted that one of the trees was planted in honor of Marte Glass, who previously served as a lifeguard at Hawthorne Pool. He stated that the event was a success and marked progress in the City's goal of planting 1,000 trees. He also announced that an additional tree planting event will take place this Saturday on East Main Street as part of ongoing beautification efforts for the East Main Street corridor near Interstate 74. He also invited everyone to a pancake breakfast at the Central Fire Station tomorrow morning from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The second annual Firefighters Awards Ceremony will follow the breakfast at 9:00 a.m.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (AGREEMENTS, APPROVALS, ETC.)

26-4031

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Mangieri, to approve a Municipal Maintenance Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation for the Sibley Underpass storm water pumps.

Roll Call #10:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Reynolds, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-4032

Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member Hunigan, to approve an engineering agreement with Crawford, Murphy, & Tilly in the amount of \$35,300 for the Oquawka Water Transmission long-term monitoring and inspection plan.

Roll Call #11:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Reynolds, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

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

TOWN BUSINESS

26-9009

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

Fund Title	Amount
Town Fund	\$143.35

General Assistance Fund	\$6,537.67
IMRF Fund	
Social Security/Medicare Fund	
Liability Fund	
Audit Fund	\$5,250.00
Total	\$11,931.02

Roll Call #12:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Reynolds, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS

Council Member White announced to the Council and public that he was able to visit Mayor Schwartzman's class on April 22nd. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to meet and engage with the students, noting the high level of participation and the quality of the discussions that took place. He encouraged others to visit and support the students if they had the chance. He also noted the loss of his mother in 1985 and urged everyone to value and maintain their relationships with their mothers and extended Happy Mother's Day wishes to all.

Council Member Acerra expressed appreciation to Junior Miss Illinois for her presentation regarding Rainbow Riders, noting her personal interest in the organization. She shared that her company, Lux Blox, has also found a meaningful connection with the autism community through their STEM products, which have proven beneficial for individuals with sensory concerns. She also mentioned that the Peoria Bicycle Co-op accepts donations of unwanted bicycles in good condition, which they then refurbish and recycle to provide low-cost transportation for the community. She also announced the upcoming Rootabaga Jazz Festival this week and the successful opening of the Farmers Market last weekend, encouraging the public to participate in these local spring events.

Council Member Saul thanked Junior Miss Illinois for her presentation this evening. He noted that the benefits of therapeutic programs like Rainbow Riders extend beyond those on the autism spectrum to include many individuals with sensory concerns. He extended "May the Fourth" wishes to the Council and public in observance of Star Wars Day. He also wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day, and noted that he misses his mother, who passed away on his birthday almost five years ago.

Council Member Cheesman expressed his pride in the proactive approach the Council has taken to ensure the success of the City and its citizens and that the Council is committed to due diligence and consensus-building rather than deferring important matters, and noted that

positive results are being achieved. He commended Miss Sloan, Junior Miss Illinois, for her presentation, noting the difficulty of public speaking. He also shared that Nick McMahill recently hosted an autism advocacy and education fair at the library, sponsored by Senator Mike Halpin and Representative Dan Swanson. He also recognized the local letter carriers for their upcoming food drive, noting that Galesburg residents typically contribute a significant amount of food to support FISH and other local food pantries. He thanked Jeanette Chernin and other citizens for addressing the Council, stating that respectful and well-reasoned public participation is the essence of democracy.

Council Member Hunigan announced that the Galesburg Public Library book sale held on May 3rd was exceptionally successful, noting that it was the largest volume of donated books and the highest attendance in the event's history. He stated that the proceeds from the sale, which reached record-breaking levels, are directly reinvested into the library. He shared that as a steward of the thirteen Little Free Libraries, he was invited by the Library Foundation to select books for those locations and has established a partnership with a new Foundation member to ensure they remain stocked throughout the year.

Mayor Schwartzman commended Lia Sloan, Junior Miss Illinois, for her presentation and expressed his support for Rainbow Riders and stated that he would promote the organization's efforts on social media, noting the significant benefits it provides to the community. He remarked on the quality of the presentation and shared that public speaking was a skill he found challenging even as an adult. He reminded the public that the "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive, organized by the postal letter carriers, will take place this Saturday. He encouraged residents to place non-perishable food items near their mailboxes by Saturday morning for collection, noting that all donations will support local food pantries. He emphasized the importance of community generosity, particularly for those currently struggling.

The Mayor extended Happy Mother's Day wishes, noting that he looks forward to visiting his own mother this summer. He closed his remarks by recognizing Aaron Gavin, Public Works Department Director, for his service as the City's representative in Washington, D.C. He stated that he had heard significant praise regarding his presentation of Galesburg's needs and thanked him for his dedication and professional representation of the City.

There being no further business, Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member White, to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Roll Call #13:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Council Member Reynolds, 1.

Chairman declared the motion carried.

Peter D. Schwartzman, Mayor

Kelli R. Bennewitz, City Clerk