



**Galesburg City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE: October 5, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

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

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

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

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.

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 of September 21, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Darla Krejci addressed the Council regarding the Walk of the Dead Haunted Trail and invited them to attend the event, providing complimentary tickets, and noted that the trail recently opened for the season. She also noted the event's addition again this year on HauntedIllinois.com, where visitors can vote to support the trail's state ranking. She also emphasized the economic and tourism value of local Halloween attractions, noting their ability to attract regional visitors and foster community engagement. She invited Council Members to see her after the meeting for tickets.

Tom Simkins, Special Projects Coordinator for the City, addressed the Council to express appreciation to city staff, members of the Council, and local volunteers for their contributions to community projects over the summer. Specific recognition was given to Dennis and Marsha Bramlett for their ongoing volunteer efforts in maintaining the flower beds at the Lake Storey pavilion, as well as local Rotarians, including George and Mary Burgland, Lance and Margie Renfro, Ed Niehus, and Bill Sime, for managing the daily watering of flower plantings at the railroad crossings on Academy, Broad, and Prairie Streets.

Mr. Simkins also raised concerns regarding local signage and suggested that the City issue a reminder to residents and businesses concerning regulations against placing commercial and odd job signage on public terraces and street corners. He also recommended that the City Council consider establishing maximum size limits for political signs and provided examples of regulations adopted by other municipalities in Illinois.

Robert Cain addressed the Council noting many positive developments in the City, such as the tree plantings and various ongoing community activities. However, he raised concerns regarding local contractors, stating that they are violating multiple municipal regulations, and noted a recent conflict with a contractor. He also stated that many residents are mowing grass into the middle of the streets, which causes safety risks for motorcyclists. He feels there needs to be clear, consistently enforced ordinances rather than selective enforcement. He also inquired about upcoming property listings at the end of the month and asked whether the community garden would be included on the list.

Yolanda Nanez addressed the Council regarding the proposed moratorium on data centers, and her concerns over a perceived delay in Council action and questioned why residents were being encouraged to contact state legislators rather than the City Council enacting a total ban or restriction directly. She also raised questions concerning the BlackBerry Solar Project located near County Route 10 and asked about the background and timeline of the 180-day moratorium, specifically asking whether non-disclosure agreements had been issued in relation to the project. She noted that she has conducted extensive research on these subjects and offered to share her findings with the Council following the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA #2026-18

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

26-2023

Approve Resolution 26-22 ceding the City's 2026 private activity bonding authority to the Quad Cities Regional Economic Development Authority (QCREDAs).

26-8017

Approve bills in the amount of \$523,195.68 and advance checks in the amount of \$872,107.68.

Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to approve Consent Agenda 2026-18.

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

26-1017

Council Member Reynolds moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve Special Ordinance 26-639 on final reading transferring custody of abandoned, lost, or stolen Galesburg Police Department property to the City of Galesburg for proper disposal.

Roll Call #4:

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

26-3031

Council Member Cheesman moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve the bid from Johnson Trucking & Blacktopping in the amount of \$38,745 to install cart paths at Bunker Links Golf Course.

Roll Call #5:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-3032

Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve the bid from Mechanical Service of Galesburg, Inc. in the amount of \$694,677 to complete electrical upgrades at the Galesburg Public Safety Building.

Roll Call #6:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-3033

Council Member Cheesman moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to approve the bid from MTI Distributing, Inc. in the amount of \$47,698.44, including a trade-in, to purchase a new triplex rotary mower for the Golf Division.

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (AGREEMENTS, APPROVALS, ETC.)

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

TOWN BUSINESS

26-9019

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

Fund Title	Amount
Town Fund	\$647.21
General Assistance Fund	\$7,282.46
IMRF Fund	
Social Security/Medicare Fund	
Liability Fund	
Audit Fund	

Total	\$7,929.67
--------------	-------------------

Roll Call #8:

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 Acerra, to resume as the City Council. The motion carried.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Council Member White addressed the comments made by Tom Simkins regarding political signs, noting his specific concern about a large sign on Monmouth Boulevard that obstructs traffic visibility. He clarified that he was not advocating for the removal of the sign but requested that measures be taken to ensure signs don't block sightlines for traffic. He also noted his military background and encouraged those present to research notable historical figures, including attorney Malcolm Allen, father and son duo Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis Sr., General Benjamin O. Davis Jr., and Lieutenant Henry Ossian Flipper.

Council Member Acerra reported visiting with family members of the original builders of her home, who also brought her a beaver top hat from Webster Hattery and Furrier. She also addressed a constituent's voicemail concerning excessive motorcycle noise near the intersection of Main Street and Henderson Street. She stated that she discussed the matter with the Police Chief, noting that enforcement will increase in the area. Using her own decibel reader, she measured motorcycle noise levels downtown approaching 100 decibels and identified that certain ADA pedestrian crossing signals exceeded standard noise levels as well. She shared these findings with the City Manager, who confirmed that staff will relay the feedback regarding the crossing signals to the state authority responsible for their maintenance.

Council Member Saul reported that he visited Southwind Park in Springfield on Tuesday with his hot air balloon for their festival, and on Friday he attended First Fridays and enjoyed the musical performance by Pippi and Daniel. He also noted the start of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, noting that several friends were participating. He also gave words of support for the Chicago White Sox.

Council Member Cheesman noted a recent situation involving Public Works Director Aaron Gavin, a local resident, and administrative staff, noting how effectively local government entities collaborated to address a serious and complex issue. He stated his appreciation for the city staff and his colleagues for their ongoing dedication to serving the community. He also recognized the Humane Society for their exceptional service, passion, and care provided to the community and emphasized the importance of supporting local non-profits and remaining aware of their contributions.

Council Member Cheesman also congratulated Budde's, a small downtown business on Main Street, on celebrating its 20th anniversary, and encouraged residents to continue supporting small local businesses throughout Galesburg.

Mayor Schwartzman congratulated Council Member Mangieri on her recent new position as the Executive Director of the FISH Food Pantry.

Council Member Hunigan congratulated the Stone Hayes Center for Independent Living on celebrating 30 years of advocacy for individuals with disabilities. He highlighted that healthy individuals often take their health for granted, emphasizing that a disability can occur instantly and alter a person's life permanently. He explained that Stone Hayes promotes empowerment, equality, awareness, advocacy, and independence, and outlined key services provided by the center, including recruiting personal care assistants for individuals with disabilities, peer counseling, assisting individuals with transitioning from nursing facilities to independent living, and job placement and self-sufficiency support.

Council Member Hunigan noted that keynote speakers spoke about self-advocacy and self-efficacy and gathered feedback from attendees regarding their needs and achievements. He reported that the center serves approximately 200 individuals and is supported through state and federal funding. He shared a personal account with Stone Hayes supporting his brother, John, following a brain tumor diagnosis and a move from Los Angeles to Galesburg. John was later employed as a staff member at Stone Hayes and also thanked Galesburg Transit for providing transportation for his brother to work each day. He commended Executive Director Don Hand and Board President Sara Yemm Witherell for their dedication and outstanding service to the community.

Mayor Schwartzman thanked Tom Simkins and all the volunteers dedicated to planting and caring for local trees, noting that the City is nearing its goal of planting 1,000 trees this year. He encouraged interested community members to volunteer for upcoming Saturday morning planting events. Regarding signage, he acknowledged the political sign information provided and recommended City Council review, agreeing that signs in residential areas should be subject to appropriate size considerations.

Mayor Schwartzman commended local high school athletics, highlighting the Galesburg Silver Streaks football team's recent victory over Quincy, as well as the boys' golf team placing second in regionals with the top golfer tying for first place. He also recognized Ella Herchenroder for achieving the third-best score at the regional tournament hosted at Bunker Links Golf Course. He also promoted the annual Walk of the Dead event, taking place every weekend through the end of the month.

There being no further business, Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:34 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