



**Galesburg City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE: September 21, 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.

5:50 p.m. Public Hearing – Annexation for 604 Highway 150 East

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.

Presentation: Retirement of K9 Office Dax

Council Member Reynolds moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve the minutes of the City Council's regular meeting of September 8, 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

Jeanette Chernin, Vice President of NAACP, addressed the Council on behalf of herself and President Pam Davidson to invite everyone to several upcoming events. Candidate forums will be held at the Public Library at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22nd, featuring candidates for state office, Knox County Treasurer, and Knox County Clerk candidates, and next Tuesday, another forum will be held for Knox County Board candidates. She also noted that the annual NAACP Gala will take place on Saturday, October 10, at 5:30 p.m. at the Knox College Center for Fine Arts. Tickets are available for \$50 and are available exclusively online via Eventbrite.

Marian Spurgeon addressed the Council regarding the proposed 180-day moratorium on data centers, expressing concern that the proposed duration is insufficient and suggested a moratorium of at least three years to adequately address potential resource and infrastructure impacts. She raised concerns regarding the preliminary processes, infrastructure negotiations, and public-private partnerships involved in data center developments, specifically citing the role of KCAP. She asked the public to educate themselves on data center developments and requested that the City Council table the resolution to return with a revised moratorium featuring a minimum three-year duration, along with a requirement for the public disclosure of any pending infrastructure agreements or public-private partnership discussions accompanied by a mandatory 60-day public comment period.

CONSENT AGENDA #2026-17

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

26-2018

Approve Resolution 26-17 approving the temporary closure of Main Street for the 2026 Treat Street event.

26-4057

Approve the retirement of Police Canine Dax and his donation to Police Officer Jacob Thompson.

26-4058

Approve the disposal of two fixed-route vehicles that have met the state requirements for disposal.

26-8016

Approve bills in the amount of \$1,557,508.06 and advance checks in the amount of \$579,215.82.

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve Consent Agenda 2026-17.

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

26-2019

Council Member Reynolds moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve Resolution 26-18 and an amendment to the pre-annexation for the property located at 604 U.S. Highway 150 East.

Roll Call #4:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-1014

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to approve Ordinance 26-3775 on final reading annexing the property located at 604 U.S. Highway 150 East, which currently operates as National Coatings, Inc. The property is approximately 5.78 acres and contains multiple structures. Approximately 5.20 acres of adjacent right-of-way will also be annexed.

Roll Call #5:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-1017

Special Ordinance on first reading transferring custody of abandoned, lost, or stolen Galesburg Police Department property to the City of Galesburg for proper disposal.

Council Member Acerra stated that the Peoria Bicycle Co-Op accepts donated bicycles to refurbish and distribute to individuals in need and offered to assist in connecting staff with with local charities are unavailable to accept bicycle donations.

26-1018

Special Ordinance on first reading establishing a moratorium on data center facilities.

City Manager Hanson reported that the recommended approach was formulated in consultation with legal counsel, citing relevant case law. The primary objective of the proposed moratorium is to establish an immediate safeguard against pending applications while providing the City Council with sufficient time for evaluation. He noted that the Council retains authority at any time to direct staff to initiate a formal zoning amendment, which entails a longer administrative process including review by the Planning and Zoning Commission and Development Review Committee. The City Manager added that given ongoing state and national discussions, the moratorium serves as a quick protective measure to preserve the City's interests, allowing the opportunity to consider future policy priorities, including potential restrictions or prohibitions.

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to suspend the rules and move Agenda item 26-1018 to final reading.

Roll Call #6:

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

Nays: Council Member Hunigan, 1.

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

Council Member Acerra provided an explanation for voting in favor of advancing the ordinance to a second reading, stating that the primary objective of the ordinance is to establish protections and prevent data center applications as quickly as possible. Therefore, she felt expediting the process to a second reading was appropriate in this instance.

Council Member Cheesman stated he has concerns regarding data center developments, like previous solar projects. He noted that the Council previously established an ordinance to address solar concerns, but state legislation preempted local home rule authority. He urged residents to proactively contact their legislators regarding data center regulations to help preserve local control. Based on his current research, he expressed his opposition to data center projects but emphasized the importance of remaining proactive and informed.

Council Member Hunigan clarified his reason for voting no, stating that he wants to gather additional public feedback. He added that fewer than ten citizens were present in the Council Chambers for this meeting, and that residents should be provided with more opportunities to offer their input regarding the establishment of data centers. While not endorsing data centers, he emphasized the importance of hearing from more members of the public before proceeding.

City Manager Hanson provided additional context regarding the proposed moratorium, noting that several municipalities have enacted similar measures, including the Town of Normal that extended its moratorium by six months to further evaluate the state's policy. He emphasized that Council retains full discretion to direct staff at any time, adjust the timeframe, or take action prior to the expiration of the 180-day period. He also explained that municipal codes vary, with some cities having single-reading approvals while Galesburg's code requires both first and second readings. Ultimately, the moratorium serves to allow

adequate time to gather feedback and establish appropriate regulatory frameworks before the City is required to act on pending requests.

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to approve Special Ordinance 26-638 on final reading establishing a moratorium on data center facilities.

Roll Call #7:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-2020

Council Member Cheesman moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to approve Resolution 26-19 authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Illinois Department of Transportation to purchase 1 minivan, 14 medium-duty paratransit vehicles, and 7 super-medium-duty vehicles to be utilized by Galesburg Public Transportation.

Roll Call #8:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-2021

Council Member Reynolds moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve Resolution 26-20 committing to provide \$1,080,000 in matching funds for the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant for the design and construction of the Simmons Street Improvements Project from Cherry Street to Prairie Street and from Kellogg Street to Seminary Street.

Roll Call #9:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-2022

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to approve Resolution 26-21 committing to provide \$1,022,600 in matching funds for the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant for the Phase II design of the East Main Street Improvements Project from Grand Avenue to east of Walnut Street.

Aaron Gavin, Public Works Director, discussed the strategy of applying for two substantial grants administered through IDOT. He stated that IDOT representatives recommended

submitting applications for both projects to maximize the City's chances of securing funding in a highly competitive grant process, though receiving awards for both in the same calendar year remains unlikely.

Roll Call #10:

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Hanson reported Galesburg Trick or Treat hours will be 5-8 p.m. on Saturday, October 31st. He also added that Treat Street will be held on Halloween from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Main Street, from Cherry to Seminary Streets.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (AGREEMENTS, APPROVALS, ETC.)

26-4059

Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to approve a service contract between the City of Galesburg Public Transportation and Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging to provide transportation to riders age 60 and older. The contract runs from October 2026 through September 2027.

Roll Call #11:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-4060

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve the renewal of KnowBe4 cyber security and compliance software for a three-year agreement in the amount of \$33,286.44.

Roll Call #12:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-4061

Council Member Cheesman moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve a three-year extension with Rock Valley Health to provide medical evaluations for the Galesburg Fire Department staff in accordance with National Fire Protection Association standards. The rate for the first year is set at \$27,216 with a 3% increase in each subsequent year.

Roll Call #13:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-4062

Council Member Cheesman moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve a façade grant in an amount not to exceed \$31,500, or 50% of the verified final project costs, whichever is less, for the property at 25 South Cedar Street.

Roll Call #14:

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

TOWN BUSINESS**26-9018**

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

Fund Title	Amount
Town Fund	\$9,654.98
General Assistance Fund	\$5,340.58
IMRF Fund	
Social Security/Medicare Fund	
Liability Fund	
Audit Fund	
Total	\$14,995.56

Roll Call #15:

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 White reported that he attended the Illinois Municipal League (IML) conference, noting that it was highly informative. He highlighted several sessions he attended, including solar energy and battery storage, the Open Meetings Act, downtown revitalization and incentives, retail and middle housing, an elected officials roundtable, recruiting retail to drive tourism, and data centers. He noted that session materials and presentation PDFs are available via IML and encouraged Council Members to review them, especially on topics such as data center developments.

Council Member Acerra stated that she also attended the IML conference, adding that she presented a session on HR survey findings during the Economic Development Roundtable to facilitate discussion on municipal human resources. She also expressed concerns regarding potential developments of data centers, specifically citing environmental and public health impacts such as low-frequency sound vibrations, degraded water quality, and reduced water pressure. She is in support of the moratorium to allow further consideration of these factors.

Council Member Saul stated that he had to miss the Illinois Municipal League conference this year due to a commitment at Quincy College's homecoming.

Council Member Cheesman congratulated Stone Hayes on its 30th anniversary and noted their upcoming open house on Thursday at 2 p.m. at 39 North Prairie Street, highlighting the vital independent living support they provide to citizens with disabilities. He stated that he has concerns regarding data centers and their significant energy consumption and strain on the local grid, and that he supports the moratorium to allow for a thorough examination of all aspects before any decisions are made. He also raised the ongoing issue of unhoused individuals in the community, emphasizing that solutions require collaboration across various organizations, forms of government, and impacted community members, while stressing that all individuals must be treated with dignity, compassion, and concern.

Council Member Mangieri reported on her attendance at her first Illinois Municipal League conference, noting the extensive and valuable educational sessions offered. Regarding data centers, she expressed her opposition and noted that she requested staff look into a moratorium, which was already on their radar. She noted that she remains open to discussing community concerns and potential opportunities with residents, however. She also agreed with Council Member Cheesman's remarks regarding unhoused individuals, expressing appreciation for the local community groups actively collaborating to address the issue.

Council Member Reynolds also noted his support for the proposed moratorium on data centers, emphasizing the necessity of further study prior to taking action that could affect residents. He also extended congratulations to Stone Hayes on their 30th anniversary and commended them as a valuable community resource and encouraged everyone to attend their open house.

Mayor Schwartzman also encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Stone Hayes open house as well as the Founders Day celebration at Carl Sandburg College's Science and Technology Atrium. The event marks the college's 60th anniversary and will feature the opening of a 50-year-old time capsule from 1976. He also reported on attending the 113th annual Illinois Municipal League conference, noting that the City had strong representation. He also added that Council Member Acerra served as a presenter on the topic of employee retention, delivering an engaging presentation to a well-attended session.

There being no further business, Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Roll Call #16:

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