



**Galesburg City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE: September 8, 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.

Bonnie Ericson gave the invocation.

Council Member Reynolds moved, seconded by Council Member Mangieri, to approve the minutes of the City Council's regular meeting of August 17, 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.

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve the minutes of the City Council's Executive Session meeting of May 19, 2025.

Roll Call #3:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marian Spurgeon addressed the Council regarding concerns over Flock Safety cameras and data privacy. She noted that tonight, September 8th, City Council of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, was considering a resolution to terminate its agreement with Flock Group / Flock Safety and defund Flock Safety Services in the 2027 budget. She highlighted that although the initial agreement authorized in December 2023 specified that Flock Safety does not own or sell customer or anonymized data under a 30-day retention period, a breach of contract was discovered in late July 2026 when an email surfaced offering to sell five years of anonymized camera data to the Sheboygan Department of Public Works. She pointed out contractual ambiguities regarding data ownership and AI usage, noting that Sheboygan planned to terminate its agreement effective December 31, 2026, and cover the cameras until removal. She reminded the Council that their local contract contains a non-appropriation of funds clause allowing an exit without penalty and urged them to consider taking similar action. She provided the City Clerk with a copy of her remarks as well as a copy of the Sheboygan resolution.

Robert Cain addressed the Council and noted several recent local happenings, including the great turnout at the parade, Stearman Fly-In activity at the airport, and the long-awaited change making the street next to Hy-Vee two-way. He also voiced concerns about proposed updates to downtown Main Street, stressing that cutting back on parking could hurt local downtown businesses unless parking garages are built to make up for the lost spots.

CONSENT AGENDA #2026-16

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

26-5008

Receive a petition to annex the property located at 604 U.S. Highway 150 East, National Coatings, Inc.

26-8015

Approve bills in the amount of \$755,026.45 and advance checks in the amount of \$1,399,120.00.

Council Member Reynolds moved, seconded by Council Member Mangieri, to approve Consent Agenda 2026-16.

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

26-1014

Ordinance on first 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.

Steve Gugliotta, Community Development Director, noted that in September 2023, the City Council approved a pre-annexation agreement. This allowed the property owner to get water service at outside rates, if they agreed to annex within 10 years. Now, the owner has officially requested to go ahead with the annexation. He also added that they use a lot of water and have been buying it in bulk, and they would like better direct access to the city's water system.

26-1015

Special Ordinance on first reading approving the donation of decommissioned portable radios to the Knoxville Fire Department.

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to suspend the rules and move agenda item 26-1015 to final reading.

Roll Call #5:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve Special Ordinance 26-637 on final reading approving the donation of decommissioned portable radios to the Knoxville Fire Department.

Roll Call #6:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-1016

Ordinance on first reading amending Traffic Appendix H of Chapter 76 of the Galesburg Municipal Code designating Ohio Avenue as a two-way street.

Council Member Hunigan moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to suspend the rules and move agenda item 26-1016 to final reading.

Roll Call #7:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

Council Member Cheesman mentioned that he feels Council should be cautious about moving straight from a first reading to final approval. If anyone from the public wants time to investigate things, ask questions, or do research, moving too fast takes away that chance. He noted that while he personally supports this item, he still believes Council shouldn't rush the process in most situations.

City Manager Hanson noted that this agenda item originated from staff following the acquisition and demolition of the property at 1970 East Main Street. Reopening the block to two-way traffic has been a long-standing topic of discussion within the community, as detours through surrounding neighborhoods have been necessary for many years. While reconnecting the street was part of the long-term plan after the property was acquired, staff spearheaded the effort to advance the project and resolve a decades-old issue.

Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve Ordinance 26-3774 on final reading amending Traffic Appendix H of Chapter 76 of the Galesburg Municipal Code designating Ohio Avenue as a two-way street.

Roll Call #8:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-2017

Council Member Cheesman moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve Resolution 26-16 of Non-Participation which states that the proposed IDOT infrastructure plan for East Main Street, from west of Cherry Street to East of Chambers Street, conflicts with the City's local plan. IDOT will proceed with the resurfacing project as scheduled but will maintain the current four-lane roadway.

City Manager Hanson reported that although the Downtown Council and local business representatives participated in the IDOT project stakeholder group, several concerns

regarding the proposed design were raised. Downtown building and business owners expressed primary concern over delivery vehicle access, noting that the absence of designated loading zones would force delivery trucks to obstruct traffic. Furthermore, the lack of planned enhancements through the intersections was identified as an additional concern.

Roll Call #9:

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 that the annual Stearman Fly-In is happening now, noting that approximately 90 pilots from various locations, including Puerto Rico, are visiting the City. He added that Saturday is Community Day at the Fly-In featuring breakfast served by the Galesburg Noon Lions Club and encouraged everyone to attend. He also mentioned that this is the final weekend for the "Fill the Boot" fundraiser. Also, the PBPA is selling tickets for the Policeman's Ball and their November raffle. He thanked public safety personnel for their ongoing community involvement and support for local causes.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (AGREEMENTS, APPROVALS, ETC.)

26-4056

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize participation in the Cross Community Climate Collaborative (C4).

Roll Call #10:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

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

TOWN BUSINESS

26-9017

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

Fund Title	Amount
Town Fund	\$468.48
General Assistance Fund	\$7,042.57
IMRF Fund	
Social Security/Medicare Fund	
Liability Fund	
Audit Fund	
Total	\$7,511.05

Roll Call #11:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chairman declared the motion carried.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS

Council Member Cheesman acknowledged the passing of Dolly Parton, the ceremony honoring Sergeant First Class Kyle B. Wehrly, and the anniversary of September 11. He noted that these individuals and events exemplify a dedication to public service, courage, and selflessness. He also noted the Flock cameras, recognizing the comments by Mrs. Spurgeon and noting that the City is currently conducting their due diligence on the system. He stated that although initially supporting the cameras as an effective crime-fighting tool, he feels that his stance has changed due to constituent feedback and reports regarding misuse by other agencies nationwide. He noted that he opposes the continued use of the cameras ahead of any upcoming City Council decision.

Council Member Hunigan welcomed attendees of the 55th Annual National Stearman Fly-In, being held September 7–12 at the Harrel Timmons Galesburg Regional Airport, featuring over 75 vintage biplanes arriving from across the country. He also congratulated Carl Sandburg College on their August 27th groundbreaking for its \$30 million, 70,000-square-foot Charger Center, which will feature multiple gymnasiums, fitness and training facilities, a golf simulator, and an Esports arena to support athletic, academic, and community programming. Council Member Hunigan recognized the September 4th highway dedication honoring Sergeant First Class Kyle B. Wehrly, a Galesburg native killed in action in Iraq in 2005, sharing personal reflections on Sgt. 1st Class Wehrly's dedication to public service and the community's gathering to honor his legacy.

Council Member Reynolds congratulated the organizers and participants of the 134th Annual Labor Day Parade, the longest continuous Labor Day parade in the nation. He also

expressed his condolences to the family of Bill Butts, and welcomed the attendees of the National Stearman Fly-In.

Council Member White expressed his deep appreciation for our community, noting the positive feedback he receives from visitors who have emphasize the unique character of our town. Addressing the issue of individuals experiencing homelessness, he shared his personal experience on the lasting psychological impact of housing instability, particularly depression. He urged the community to exercise empathy and to engage directly with unhoused residents to better understand their needs and offer support. Council Member White also stressed the importance of civic participation and encouraged members of the public to exercise their right to vote and possibly supporting non-voters in reaching the polls.

Council Member Acerra addressed the ongoing issue of homelessness, emphasizing the need to balance compassion with public safety. Representing Ward Five, she highlighted her frequent observations of unhoused individuals in the downtown area and expressed a strong desire to collaborate with staff, community members, and organizations like Bridgeway, specifically regarding their upcoming walk-in mental health crisis facility. She requested to remain informed on these efforts to better support her constituents. She also noted that some local business owners hesitate to report negative experiences due to fear of retaliation, and she advocated for a unified, community-wide approach to addressing these challenges. Lastly, she shared her pride in the recent parade, commending the dedication of local band directors and students.

Council Member Greg Saul paid tribute to the Kyle Wehrly, expressing gratitude for his military service and dedication to the country. He also commended the success of the Stearman Fly-In, sharing that he was able to take a flight provided by Jet Air manager Philip Wolford, which offered a memorable view of Galesburg and the groundbreaking at Carl Sandburg College.

Council Member Cheesman added his appreciation for Kyle Wehrly and his family, recognizing his character and meaningful contributions to the community. He noted his personal connection as a former teacher to Kyle and his daughter. He also shared that his son, a firefighter in Peoria, recently rescued a resident during an 11-story apartment fire shortly before his shift ended, without seeking recognition for his actions. He emphasized that these examples illustrate the quiet heroism and dedication characteristic of both emergency service personnel and community leaders.

Mayor Schwartzman expressed gratitude to the Council Members for their active engagement and thoughtful contributions. He highlighted the success of the Scrabble Tournament over the weekend, hosting approximately 60 visitors, including 15 first-time guests, who praised Galesburg's establishments and welcoming atmosphere. He added that in the future, he will allocate time for guests to attend the Labor Day Parade, recognized as the oldest continuously running Labor Day parade in the nation.

The Mayor also reflected on the honor of presenting a commemorative sign to the family of Sergeant First Class Kyle B. Wehrly during his memorial ceremony, emphasizing the strong community support demonstrated by those in attendance. He also announced the arrival of over 300 new Knox College students, noting new initiatives to introduce students to local downtown businesses and encouraging efforts to integrate them into the community and future workforce.

There being no further business, Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member Acerra, to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Roll Call #12:

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