

City of Gilbert
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 13, 2024
Council Chambers

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:29P.M.

Quorum determined.

Present: Councilors Pontinen, Skenzich, Mayor Smith, Councilor Joe Pulles, Clerk Treasurer Zallar, Attorney Colleen Kosluchar for Bryan Lindsay, Police Chief Ty Techar, and Public Works Director Sam Lautigar

Absent with notice: Councilor Mark Heitzman

Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Pulles, seconded by Skenzich to add 3 additions under new business. MCU

- Resolution 24-08: authorizing the City to engage State Representative Dave Lislegard and the State Attorney General's Office to Assist with the City's Wastewater Plant
- Free IT Training through the League of Minnesota Cities for Randy Parkhurst
- Training MPCA Annual Wastewater Conference – David Hupplar

Approve Consent Agenda:

City Council Minutes

- January 23, 2024 City Council Working Session Minutes
- January 23, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- January 29, 2024 City Council Working Session Minutes
- January 31, 2024 City Council Working Session Minutes

Boards and Commissions Minutes

- January 2, 2024 Cemetery Board Meeting Minutes
- January 8, 2024 Library Board Meeting Minutes
- February 5, 2024 Planning & Zoning Meeting Minutes

Invoices from Previously Approved Projects

- JPJ – 21-843 Sherwood Forest Campground 2021 Improvement \$1,668.17
- SEH – Project Progress Report Invoice 460779-\$8,899.68 & 458570-\$4,914.95
- City of Mt. Iron Quad City Food Shelf Utilities - \$3,691.32

Payment of Bills and Payroll upon proper audit of Clerk and Mayor

- Check register 01/20/2024 – 02/09/2024

Motion by Skenzich, seconded by Pulles to approve Consent Agenda with the correction to add Councilor Heitzman to the Regular Meeting Minutes (he had arrived late). MCU

Public Participation: None at this time.

Reports – Mayor & Council

Mayor Smith:

Great job and thanks to everyone who assisted with the fire in town.

Councilor Pontinen:

No formal report.

Councilor Heitzman:

Absent with notice.

Councilor Pulles:

Thoughts and prayers to City Attorney Lindsay for the passing of his father-in-law.

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Councilor Skenzich:

Spoke with School Board member Addy. Addy is trying to get a meeting together to discuss the Gilbert school property, etc. Eveleth made an offer of \$500k for everything except the buildings at the old school. The City of Eveleth and the School Board did share the costs of hiring a consultant (Bob Stretar) to look at the property and look at ideas for development. It sounds like the School Board would be willing to do that with the City of Gilbert as well. Clerk-Treasurer Zallar will reach out to get the ball rolling.

Reports – Staff, Boards & Commissions

Fire Chief Kwiakowski:

Not available for meeting. Moved by Pulles, supported by Skenzich to hire Robert Zeiher for the Fire Department. MCU

City Attorney Colleen Kosluchar:

No formal report.

Police Chief Ty Techar:

Inland Steel hauling should be done by the end of next week, they are running ahead of schedule. Working on the cleanup for when they are done. (110 trucks a day).

Also working with Wayde from Kraus Anderson and he has been fantastic to work with. There has been some copper theft, and the individuals have been caught with one in custody. Fencing, surveillance, etc. to help with that. Another 2-3 months for hauling.

City Engineer Kevin Young: Not present at this time. Mayor Smith informed everyone the City went with S.E.H. for City Engineer, and have requested they be present at meetings, as needed.

Public Works Operations Director Sam Lautigar: Working with the State on detailing every service the City has for Lead & Copper. Community members are requested to submit a picture of the water line coming into their house, by the floor. Photos should be texted or emailed to: water@gilbertmn.org, please include your physical address when sending (this email address works for texting, as well). Photos should be submitted by March 30, 2024. If anyone needs assistance and would like a Public Works employee to come to you and collect the desired information, please contact 218-748-2232.

Public Works Director Sam Lautigar gave an update on looking into the City siren; new vs. old.

Campground Host Wendy Flannigan:

Taking more reservations, sending out invoices. There have been a few minor complaints about the increase in rates. Wendy would like to have City Hall order some magnets and stickers for the campground.

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Discussion took place regarding the importance and or need of using ZOOM, as it was hacked during the meeting.

Campground Board Director Paul Skrbec:

Not present, as ZOOM was shut down.

Clerk Treasurer Zallar: The Gilbert Community Church United Methodist is hosting their annual appreciation luncheon for all city employees, library staff, fireman, council members and postal service staff on February 14 from 11:30-1:30pm at the Gilbert City Hall. Financial update given.

Old Business:

WWTP Update & WTP Update: City Engineer Kevin Young gave an update on the plans and funding for the new water plant. This is a \$13 million project, and they are actively going after additional grant funding. They are refining the scope on 3 proposals and doing an environmental review. S.E.H. will let the City know which firm is best by the next meeting.

Councilor Pontinen discussed the need for a grease trap for businesses. The City will look further into it.

New Business:

Motion by Pulles, seconded by Skenzich to approve the annual RGGGS Surface Lease renewal for Eveleth/Gilbert Joint Trail Board in the amount of \$1,200. MCU

Motion by Skenzich, seconded by Pulles to approve Northern Lights Dental Resolution 2024-7 (to split the parcel). MCU

No action taken on renewing the annual membership to Coalition of Greater MN Cities.

Motion by Pulles, seconded by Skenzich to approve the contract with USIC renewal. MCU

Motion by Pulles, seconded by Skenzich to accept the Resolution 24-08 Authorizing the City to have State Representative Dave Lislegard and the Attorney General's office to assist in addressing issues with the City's Wastewater Treatment plant. MCU

Motion by Pulles, seconded by Skenzich to allow Randy Parkhurst, the City's IT contractor to attend the free IT Training through the League of Minnesota Cities with a City incentive of \$200 to go towards the cost to attend. MCU

Motion by Pulles, seconded by Skenzich to approve City employee David Huppler to attend the MPCA Annual Wastewater conference and testing for a Class B license. MCU

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Motion by Pulles, seconded by Pontinen to instruct office staff to modify the 2022A bond fee to one per resident with the exception of multiuse or for profit properties, effective January 1, 2024. Each customer should be charged one 2022A bond fee, not two. For example, if anyone had 2 electric meters, both meters are charged the base fee, however only one will get the 2022A bond fee. MCU

Motion by Pulles, seconded by Skenzich to approve staff to put together a cost analysis on buying rugs versus using Cintas for rugs and employee uniform. MCU

Motion by Pulles, seconded by Pontinen to eliminate Guardian Pest Control at this time and use them on an as needed basis. MCU

Motion by Pulles, seconded by Pontinen to have the attorney draft a letter to Anthem to acquire information on the City owned parking lot that is contracted out to them. MCU

Miscellaneous Announcements

Mayor Smith stated that we are not taking bids regarding commercial garbage at this time, we are just gathering information as the City is spending over \$40,000 in the red for commercial garbage service. We are trying to see how we can save the City money.

Motion by Pulles, seconded by Skenzich to adjourn the meeting at 8:18p.m.

**These minutes are paraphrased and are not written word for word.*

ATTEST:

Jill Zallar, Clerk Treasurer

Thomas Smith, Mayor