

City of Gilbert
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 12, 2024
Council Chambers

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

Quorum determined.

Present: Councilors Pontinen and Skenzich, Mayor Smith, Clerk Treasurer Zallar, Attorney Colleen Kosluchar and Police Chief Ty Techar

Absent with Notice: Councilor Heitzman, Councilor Pulles

Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance

Approve Consent Agenda:

City Council Minutes

- February 27, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Boards and Commissions Minutes

- February 21, 2024 Water & Light Meeting Minutes
- February 5, 2024 Library Meeting Minutes

Invoices from Previously Approved Projects

- Stantec Engineering - Invoice 2202907 March 2024 - \$1,076.25
- Northland Trust Services – 2012A Bond Payment \$26,870.00 (May 1, 2024)

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

- Check register 2/23/2024 - 3/7/2024

Motion by Pontinen, seconded by Skenzich to approve Consent Agenda as listed above. MCU

Public Participation: None

Reports – Mayor & Council

Mayor Smith: Mayor Smith reminded everyone to please be diligent in your yards with anything that could start a fire and to be on the lookout if you see anything.

Councilor Pontinen: Councilor Pontinen told the public to address their blight situation before the City has to start citing people for it.

Councilor Heitzman: Not present

Councilor Pulles: Not present

Councilor Skenzich: Nothing at this time.

Reports – Staff, Boards & Commissions

Fire Chief Kwiakowski: Not present. Clerk-Treasurer Zallar submitted a recommendation for two new hires on Kwiakowski's behalf.

Motion by Skenzich, seconded by Pontinen to hire Blake and Erica Berquist to the Gilbert Fire Department. Erica is the first female fire fighter for the City of Gilbert. MCU

Clerk-Treasurer Zallar also submitted a recommendation for a new first responder on Pete Makowski's behalf.

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Motion by Pontinen, seconded by Skenzich to hire Wyatt Clark as a First Responder. MCU Welcome aboard to all our new hires!

City Attorney Colleen Kosluchar for Bryan Lindsay: Koslucher presented the council with the deed, fixing the legal description, to purchase the land from RC. This is the land needed by the DNR to expand the OHV park.

Police Chief Ty Techar: Nothing at this time.

Library Director Su Dabbas: With the short week of school, the library has “make and takes” for free. Winter reading is ending in March. The new radiator covers, made by Public Works employee Tim Shoppe, look great! Thanks to Tim for a wonderful job! The Gilbert Library was chosen to receive 60 of Jenna Bush’s new book. The library is one of only 50 libraries nationwide to receive a box of books curated by Bush herself through her “Read with Jenna” program.

Campground Board Paul Skrbec: Changes will be made to the campground dashboard online. Special Event camping is ready in Firefly. Reservations can be made beginning April 1st for Crawl for a Cure.

Firewood vendors were surveyed since the previous vendor, Range Wood from Mt. Iron, will no longer be supplying wood to campgrounds, they used to supply on demand/as needed for us. Skrbec looked at firewood vendors who are certified and transport through the State of Minnesota and have pre bundled firewood. After speaking with Public Works Director Lautigar regarding wood storage, it was determined that MN Firewood would be the best choice. They can deliver 20 racks per delivery. Skrbec stated his campground and the City campground could go in together on a delivery, with a 25% /75% split. Attorney Kosluchar stated that a contract would need to be drawn up. It was determined that a contract would be prepared for the next meeting and a motion can be made then to accept the new firewood vendor.

Clerk Treasurer Zallar: Financial update was given. The ZOOM link will be changed (not using the same one since it was hacked). Zallar also mentioned the recent power outages were Minnesota Power, trying to work safely. Please do not panic if it happens. The City Hall phones do not work during a power outage. Attorney Kosluchar stated the City has no responsibility if someone’s Mediacom equipment power surged from the outage.

Public Works Operations Director Sam Lautigar: Not present

Old Business:

WWTP Update & WTP Update:

A. Parcel Ownership - City Attorney is working on the parcel ownership for the location of the new water treatment plant.

B. Section 12.07 of the City Charter, Vacation of Streets – 2nd Reading/Vote - No action taken at this time. More council members need to be present to vote.

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C. Sherwood Forest Recreation §91.12(B)(11) – 2nd Reading/Vote – Motion by Skenzich, seconded by Pontinen to approve §91.12(B)(11). MCU

New Business:

Motion by Pontinen, seconded by Skenzich to approve the 3-year fee, \$5,214.00, for CIT (Barracuda Email Protection). MCU

Motion by Skenzich, seconded by Pontinen to approve the Pay Equity Report for 2024 (due every 3 years). Board approval is needed before sending it to the State. MCU

Action(s) from Special Meeting or Working Session: Discussion took place regarding Approve Plumbing. Councilor Pontinen does not think the City should pay for anything for Approve Plumbing. Mayor Smith reminded everyone the council said they would sit down and work with Luke Soderling. Councilor Pontinen stated \$46k is too much. Community member and business owner Paul Skrbec contributed by telling the council to listen to the video of the past meetings when it was discussed. He said the City made an agreement, Soderling made a business decision based on that agreement. Skrbec encouraged Pontinen to do what is fair and stated if this isn't done correct, then no business will want to come here. Skrbec then asked if the City stands by their deals. Pontinen responded by saying he needs to re-read the contract and see where it says the City would pay \$46k. Councilor Skenzich reminded Pontinen the Council voted 4 to 1 in favor of working with Soderling. Skrbec said he wants to see this work, and everyone come to the table and talk. Mayor Smith told Clerk-Treasurer Zallar to make a meeting with Soderling. Special meeting for the 19th and put on the work session on the 26th.

Miscellaneous:

Mayor Tom Smith read the annual proclamation designating April 2024 as Sexual Awareness Month. The proclamation is posted in City Hall.

IRRRB did a very nice article on disc golf. The article and disc golf map are on Facebook and will be added to our City website, as well.

Don't forget to take a picture of the water pipe from the floor to your meter and get it into City Hall. Text or email to: water@gilbertmn.org

Motion by Skenzich, seconded by Pontinen to adjourn the meeting at 7:01PM. MCU

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

ATTEST:

Jill Zallar, Clerk Treasurer

Thomas Smith, Mayor