

City of Gilbert
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 28, 2024
Council Chambers

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:08 P.M.

Quorum determined.

Present: Councilors Pontinen, Pulles, Skenzich, Mayor Smith, Clerk/Administrator Mike Skrbich, Attorney Colleen Kosluchar, Police Chief Ty Techar, Campground Host Wendy Flannigan, Ellie from S.E.H., Fire Chief Marc Kwiakowski

Absent: Councilor Mark Heitzman

Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Pulles, seconded by Skenzich to add under new business: to direct the city attorney to look into the ownership of Lopp's property and direct a letter. MCU

Approve Consent Agenda:

City Council Minutes

- May 14, 2024 City Council Planning Session Minutes
- May 14, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Boards and Commissions Minutes

- Planning & Zoning Commission Minutes
- Library Board Meeting Minutes
- Cemetery Board Meeting Minutes

Invoices from Previously Approved Projects

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

- Check register 5/15/2024 - 5/31/2024

Application for 3rd of July Liquor Permit, Fire Relief Association

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

Public Participation: Clerk/Administrator Skrbich shared a request to thank Sam Lautigar and his crew for the work they did on the Fourth of July banners.

Reports – Mayor & Council

Mayor Smith: Thank you to Dylon Horne, Lois Archibold and all the parties that helped decorate the City Gazebo, it looks nice. It's always nice to see it lit up and decorated. Thanks to Paul Skrbec, Paisley Mitchell, Brandon Mitchell and Gina Castello for decorating the flowerpots. As always, they look fabulous. I hope everyone had a good Memorial Day weekend.

Councilor Pontinen: New windows at the Public Works building have been approved twice, let's have Sam get another quote and beautify the building, including the side of the building.

Councilor Pulles: Reminder that the boat launch for Ore Be Gone is closed. Please do not remove signs or the barricades. There is a big drop off. Also, filing for candidacy for either Mayor or Council ends on June 4th.

Councilor Skenzich: Thank you to the City Crew and all who helped with the cemetery and the VFW who put on the Memorial Day Program.

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Sounds like our disc golf at Hopkins Park is getting used quite a bit. Maybe we should look into doing the other 9 holes.

Reports – Staff, Boards & Commissions

Fire Chief Kwiakowski: Looking for approval for a DNR grant. It is an annual 50/50 grant up to \$5,000, that we budget for every year. If we get it, four nozzles would be purchased and a few other pieces of equipment to get up to the \$5,000

Motion by Pulles, seconded by Skenzich to approve the application for the DNR grant. MCU

Update: 22 members, 3 of the 5 new members have one more class than the final test to be Fire Fighters. We are hoping the last 2 can get in a class in September. The Department is sitting good right now compared to many other departments. The participation level is the best it's been in years. We have an average of 8 members per call. We average about 55 paged calls per year, and we are at 24 paged calls so far this year; 9 structure fires, 1 wild land fire; 1 vehicle fire and 9 miscellaneous (smoke in the area, outside fires, CO alarms, water rescue, etc.).

Currently prepping for the 3rd of July festivities. We will be hosting our annual polish sale and beverages. Crawl for a Cure will be July 19th and 20th. The Jeep that is being raffled off will be parked at the fire hall over the 3rd of July as we continue to sell raffle tickets for it.

Public Works Director Sam Lautigar, Fire Chief Kwiakowski and Lieutenant Trucano were able to quickly assist someone at Ore Be Gone. Thankfully it was not a water rescue. A person was trying to retrieve a boat. It took many people and a lot of effort to get the boat out since the water level is so low. Campground Host Wendy Flannigan thanked everyone for the quick response.

City Attorney Colleen Kosluchar: No formal report.

Police Chief Ty Techar: Very busy weekend. Several complaints on social media recently regarding the ATV traffic, specifically the Gilbert Police Department, supposedly only stopping Gilbert citizens for ATV violations. Since Friday there were 91 traffic stops on ATV's, of the 91 traffic stops; 3 were Gilbert citizens and 2 were Biwabik citizens, the rest were from out of the area. I do not have Facebook but please pass that along. Part of a grant we have is to keep track of the ATV's and over the entire weekend, we saw 600. We issued 3 citations: one narcotic arrest. None of the Gilbert or Biwabik citizens received citations. These stops were on top of the 83 other calls we had over the weekend.

Ellie, S.E.H.:

Campground Host Wendy Flannigan: Busy weekend, full campground. Seventeen trees were transplanted to the campground, will be doing a few more soon.

Looking at setting up a CPR training class.

Several wood deliveries to the guests. Will be getting quotes for items to be printed for re-sale.

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Clerk/Administrator Mike Skrbich: Letter going out this week to all the bar owners who would like a permit for the 3rd of July. Please get it brought to City Hall as soon as possible so it can have council approval.

Free Library Festivities: Comedic Stunt Juggler, June 13 at 5pm, Northern Lights Music Festival 11am on July 8th and Paregrine Falcone demonstration July 11th at 6pm.

Old Business:

WWTP Update & WTP Update: There's no update at this time.

New Business:

Motion by Pulles, seconded by Skenzich to approve the Fire Department DNR grant application. MCU

Motion by Pulles, seconded by Skenzich to approve Resolution 2024-15, accepting donation from Approve Plumbing to go towards the purchase of the Fire Truck. MCU

Motion by Skenzich, seconded by Pulles to approve Resolution 2024-16, accepting donation from St. Paul & MN Foundation for the Library. MCU

Motion by Skenzich, seconded by Pulles to approve the Iron Range Half Marathon, August 17, 2024, to use the Mesabi Trail. All others have been contacted and approval given. MCU

Motion by Pulles, seconded by Skenzich to direct the city attorney to look into the ownership of Lopp's property to send out the appropriate letters. MCU

Motion by Pulles, seconded by Skenzich to adjourn meeting at 6:49PM. MCU

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

ATTEST:

Mike Skrbich, Interim Clerk/Administrator

Thomas Smith, Mayor