

City of Gilbert  
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting  
Tuesday, July 23, 2024  
Council Chambers

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:27 P.M.

Quorum determined.

Present: Councilors Pontinen, Skenzich, Mayor Smith, Interim Clerk Treasurer Mike Skrbich, Attorney Bryan Lindsay, Police Chief Ty Techar, City Engineer Matt Reid and Public Works Director Sam Lautigar and Campground Host Wendy Flannigan

Absent with notice: Councilor Pulles and Councilor Heitzman

Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance

**Motion** by Skenzich, seconded by Pontinen to add under new business (MCU):

- Check register 7/23/2024 – 7/31/2024

**Approve Consent Agenda:**

City Council Minutes

- July 9, 2024 City Council Planning Session Meeting Minutes
- July 9, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Invoices from Previously Approved Projects

Boards and Commissions Minutes

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

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

- Check register 7/10/2024 - 7/19/2024
- Check register 7/23/2024 - 7/31/2024

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

**Public Participation:**

Leo Skrbec, Water & Light Board member, stated there is an immediate opening on the Board. Nick Ouke has resigned his position. Anyone interested, please call City Hall.

Tanya Baldwin, Gilbert resident, recently had utilities shut off. Asking the council to forgive the \$150 reconnect fee, and have it refunded.

**Reports – Mayor & Council**

**Mayor Smith:** Crawl 4 the Cure was a huge success! Over 500 participants. I encourage all that have an ATV to go out and watch them next year and partake in some activities. Some even offer rides. The Friday night dance had people from all over the area. Saturday night was the banquet, and over \$60,000 was raised for MS; raising over \$1.6M since it started. Campground Host Wendy Flannigan stated everything was wonderful the entire weekend.

**Councilor Pontinen:** No formal report.

**Councilor Skenzich:** No formal report.

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**Reports – Staff, Boards & Commissions**

**City Attorney Bryan Lindsay:** No formal report.

**City Engineer Matt Reid:** Working on trying to come up with a capital improvement plan for streets and infrastructure with Sam Lautigar. Trying to finalize the initial scope for streets and infrastructure that the city would like to see improvements on in the next five years. This will help for budgeting and looking for grants. Interim Clerk Treasurer Mike Skrbich asked are we looking at mill and overlays getting done before complete re-builds or are there areas where the complete re-builds take the priority? It would be nice to prioritize where the needs are. Reid agreed and stated he will help prioritize. Also spoke about applying for grants etc. and getting funding in place first.

**Public Works Operations Director Sam Lautigar:** Lautigar echoed the street improvements from Reid. Mayor inquired about a potential boat landing area. Reid stated the intention is to try to do a paved boat landing and parking area.

Crawl 4 the Cure went great, no issues anywhere.

The power outage is rescheduled for August 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30pm until 5am on the 14<sup>th</sup>, please plan accordingly. It may not take that long; this is the worst-case scenario. A new switch gear is going in at the substation.

Hydrant flushing will be done this month. If you have brown water coming through the pipes, just run the tap water for a little bit and it will clear up.

Working on one of the blowers at the sewer plant, it shut down; sounds like a bearing issue. It's approximately \$5700 to fix it with a company out of Illinois.

During one of the storms, the end of the outside hockey rink blew down; discussion will take place at the next work session.

Mayor spoke about some of the City property getting cleaned up. Jeff Ward, Crawl 4 the Cure, is looking at cleaning up the backside of Ore-Be-Gone, with some assistance from Sam and the City crew.

**Campground Host Wendy Flannigan:** Everything was great for the Crawl 4 the Cure. Flannigan has noticed some people aren't picking up after their pets alongside of the Mesabi Trail (on the campground side); she suggested getting some doggie waste bags to have available.

**Interim Clerk Treasurer Mike Skrbich:** Thank you to Sam and his crew, the Police and Fire Department and everyone that helped and participated for the Crawl 4 the Cure. There were a lot of people, and this is a very large event for a small town, everyone did a really nice job.

**Old Business:**

**Motion** by Pontinen, seconded by Skenzich to approve the City Ordinance No. 31.25 Personnel Committee (Matter of Record). MCU

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**Motion** by Pontinen, seconded by Skenzich to approve the appointment of Mayor Tom Smith and Councilor Joe Pulles with Counselor Bob Pontinen as an alternate to the Personnel Committee. MCU

**New Business:**

**Motion** by Skenzich, seconded by Pontinen to direct City staff to take the necessary measures to incorporate the City Charter into the general election. MCU  
The council thanked the Charter committee for their time and work.

**Motion** by Pontinen, seconded by Skenzich to accept donation from Approve Plumbing in the amount of \$1892.90 to help towards the funding of the fire truck; Resolution 2024-18. MCU  
Thank you to Approve Plumbing for the donation.

**Miscellaneous:** Discussion took place on declaring the old fire truck as surplus to sell it.

**Motion** by Skenzich, seconded by Pontinen to adjourn meeting at 7:32 PM. MCU

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

ATTEST:

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Mike Skrbich, Interim Clerk/Administrator

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Thomas Smith, Mayor