

City of Gilbert
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 27, 2024
Council Chambers

Councilor Joe Pulles called the meeting to order at 6:00P.M.

Quorum determined.

Present: Councilors Pontinen, Skenzich, Heitzman, Interim Clerk/Treasurer Mike Skrbich, Attorney Colleen Kosluchar for Bryan Lindsay, Police Chief Ty Techar, Campground Host Wendy Flannigan and Public Works Director Sam Lautigar

Absent with notice: Mayor Tom Smith

Councilor Pulles led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Heitzman, seconded by Skenzich to add MN4WDA (Minnesota Four Wheel Drive Association) Ice Arena inquiry, under New Business. MCU

Approve Consent Agenda:

City Council Minutes

- August 14, 2024 City Council Planning Session Minutes
- August 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 8/14/2024 - 8/19/2024
- Check register 8/20/2024 - 8/23/2024

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

Public Participation: Ben Crosby, of Gilbert, inquired on “industrial” land that could be available for a potential fuel tank storage facility for Superior Fuels. Interim Clerk/Treasurer Mike Skrbich will check options and get back to Crosby.

Reports – Mayor & Council

Mayor Smith: Not present.

Councilor Pontinen: Nothing to report at this time.

Councilor Heitzman: Nothing to report at this time.

Councilor Pulles: Thanked everyone for their patience as he filled in for Mayor Tom Smith, also stating Mayor Smith will be back for the next meeting.

Councilor Skenzich: Inquired what the status of painting the old police building and replacing the windows. Interim Clerk/Treasurer Skrbich will work with Sam on planning.

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Reports – Staff, Boards & Commissions

Fire Chief Kwiakowski: 22 members: 17 fully qualified, 3 still waiting for their Live Burn training and 2 will train in the Fall when class opens. Some great training has been taking place in the old Eveleth schools; however, it will be torn down soon. The Fire Department has responded to 45 calls so far for the year. Ladder 23 blew a hose, and it was repaired.

Motion by Skenzich, seconded by Heitzman to approve \$2,162.36 to remove valve and install new seal rebuild kit and new flat ball on the firetruck. MCU

City Attorney Colleen Kosluchar: ATV Trail/DNR parcel split update, just waiting for the deeds to come back.

Police Chief Ty Techar: FEMA has been doing assessments in the area. They have been making payments. A household here in town received a check for over \$7k. We encourage all the private households that have had damage to put a claim in. Other damage assessments will come later, for right now they are doing assessments on private households. FEMA is set up at the county office buildings.

Campground Host Wendy Flannigan: It's been a very busy summer. Flannigan stated she would really like to come back again next year and would hope to know before she heads out for the season if the city would like her to come back. The campground closes on October 6th and she will head out on the 8th.

Interim Clerk/Treasurer Skrbich: The City was given additional funds for the OHV trail maintenance after the washouts.

New Business:

S.E.H. meeting with MPCA – a few different proposals are being made to apply for the grant.

Minnesota State Flag – May 11, 2024 the official State flag was changed. Some cities are resisting flying the new flag. We are not required to fly the new flag. No motion was made to remove the new State flag (and not replace it, per statute).

Police Chief Techar stated in January of 2025 all the State seals need to be replaced to meet State statute (badges, police cars, notary stamps, etc.). This will be a little costly.

Motion by Pontinen, seconded by Skenzich to table the state flag discussion until the next meeting. MCU

Councilor Skenzich asked if anyone has opinions on the new flag, to come to a council meeting.

Motion by Heitzman, seconded by Skenzich to accept the IRRRB Resolution to be awarded \$1,000,000 to update our community center. The heating system (and air conditioning) will be the largest cost, looking at other projects as well. MCU

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Motion by Skenzich, seconded by Heitzman to approve and plan for the MN4WDA (Minnesota Four Wheel Drive Association's) Annual convention in Gilbert May 3, 2025. MCU
The city will look at putting the excess snow in a different location, so the overflow campground area won't be so wet in the Spring.

Miscellaneous:

Motion by Heitzman, seconded by Pontinen to adjourn meeting at 6:38PM. MCU

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

ATTEST:

Mike Skrbich, Interim Clerk/Administrator

Thomas Smith, Mayor/Acting Mayor Joe Pulles