

City of Gilbert
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 24, 2024
Council Chambers

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:16P.M.

Quorum determined.

Present: Councilors Pontinen and Skenzich, Mayor Smith, Interim Clerk Mike Skrbich.

City Attorney Collen Kosluchar for Bryan Lindsay, Public Works Director Sam Lautigar, Campground Host Wendy Flanagan and Police Chief Ty Techar

Absent with notice: Councilors Pulles and Heitzman

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Skenzich, seconded by Pontinen to add under New Business and Consent Agenda (MCU):

- Minutes of 9/18/2024 Special Meeting
- Training for David Huppler – Public Works Director Sam Lautigar.
- Under New Business: G. Cross arm Quote
- Check register 9/23/2024-9/24/2024

Approve Consent Agenda:

City Council Minutes

- September 10, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- September 10, 2024 Working Session Minutes
- September 18, 2024 Special 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 9/11/2024 - 9/19/2024
- Check register 9/23/2024 - 9/24/2024

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

Public Participation:

Paul Peltier, executive director of RAMS – Range Association of Municipalities and Schools, as well as Theresa Applewood and Brad Gustafson from Laurentian Chamber of Commerce gave a presentation on the results from forming a group called “Quad Cities: United for Housing,” which looks at the need for affordable housing. The trio spoke on the variety of reasons why affordable housing is important and how they are trying to help area communities understand the housing need and help develop plans to make it attainable.

Reports – Mayor & Council

Mayor Smith: Thoughts and prayers to those involved in the car accident last night.

Councilor Pontinen: Nothing at this time.

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Councilor Skenzich: Discussion took place on the street extension for Approve Plumbing.

Reports – Staff, Boards & Commissions

Fire Chief Marc Kwiakowski:

Motion by Pontinen, seconded by Skenzich to approve the purchase of 3 sets of turn out gear, for approximately \$10k (this was already budgeted for 2024). MCU

ISO rating has been changed from a “6” to a “4,” which is great news for the City of Gilbert residents. Homeowners will need to call your agent/insurance company to let them know the ICO rating has changed, effective in December, to see a savings

There are now 20 fully qualified fire fighters and 2 new ones starting classes this month. It’s been a busy year for the department. So far there has been 52 calls for the year, the average is 55 for the year. With 22 structure fire calls this year, and the carcinogens from those fires, the dryer is not big enough for the capabilities, through fundraising the department will donate funds to the City to purchase a new dryer.

City Attorney Colleen Kosluchar for Bryan Lindsay: Nothing at this time.

Police Chief Ty Techar: Techar gave an update on the electric vehicle project he’s been working on. The goal is to get everything paid for. Whitney Ridlon, Community Development from IRRRB has been a great help with working on this project. A federal grant has been obtained to have electric chargers paid for most of the communities involved and that includes Gilbert. Electric charges are about \$65k, electric vehicles are \$59k, with the funding, to obtain an electric vehicle with 100,000-mile warranty that includes the batteries, cost would be about \$42,000. Techar spoke what the savings would be without the cost of gas. This project is still a work in progress.

Public Works Director Sam Lautigar:

Motion by Pontinen, seconded by Skenzich to approve Fall Alley pick up for leaves and brush (under 4 feet in length) will be October 28th - November 1st. MCU

- Absolutely no trash or animal waste.
- All yard waste must be bagged.
- Brush no longer than 4 feet in length.
- Anything placed in the alley after the scheduled pick-up dates will be considered blight.

Motion by Skenzich, seconded by Pontinen to approve wastewater employee David Huppler to take the Class B test in St. Cloud for a cost of \$773.22. MCU

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Request written approval from Attorney Lindsay to move forward with removing the membranes at the wastewater treatment plant.

Waiting for Do-Bid to come take pictures of the firetruck that will go to auction.

Campground Host Wendy Flannigan: Camping season has come to an end. If anything is to report after the season, an email will be sent.

Interim Clerk/Treasurer Mike Skrbich: Thank you to Scott Denni and Karri Schutte for their service on the Planning & Zoning Board.

Motion by Pontinen, seconded by Skenzich to accept the resignations of Scott Denni and Karri Schutte from the Planning & Zoning Board. MCU

If anyone is interested in participating on one of our committees, commissions or boards. Please come to City Hall to sign up, we need the help.

Old Business:

Motion by Skenzich, seconded by Pontinen to have Clerk Skrbich follow up with the school to inquire on the disclosures of the school properties and any other information that could help further the City's decision to acquire the property. MCU

New Business:

Motion by Skenzich, seconded by Pontinen to approve the recommendation of the interview committee to do a conditional offer to Blake Bistodeau for Wastewater II position. MCU

Motion by Pontinen, seconded by Skenzich to approve campground RFP for advertisement. MCU

Motion by Pontinen, seconded by Skenzich to approve to direct Interim Clerk Skrbich to work out the terms of a property, development and purchase, with Brad Scott. MCU

Motion by Pontinen, seconded by Skenzich to approve the parcel split for Ryan Salo and direct Interim Clerk Skrbich to develop Resolution 2024-21 to allow the parcel split. MCU

Motion by Pontinen, seconded by Skenzich to approve the fence permit for Patrick White. MCU

Motion by Pontinen, seconded Skenzich to approve Resolution 2024-20 to set the preliminary budget/levy for 35.31%. MCU

A Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6:01pm to present the levy and receive public input.

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Motion by Skenzich, seconded Pontinen to approve the Minnesota Power to replace the Cross Arm, quote is for \$5,100.00. MCU

Miscellaneous Announcements:

Motion by Skenzich, seconded by Pontinen to adjourn meeting at 7:52PM. MCU

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

ATTEST:

Mike Skrbich, Interim Clerk/Administrator

Thomas Smith, Mayor