

City of Gilbert  
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting  
Tuesday, February 11, 2025  
Council Chambers

Swearing in of the new City Council member Councilor Rudy Vertachnik at 6:00P.M.

Mayor Oberstar called the meeting to order at 6:01P.M.

Quorum determined.

Present: Councilor Bob Pontinen, Councilor Paul Skrbec, Mayor Oberstar, Councilor Dylon Horne, Councilor Rudy Vertachnik, Clerk Mike Skrbich, City Attorney Bryan Lindsay and Police Chief Ty Techar.

Absent with notice:

Pledge of Allegiance

**Approve Consent Agenda:**

City Council Minutes

- January 28, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

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 1/29/25 – 2/7/25

**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Horne to approve the Consent Agenda with the addition to January 28, 2025 minutes of listing the official depositories per Resolution 2025-03. MCU

**Public Participation: None**

**Reports – Mayor & Council**

**Councilor Pontinen:** Would like to check into the Police Department to see if Gilbert should go alone or try to merge with Eveleth and discontinue the service with Biwabik, to make sure Gilbert is not overpaying for services. He would like to look at cost savings of merging, if any; if Biwabik is getting charged the right amount, etc. Mayor Oberstar OK'd having a couple council members look into it. Clerk Skrbich suggested adding it as an Agenda item for the next meeting.

Councilor Vertachnik and Councilor Skrbec supported the idea of looking into it.

**Councilor Skrbec:** Suggested having a formal discussion and a process for looking into the in-town ATV routes. The current ATV map is from 1985 and since the City has changed greatly, including the addition of the Off-Road-Vehicle park and plenty of tourists coming through. Many towns do allow for in-town driving, Gilbert does not. Skrbec suggested getting together with Police Chief Techar and getting things updated, with an end goal of a new map. Mayor Oberstar OK'd getting a committee going by the next meeting.

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**Councilor Horne:** Concerns of the third-party vendor, PSN, the City uses for utility payments. Clerk Skrbich agreed there have been problems with the system and stated he has a proposal to switch to Caselle, our software company. Skrbich explained the hold on switching last year was due to not having the Utility Billing Clerk in a permanent position at that time. It is now, and he agreed it is time to revisit what needs to be done to switch from PSN to Caselle.

**Councilor Vertachnik:** Joined the Council to help the City, by looking at budgets and try to help get improvements for the City. Vertachnik would also like to help try to get more volunteers.

**Mayor Oberstar:** Oberstar stated it is not true that Gilbert is the highest taxed City and expressed concern in stopping the decline in the population. Mayor Oberstar would like to see more mining, more people and more businesses to help boost the economy. He explained that property taxes do not pay everything that is needed to run the town. Mayor Oberstar stated he's here to be proactive and help the community. He would like to re-visit the options for the school property and mentioned development ideas.

**Reports – Staff, Boards & Commissions**

**City Attorney Bryan Lindsay:** Nothing at this time.

**Police Chief Ty Techar:** Receiving snow plowing complaints, many using ATV's that don't have the strength of a MNDOT plow. Under a Minnesota State statute, it is considered littering to blow or push snow into someone else's yard. Techar asked that everyone please be a little more considerate and mindful when it comes to snow removal.

**Clerk Mike Skrbich:** The Gilbert Community Church, United Methodist will be hosting their annual appreciation luncheon for all city employees, library staff, Firemen, Council members and Postal Service staff on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am to 1:00pm at the Gilbert City Hall/Senior Citizen Center. Everyone is appreciative for it.

Thank you to the Public Works crew for all their hard work and great job with the snow removal. Mayor Oberstar agreed.

Mayor Oberstar took a moment to let the public know he is now the President of the Gilbert Senior Citizens. They meet the first Monday of the month at 1:30pm at City Hall, except for the months of June, July and August. Annual dues are \$5. If interested, come on down and join them.

**Old Business:**

**Motion** by Horne, seconded by Pontinen to move to approve the contract with Jose and Dawn Martinez for 2025 Campground Host, contingent on background check and city attorney review of the contract. MCU

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**New Business:**

**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Horne to approve the Gambling Permit for Franky's Fund. MCU

**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Horne to appoint Councilor Dylon Horne and Councilor Bob Pontinen to the Personnel Committee, and Councilor Paul Skrbec as an alternate. MCU

**Motion** by Horne, seconded by Skrbec to approve the mayor's appointment of Rudy Vertachnik as Mayor pro-temp. MCU

**Motion** by Vertachnik, seconded by Horne to approve the agreement with Madden Galanter Hansen as the City's HR attorney. MCU

**Motion** by Vertachnik, seconded by Horne to approve Resolution 2025-04; accepting the donation of \$214.30 from Approve Plumbing to help with the purchase of the fire truck. MCU

**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Vertachnik to approve the Mediacom Franchise agreement contingent on city attorney review. MCU

**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Horne to approve the Stantec change order in the amount of \$7,448.68. MCU

**Miscellaneous:** None

**Motion** by Vertachnik, seconded by Horne to adjourn meeting at 7:21P.M. MCU.

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

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Skrbich, Interim Clerk/Administrator

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Karl Oberstar, Jr., Mayor