

City of Gilbert
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 9, 2025
Council Chambers

Mayor Oberstar called the meeting to order at 6:02P.M.

Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 due to Rock Ridge Schools Special Election being held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

Quorum determined.

Present: Councilors Rudy Vertachnik and Dylon Horne, Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr., Councilors Paul Skrbec and Bob Pontinen and Clerk Mike Skrbich

Absent with notice: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions to the Agenda: Adding Cemetery Board Minutes from 4/1/2025 to the Consent Agenda; Adding under New Business: Campground discussion.

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Vertachnik to approve the additions to the Agenda. MCU

Approve Consent Agenda:

City Council Minutes

- March 25, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- March 25, 2025 City Council Working Session Minutes
 - Correction – Add to the Motion from the 3rd of July committee: adding donation letter to the back of the utility bills.
 - Correction – Add to the Motion from the Sanitation Agreement “Contingent upon City Attorney review of the contract.”

Invoices from Previously Approved Projects

Boards and Commissions Minutes

- Planning & Zoning Commission Minutes
- Library Board Meeting Minutes
- March 4, 2025 Cemetery Board Meeting Minutes
- April 1, 2025 Cemetery Board Meeting Minutes

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

- Check register 3/18/2025 – 3/21/2025
- Check register 3/25/2025 – 3/31/2025
- Check register 4/1/2025 – 4/4/2025

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Horne to approve the Consent Agenda with the corrections. MCU

Public Participation: Dale Folman, submitted a letter to the Council asking for the City to come up with some other options to help him afford a large water bill due to a pipe bursting in a house he is selling in a private sale. Councilor Horne explained how that expense would be taken care of

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during closing, however Folman expressed it is a private sale and the potential buyer would be making payments to Folman for the down payment of the house. Councilor Skrbec also explained that a title company would need to get involved for the transfer of the title and they would check if there were any liens etc. on the property. Folman stated this is why he is trying to resolve the issue now and has offered to pay half of the debt.

Mayor Oberstar stepped down from his chair for Councilor Vertachnik to take over the motion made by Mayor Oberstar.

Motion by Mayor Oberstar that Mr. Folman pay 50 percent of what is owed. There was no support from the council on the motion. The motion failed.

Reports – Mayor & Council

Councilor Vertachnik: Nothing at this time.

Councilor Horne: Nothing at this time.

Councilor Skrbec: Nothing at this time.

Councilor Pontinen: Nothing at this time.

Mayor Oberstar: The Sexual Assault Program asked permission from the Council to tie teal ribbons to the light poles in town to bring awareness to the cause, they will remove them after a month.

Motion by Horne, seconded by Vertachnik to give permission to the Sexual Assault Program of North St. Louis County to tie teal ribbons to the electric poles in town and remove them after 30 days. MCU

Mayor Oberstar asked for clarification from Clerk Skrbich on the \$85 waste special assessment that is on everyone's property tax. Clerk Skrbich stated the \$85 is what every resident in the County pays to help operate the landfill. It was added to the property tax bill because it was never accounted for in the past and the city was eating that charge for years. When it was brought to the attention to the past council, they decided to let the county collect the fee (as it is done in many cities) as opposed to adding another fee to the water/light/garbage bill. Discussion took place, clarifying it is a county charge, not a city charge. Water & Light Board member Leo Skrbec stated in the 30 years (on and off) that he has been on the board, it has never been collected from the residents, as it should have been. Leo Skrbec asked Clerk Skrbich to find out how the fee is calculated for businesses; he believes the fee seems high for some business owners. Clerk Skrbich will follow up.

Mayor Oberstar stated to the public that the City is doing a lot right now, including getting the water treatment plant situation rectified, as well as other projects and issues. Oberstar wanted to reassure everyone that the city is working on many things right now.

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Reports – Staff, Boards & Commissions

Public Works Operation Director Sam Lautigar: Not present.

Mayor Oberstar discussed the recommendations from the Cemetery Board. Lautigar will be directed to seek quotes on restoring electricity to the cemetery statue area for the Cemetery Board.

For Public Information: Grave plots in the northwest section are available for purchase in the City of Gilbert Cemetery.

The Council also agreed to the Boards request for additional dumpsters at the cemetery before Memorial Day to alleviate disposal of debris.

Clerk Mike Skrbich: Thank you to Stacy Lamppa and the entire Election Staff who came and ran the election yesterday. Everything went smoothly.

Iron Range Half Marathon will take place this year on August 16, 2025. Councilor Skrbec stated there are other events going on in town that weekend including Scubapalooza at Sherwood Campground and Trail Jam at West 40 RV Park.

There will be increased traffic on Hwy 37 through Gilbert to Hwy 135 to Hwy 53 between April 18 and 21 due to the Highway 53 Road Construction Project. The Hwy 53 bridges over Hwy 37 will be demolished and Hwy 37 will be closed at Hwy 53 during that time, causing the detour.

Mayor Oberstar suggested having the City remove the school speed limit signs on Summit Street, as they are no longer needed.

New Business:

Motion by Skrbich, seconded by Horne to approve Resolution 2025-08 continuing sponsorship of agreement between the cities of Eveleth and Gilbert for a Joint Powers Trail Board, extending the agreement through June 30th, 2026. MCU

Motion by Vertachnik, seconded by Horne to approve the posting for the Public Works - Wastewater opening. Posting internally first. MCU

Motion by Horne, seconded by Pontinen to approve \$500 purchase of flowers for the main street. Councilor Skrbec recused himself from the vote, as he will be participating in the planting. Councilors Pontinen, Vertachnik, Horne and Mayor Oberstar support the motion. Councilor Skrbec abstained.

Motion by Vertachnik, seconded by Skrbec to approve the Heitzman Building Permit. MCU

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Building permit request from Anthony Slavich has not been approved at this time, there appears to be some reasons why it is not compliant with City Ordinances. Clerk Skrbich will reach out to Slavich.

Motion by Horne, seconded by Pontinen to approve the portable bathroom rental proposal from A-1, not including the insurance. MCU

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Horne to approve alley pick-up for the annual spring clean-up April 28 – May 2nd. MCU

Discussion took place on having the Campground go cashless and collecting deposits for next year.

Miscellaneous:

Motion by Vertachnik, seconded by Horne to adjourn meeting at 7:15P.M. MCU.

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

ATTEST:

Mike Skrbich, Interim Clerk/Administrator

Karl Oberstar, Jr., Mayor