

City of Gilbert  
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting  
Tuesday, June 10, 2025  
Council Chambers

Mayor Oberstar called the meeting to order at 6:11P.M.

Quorum determined.

Present: Councilors Rudy Vertachnik and Dylon Horne, Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr., Councilors Paul Skrbec and Bob Pontinen and Clerk Mike Skrbich, Police Chief Ty Techar, Fire Chief Marc Kwiatkoski, City Attorney Bryan Lindsay and City Engineer Matt Reid.

Absent with notice: None

Pledge of Allegiance

**Additions to the Agenda:** Adding under New Business; G. Outside liquor permits for the bar owners, H. Litigation Authorize up to \$5k for easement, I. Police side by side purchase and J. Splashtown agreement.

**Approve Consent Agenda:**

City Council Minutes

- May 27, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- May 27, 2025 City Council Working Session Minutes

Invoices from Previously Approved Projects

Boards and Commissions Minutes

- June 3, 2025 Cemetery Board Meeting Minutes

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

- Check register 5/22/2025 - 5/27/2025
- Check register 6/4/2025 - 6/6/2025

**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Mayor Oberstar, Jr. to enforce the cemetery rules as it pertains to flowers, planters and anything that is published on the sign. Public notice will be given that enforcement will start July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. MCU

**Public Participation:** None.

**Reports – Mayor & Council**

**Councilor Pontinen:** There was a typo on the Large Trash Pick Up flyer that was included in the last utility bill. It should say the first day of pickup is June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Councilor Skrbec:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> of July list of events is out. There is a change to the Kiddie Parade time, it will be at 11a.m.

Looking for an updated list of commissions.

Clerk Skrbich will look into the notification process for those that use PSN for their utility bills.

**Councilor Horne:** Stated there was a recent ATV incident that he and some friends were part of. Thankfully everyone had protective gear on. One of the fellow riders is currently in the emergency

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department of a Duluth hospital. Horne reminded everyone, no matter how many years experience you may have with riding, be safe, wear protective gear. Thankfully he and his fellow riders had helmets on, gloves and jackets on.

**Councilor Vertachnik:** Expressed concern regarding blight in parts of town. Inquired with Police Chief Ty Techar what the abatement process is and if we have a blight officer. Techar stated he assigns officers to do it in both communities. Currently they are concentrating on the properties with long grass. Generally, there is a 50 to 75% compliance on the grass. A hearing will take place before the next council meeting. City Attorney Bryan Lindsay stated blight is a difficult thing to push through the court system. Techar stated they are working on 4 properties at this time.

**Mayor Oberstar:** Asking the public not to forget about the Kiddie parade and the races. We are looking for volunteers and need donations. You can go to the bank or City Hall and let them know it's a donation for the Kiddie parade and races.

Discussion took place on which night the highway should be blocked off. There were requests from bar owners for the 4th and 5<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Motion** by Mayor Oberstar, Jr., seconded by Skrbec to approve the police coverage for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of July, street dance on the 4th. MCU

Mayor Oberstar, Jr. apologized for the frequent power outages and stated it is not a Gilbert issue, rather Minnesota Power.

**Fire Chief Marc Kwiatkoski:** Update: since the last meeting, there were 4 calls with one ending in fatality. Reminder to the public that cliff diving is dangerous and to please stay away from that area. Responding to calls like that poses many dangers.

Kwiatkoski requested the council members emails to send them meeting minutes after each meeting.

**City Attorney Bryan Lindsay:** No formal report. Councilor Skrbec inquired if the city replaced the fencing around the Genoa Pit. Lindsay stated the city has taken unbelievable efforts to try to keep people from jumping into the pit. It's no secret within the City of Gilbert that you're not allowed to cliff jumping. If someone goes in there, they are trespassing and assuming the risk of the activity they engage in.

Councilor Skrbec inquired what the largest civil fine is that can be given. Lindsay stated generally it is a misdemeanor trespass citation, and the maximum fine would be 90 days in jail or up to \$1,000 fine.

**Fire Chief Kwiatkowski:** Spoke on how difficult it was to get to the scene of the accident at the Genoa Pit. Gulbranson Excavating brought their backhoe to knock some berms down so the Rescue Squad could get in there with a boat. Thankfully it was done but 45 minutes were wasted trying to make an access point. Police Chief Techar stated he is working with someone to get a

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boat landing out there in that one spot to make it more accessible for emergency services. There is no enforcement plan for out there other than potentially adding a camera system.

**Police Chief Ty Techar:** Dealing with the homeless population the last couple weeks, now that the trains are coming back north. During poor weather days they've been staying in the dugouts down here and we've been trying to find other places for them. Bill's House is full. There are approximately 6 to 8 homeless people living on Ore-Be-Gone and about 4 to 6 people living out in the Genoa pit area. Working with Eveleth Fee office to clean up some spots.

Detours have changed and Techar is meeting with MNDOT next week. Last Tuesday there were 567 trucks that came through. Generally, we had 80 to 100 trucks come through. Between 7:30a.m. and 6:30p.m. there's an average of one truck every 41 seconds come through town. Discussion took place on various traffic issues from the construction. Looking into getting rid of access vehicles the police department has. Techar spoke of adding items on Do-Bid that the city may want to get rid of.

**City Engineer Matt Reid:** Successful in getting state funds to help upgrade Enterprise Trail. Working with the DNR on a new boat landing. Water levels are slowly rising again.

**Motion** by Oberstar, Jr., seconded by Pontinen to approve the boat landing/Enterprise Trail agreement with S.E.H. MCU

**Clerk Mike Skrbich:** Approve Plumbing is having a grand opening and ribbon cutting on June 18<sup>th</sup> from noon – 2pm. Ribbon cutting is at 12:15p.m.

**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Horne to recess the meeting for a public hearing. MCU  
Meeting was recessed at 7:35p.m. Roll call was taken.

**Public Hearing** – Anthony Slavich request: All council present.

**Motion** by Vertachnik, seconded by Horne to adjourn the public hearing at 7:42p.m. Roll call was taken. MCU

**Old Business:**

**Motion** by Vertachnik, seconded by Skrbec to approve the variance request from Anthony Slavich. MCU

**Motion** by Vertachnik, seconded by Skrbec to table the fire department air pack discussion at this time. Roll call vote: Vertachnik – yes, Horne – yes, Oberstar, Jr. – no, Skrbec – yes and Pontinen – yes. 4 yays, 1 nay - Mayor Oberstar. Motion carries 4 to 1.

The Gilbert Fire Department will look at options for payment/financing for the air packs and come back to the council with more information.

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**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Horne to hold a Special Meeting on 6/13/2025 to address the fire department air packs. MCU

**New Business:**

**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Horne to approve the gambling request for Crawl 4 the Cure. MCU

**Motion** by Horne, seconded by Skrbec to approve 3<sup>rd</sup> of July committee requests for use of city facilities for the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration. MCU

**Motion** by Horne, seconded by Skrbec to approve the David Gant power request with a 4% rate. MCU

**Motion** by Oberstar, Jr., seconded by Pontinen to accept the agreement between the City of Gilbert and Saint Louis County for Enterprise Trail reconditioning. MCU

**Motion** by Horne, seconded by Skrbec to approve playground wood chips from MWP Recreation. MCU

**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Horne to approve the permits for the bar owners for outside sales for the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> of July. MCU

**Motion** by Oberstar, Jr., seconded by Skrbec to approve up to \$5k for Clerk Skrbich to use for an easement the city is currently involved in litigation with. MCU

**Motion** by Vertachnik, seconded by Horne to approve the purchase of a side by side for the police department. MCU

**Motion** by Vertachnik, seconded by Horne to approve the Splashtown Agreement. MCU

**Motion** by Vertachnik, seconded by Horne to approve the purchase of a side by side for the police department. MCU

**Miscellaneous:** None

**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Horne to adjourn meeting at 8:52P.M. 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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Karl Oberstar, Jr., Mayor