

City of Gilbert  
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting  
Tuesday, June 24, 2025  
Council Chambers

Mayor Oberstar called the meeting to order at 6:00P.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: A. S.E.H.- Community Center; Under Old Business: B. S.E.H. Manhole Rehab; Under New Business: H. Authorize fire discussion

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

**Approve Consent Agenda:**

City Council Minutes

- June 10, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- June 10, 2025 City Council Working Session Minutes

Invoices from Previously Approved Projects

Boards and Commissions Minutes

- May 5, 2025 Library Board Meeting Minutes

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

- Check register 6/16/2025 – 6/17/2025
- Check register 6/18/2025 - 6/24/2025

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

**Public Participation:** Wendy Flannigan, past Sherwood Forest Campground Host, spoke to the council regarding her past contract. She believes she wasn't paid correctly. The City Attorney has reviewed the contract and believes she was paid correctly.

Kurt Dowding, Gilbert resident, submitted a building permit for a garage. The permit will be looked at before the next council meeting.

John Skrinner, Gilbert resident, inquired about the blight ordinance. Mayor Oberstar Jr. let him know that it will be discussed during tonight's meeting.

**Reports – Mayor & Council**

**Councilor Vertachnik:** Nothing at this time.

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**Councilor Horne:** Inquired about getting the Minnesota flag outside of City Hall replaced as it is starting to get torn. Clerk Skrbich will remind the Public Works Director to order a new flag for the outside, as well as one for the inside of the council chambers.

**Councilor Skrbec:** Inquired about getting the flags up on the light poles before the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July.

**Councilor Pontinen:** Would like to see a calendar for when the seasonal flags should get put on the light poles. Also expressed the need to know of a timeline of when things will get done in this town when the council requests them. Discussion took place on perhaps having some sort of list generated to know what Public Works is working on.

**Mayor Oberstar Jr.:** Kiddie Parade is at 10:30am. On July 4<sup>th</sup>. Lineup on Indiana Ave. Still looking for volunteers for the parade line up and judging, please sign up at City Hall or call Mayor Oberstar Jr. at 218-404-1010.

Would like the Council to consider how valuable the Sparta Beach property is. Not sure if it's for sale. If the City isn't using it, Mayor Oberstar Jr. would like to see it sold or leased. Clerk Skrbich stated how busy Sparta Beach was last year since the water levels were so low on Ore-Be-Gone last year. Mayor Oberstar Jr. would like to find some other use other than swimming at Sparta Beach. Discussion took place on ideas and concerns regarding the area and Mayor Oberstar Jr. also spoke about the idea of a veteran's nursing home and would like to see something like that come to town.

**Police Chief Ty Techar:** Averaging about 480 trucks going through town during the week and down to about 200 on the weekends. The highest speed on the main street has been 61mph. There was a high-speed pursuit last week that started in Gilbert. Fortunately, because of the position of the cameras, they were able to get vehicle information to pursue it. The person was taken into custody.

Regarding the construction on Highway 53, State Patrol has cut their funding, therefore there will not be extra cars for our area.

ATV traffic has been up. Approximately 100 of 800 ATV's were stopped and resulted in 3 DUI arrests and a variety of citations. There have been 5 DUI's on ATV's just in the last month. It is very busy, typically the call volume is around 270 a month, so far it is at 346.

Recently, officers helped get in touch with family after a community member passed and had some valuable property that officers helped keep safe. As a thank you, the family is donating \$5k towards the department's ATV equipment.

Discussion took place on the recent weather alerts. The approximate cost for a new siren system in town (the old one no longer works), is between \$60k to \$100k. For \$35k the city could provide alerts to all the citizens via cell phone.

**Motion** by Horne, seconded by Skrbec to recess the meeting for a public hearing. MCU Meeting was recessed at 7:17p.m.

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**Public Hearing** – Bontems Administrative Hearing: All council present. Hearing called to order at 7:18p.m. to discuss the Notice of Blight on parcel ID 060-0020-014. A statement was read from the property owner stating he is in the process of cleanup.

**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Horne to adjourn the public hearing at 7:37p.m. MCU

**Motion** by Vertachnik, seconded by Horne to reconvene the regular city council meeting. MCU

**Old Business:**

**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Pontinen to approve S.E.H. Community Center engineering costs. MCU

**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Horne to approve the professional services of S.E.H. for the Manhole Rehab project. MCU

**New Business:**

**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Vertachnik to recess the meeting to reconsider reopening the Public Hearing. MCU Meeting was recessed at 7:46p.m.

**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Vertachnik to reopen the Public Hearing for Bontems. MCU

Mayor Oberstar Jr. stepped down to make a motion to abate the property at parcel ID 060-0020-0144.

**Motion** by Oberstar Jr., seconded by Vertachnik to reopen the Public Hearing for 112 New York Ave. East. MCU

**Motion** by Vertachnik, seconded by Horne to adjourn the public hearing at 7:52p.m. MCU

**Motion** by Vertachnik, seconded by Horne to reconvene the regular city council meeting at 7:53p.m. MCU

**Motion** by Vertachnik, seconded by Skrbec to approve the resignation of Officer Hasbargen. MCU

Mayor Oberstar Jr., thanked Hasbargen for his service on behalf of the entire council.

**Motion** by Horne, seconded by Skrbec to approve the Virginia Elks Gambling Permit to conduct business at The Ore House. MCU

**Motion** by Oberstar Jr., seconded by Pontinen to deny the Stark fence application. MCU

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**Motion** by Vertachnik, seconded by Skrbec to accept the bid from Range Cornice Roofing for the water plant. MCU

**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Vertachnik to approve Resolution 2025-10, CD for the dump truck. Roll call taken, all present. MCU

**Motion** by Horne, seconded by Vertachnik to approve the job description of the Deputy-Clerk Accounting Position. MCU

**Motion** by Oberstar Jr., seconded by Skrbec to authorize fire discussion with Eveleth & Fayal. MCU

**Miscellaneous:** None

**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Vertachnik to adjourn meeting at 8:11P.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