

City of Gilbert
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 12, 2025
Council Chambers

Mayor Oberstar called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

Quorum determined.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions to the Agenda: Adding under Old Business: Motion to Cease & Desist; Adding under New Business: D. Work order worksheet and E. Lawnmower purchase.

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

Approve Consent Agenda:

City Council Minutes

- July 22, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- July 22, 2025 City Council Working Session Minutes

Invoices from Previously Approved Projects

Boards and Commissions Minutes

- June 2, 2025 Gilbert Public Library Minutes

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

- Check register 7/22/2025 – 7/31/2025
- Check register 8/6/2025 – 8/8/2025

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Horne to approve the Consent Agenda. All in favor, Mayor Oberstar abstained as he was not at the previous meeting.

Public Participation: None

Reports – Mayor & Council

Councilor Pontinen: Nothing at this time.

Councilor Skrbec: Thank you to the members of Gambler 500, which is part of the Minnesota Four-wheel Association. They cleaned up garbage along trails around Gilbert including the new area that will be the new DNR boat landing off Lake Ore-Be-Gone. By the end of the weekend, an entire roll-off dumpster was filled with numerous items from the trail, including things dumped illegally by local folks. Members are from all over Minnesota and donated their time. Also, this weekend has 3 major events going on in town. The first is Scuba-palooza, which has the campground full. The second event is Trail Jam at the West 40 campground, and the third event is the second annual running of the Iron Range half marathon at the Genoa and Mesabi Trails.

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Councilor Horne: Requested Clerk Skrbich to check into the order of woodchips that was ordered for Hopkins Park, states he believes mulch was delivered.

Councilor Vertachnik: Nothing at this time.

Mayor Oberstar: Clarified rumors about the council not working on much other than banning plastic flowers at the cemetery. The council has a lot of iron in the fire and has been working on several projects including a \$19 million Water Plant. The city is also looking for a Deputy Clerk to give backup to the Clerk. An Equipment Operator is also needed as well as a Wastewater plant worker. Oberstar stated the council wants to keep the budget affordable and doable for the taxpayers. Oberstar stated the ban on plastic flowers at the cemetery has been on the rules posted at the cemetery for at least 30 years.

Reports – Staff, Boards & Council:

Gilbert Fire Chief Kwiatkowski: Clerk Skrbich stated the Fire Chief was out of town now however Skrbich stated all the breathing apparatuses are in place and trained. Everything is in service at this time. New equipment works with the old equipment.

Mayor Oberstar stated there was a meeting the next day in Eveleth for discussion of merging the Fire Departments.

Police Chief Ty Techar: Arrived late to the meeting due to a 17 mile ATV pursuit, the person is in custody.

Discussion took place regarding using the Case Guard software. The software will work with the body cams and should help with any language barriers as it transcribes in real time. It will be of great assistance for requests for police data and a big time saver.

Motion made by Skrbec, supported by Horne to purchase the one-year subscription on the software for the police department, as a trial period. MCU

Motion by Skrbec, supported by Horne to suspend the regular council meeting at 6:26pm and open the Public Meeting for the proposed Mesabi Mountain Trail Head. MCU

Mesabi Mountain Trail Head Public Hearing

Roll call was taken, all present.

Presentation was given by Matt Sipola, a Northern Minnesota Jeepers trail administrator and a supporter of Mesabi Mountain Trail Head. Statistics on tourism and off-road tourism was given. Many comments and concerns were given from those supporting and those opposed to the proposed access to the trail head by off road vehicles (this Public Hearing is accessible online).

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Horne to close the Public Hearing at 7:40pm and go back into the regular council meeting. MCU

Mayor Oberstar called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:42 P.M.

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Clerk Skrbich recommended tabling the motion for the Trail head, given people are continuing to comment.

Motion made by Counselor Skrbec, supported by Pontinen to instruct the Attorney and City Clerk to draft language for an agreement between Mesabi Mountain Trail and the Northern Minnesota Jeepers, as well as, tabling the formal vote until August 26th to extend the public comment period for anyone who wants to write to the Clerk, and the Council will have an opportunity to review. Roll call vote: 5 to 0 in favor of this motion.

Old Business:

Motion by Horne, seconded by Skrbec to approve the cease and desist on a 2-story garage on 515 Minnesota Avenue West. MCU

New Business:

Motion by Horne, seconded by Vertachnik to table the Steve Brandt fence application. MCU

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Mayor Oberstar to approve the request from Gilbert Community Church to use the Community Center for a week, free of charge. 3 nays: Vertachnik, Horne, Pontinen; 2 nays: Skrbec and Mayor Oberstar. Motion failed.

Motion by Pontinen, seconded by Vertachnik to table the C&C Winger Concrete replacement quote for \$12,750, and get more information. MCU

Motion by Vertachnik, seconded by Skrbec to start a Work Order procedure for all departments within the City. 1 nay: Mayor Oberstar; 4 in favor: Vertachnik, Horne, Skrbec, Pontinen. Motion carries.

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Vertachnik to approve the lawnmower purchase for the campground. MCU

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Horne to adjourn meeting at 8:03P.M. MCU.

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

ATTEST:

Mike Skrbich, Interim Clerk/Administrator

Karl Oberstar Jr., Mayor