

City of Gilbert
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 26, 2025
Council Chambers

Mayor Oberstar called the meeting to order at 6:02 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. Noelle Berkelman for City Attorney Bryan Lindsay.

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Agenda:

City Council Minutes

- August 12, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
 - Correction needed under New Business: Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Mayor Oberstar to approve the request from the Gilbert Community Church to use the Community Center for a week, free of charge. 3 nays: Vertachnik, Horne, Pontinen; 2 yays: Skrbec and Mayor Oberstar. Motion failed.
 - Correction needed under Reports – Councilor Horne: should state “Hopkins” Park, not Thompson Park.
 - Correction needed under Reports – Police Chief Ty Techar: should state “discussion took place regarding using “Case Guard” software, not Transcribe software.
 - Correction needed to the motion made regarding the Mesabi Mountain Trail Head: should state “to instruct the Attorney and City Clerk to *draft* language for an agreement etc.”
- August 12, 2025 City Council Working Session Minutes
 - Correction needed under #10 on the Working Session: should state “Mike showed the *potential* for parking lot lease with DVS and Bryan will check our legal/ownership status.”

Invoices from Previously Approved Projects

Boards and Commissions Minutes

- August 7, 2025 Gilbert Cemetery Board Minutes - Donna Sadar, Chair of the Gilbert Cemetery Board, stated the Board is working on recommendations for a new sign for the cemetery. They will make a formal recommendation to the Council when they are ready.

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

- Check register 8/6/2025 – 8/11/2025
- Check register 8/15/2025 – 8/20/2025

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

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Public Participation: None

Reports – Mayor & Council

Councilor Vertachnik: Nothing at this time.

Councilor Horne: Nothing at this time.

Councilor Pontinen: Appreciative for the new dental building and for Mark Peterson’s building. Would like to see the City step up to visually improve Main Street and buildings the City owns. Mayor Oberstar agreed and stated it’s in the budget to get that work done. Clerk Skrbich stated that this is also the purpose of the of “work orders” to track projects and have a visual reminder of priorities etc., of things that need to be done within the City.

Councilor Skrbec: Regarding the Trail discussion, will connect with Ty to look into the traffic concerns that are coming up. Possibly reducing speed limits on city streets and looking at potential solutions to encourage people to obey the trail system.

Mayor Oberstar: Thanks to the City crews and the Police Department for everything they have been doing. Budget planning is coming up and hopefully the water plant will be moving right along.

Reports – Staff, Boards & Council:

Police Chief Ty Techar: Councilor Horne inquired about an update on the blight cases. Techar stated they are still actively working on 8 to 10 properties right now. An update will be given next month.

City Clerk Mike Skrbich: Initial budget meeting set for next week.

Motion made by Counselor Skrbec, supported by Horne to hold a Special Working Session for budget talks on Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025 at 6pm in the Council Chambers. MCU
Counselor Pontinen reminded the public these meetings are open to the public to attend.

Motion made by Counselor Skrbec, supported by Pontinen to instruct the Attorney and City Clerk to drop 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.

Motion by Vertachnik, seconded by Horne to approve a building permit for Leo Skrbec. Counselor Paul Skrbec abstained from the vote. Motion carries 4 to 1; with one abstained. MCU

Motion by Vertachnik, seconded by Mayor Oberstar to deny a building permit for Kayla Knutson. Property is not zoned for what Knutson is looking for. MCU

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Motion by Vertachnik, seconded by Mayor Oberstar to deny a fence application for Steve Brandt. Property is not zoned for what Brandt is looking for. MCU

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Vertachnik to approve C&C Winger concrete replacement for \$12,750. MCU

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Horne to adopt Resolution 20-13, in support of Mesabi Mountain Trailhead and for the purpose of discussion and allow public comment and council commentary.

Police Chief Ty Techar spoke on various stats, primarily on ATV's.

*Public discussion took place and can be watched on Mesabi Community TV on YouTube.

Roll call vote: Mayor Oberstar-no, Vertachnik-no, Horne-yes, Skrbec-yes, Pontinen-no. Motion fails: 3-nays, 2-yays.

Counselor Pontinen and Mayor Oberstar stated they would be in favor of finding a different route for a trail than where it was proposed at.

Counselor Skrbec thanked all those that came and contributed their thoughts and voices and for being active. He also encouraged the public to participate on committees. The City is in need of a Planning & Zoning committee.

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Pontinen to adjourn meeting at 7:07P.M. MCU.

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

ATTEST:

Mike Skrbich, Interim Clerk/Administrator

Karl Oberstar Jr., Mayor