

City of Gilbert
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 28, 2025
Council Chambers

Mayor Oberstar called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Quorum determined.

Present: Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr., Councilors Rudy Vertachnik, Ryan Redepenning, Paul Skrbec and Bob Pontinen, Clerk Mike Skrbich and Police Chief Ty Techar. Librarian Su Dubbas.

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions to the Agenda: Changing the next meeting date to Nov. 12th due to Veterans Day; Townhall Meeting on November 19th for the developers who are interested in building workforce housing in Gilbert; Under item F. under New Business: Labor Contract negotiations

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

Consent Agenda:

City Council Minutes

- October 14, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- October 14, 2025 City Council Working Session Minutes
- October 24, 2025 City Council Special Meeting Minutes

Invoices from Previously Approved Projects

Boards and Commissions Minutes

- September 8, 2025 Library Board
- October 6, 2025 Library Board

Correction to the Library Board Minutes of September 8, 2025 under the Director's Report; Deletion of statement from Mayor Oberstar regarding the library budget, the statement was recorded in the minutes incorrectly.

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

- Check register 9/23/2025 – 9/30/2025
- Check register 10/10/2025 – 10/13/2025

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Pontinen to approve the Consent Agenda with changes. MCU

Public Participation: Gilbert resident Scott Ankley spoke of the wonderful experience he and his family have had since they lived in Gilbert. Ankley stated part of what makes this community special is the professionals that show up every day to keep it safe. Ankley spoke of the benefits of having police coverage and the importance of having them be first at a medical scene, where time

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is of the essence. Ankley asked the council to accept the offer agreement that would keep the police force as it is for the communities of Gilbert and Biwabik.

Gilbert resident Brandi Lautigar attended the meeting in support of the police department. She asked the council who is responsible for making sure contracts are valid, and if there is a valid contract. Also, who is responsible for having eyes on who is paying bills and who isn't? Mayor Oberstar stated the current Clerk has been here for about a year or so and there has been about 8 or 9 clerks since 2016 or whenever the first contract was made with Biwabik so those are the people that the council depends on for the right figures. The attorney is also consulted. Oberstar stated that he was always told by other previous clerks that the City was in the Black, not the Red. Oberstar stated they are working on today and going forward. Making sure things are in order by having contingency clauses if needed. Lautigar expressed the importance of collaborating with other departments and of having quick responses from the police department and how appreciative she is.

Councilor Skrbec stated in the contract there are 2 "backstops" put into the contract to ensure this doesn't happen again. One is regarding late payments, and the other is unfunded mandates.

Gilbert resident Robert Kutsi spoke of an emergency incident that he was grateful to Gilbert Police Department. Kutsi also spoke on how well respected this department is and how valuable Police Chief Ty Techar is to our department and community.

Gilbert resident Joe Purkat spoke of the importance and appreciation he has for all of the Gilbert Police Department. Noting how wonderful the current and past staff have been due to their leadership of Police Chief Ty Techar. He is grateful for all they do for him professionally and personally.

Gilbert resident Joe Pulles stated he hoped the council would vote the right way as far as the police contract goes. He also wanted to give recognition to the Gilbert Fire Department, noting that he is there to advocate for both departments.

Gilbert resident Angie Vandehey spoke of the value of the Gilbert Police Department and hoped the council supports the new contract for the Police Department.

Ryan Redepenning was sworn in a week prior, however, a formal swearing in was held this evening at the Regular Council Meeting. Redepenning is the new City of Gilbert Council member, filling in the position held prior by Dylan Horne.

Reports – Mayor & Council

Councilor Vertachnik: Nothing at this time.

Councilor Redepenning: Nothing at this time.

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Councilor Skrbec: Reminded the public that it is daylight savings time. Perfect time to check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers.

Councilor Pontinen: Thank you to everyone for coming to the council meeting. Pontinen would like to see this sort of attendance at future meetings. He urged the public to come to the meetings and support the council and city more. Support and attendance are very appreciative.

Mayor Oberstar: Proclamation, November 7th, Day of Recognition for the Rock Ridge Girls Class AA Tennis Championship. Congratulations on the job well done.
Mayor Oberstar stepped down to make the motion.

Motion by Oberstar, seconded by Skrbec to accept the proclamation and allow our department to help with the escort, if needed. MCU

There will be a Townhall meeting for Wednesday, November 19 from 5-7pm, for all residents of Gilbert. A couple of developers will be here to discuss a proposed development in town. Mayor Oberstar encouraged the public to come to the Townhall meeting.
Mayor Oberstar stepped down to make the motion.

Motion by Oberstar, seconded by Vertachnik to approve a Townhall Meeting on November 19th from 5-7pm for developers to discuss a proposed development in Gilbert. MCU

Reports – Staff, Boards & Council:

Attorney Bryan Lindsay: No formal report.

Motion by Vertachnik, seconded by Skrbec to approve the City Attorney to send a cease-and-desist letter. MCU

Police Chief Ty Techar: The numbers provided were the best Techar could come up with for the police contract, as the 2023 and 2024 audits have not yet been completed. Techar expressed appreciation for the humbling support from everyone that came to the meeting this evening.

There has been some misinformation and Techar attempted to clarify. Some difficulties that have been faced include having 8 different administrators in the 13 years that Techar has been chief. Techar explained the letter he gave the council, explaining his budget and how the numbers are obtained. Council discussion to invite Techar to the closed council session to discuss the police contract with Biwabik.

Update on the 5 properties that were being considered for condemning. Techar is still working on funding. Techar also discussed the costs and timeline involved if these properties are condemned. City Attorney Lindsay, also spoke on legalities and provisions that would need to be followed.

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Mayor Oberstar: Feels positive that those he spoke with will try to get some lighting placed by Cirlee K, for safety concerns. MCU

Clerk Mike Skrbich: Nothing at this.

Librarian Su Dubbas: Trick or treating will be all day at the library. The library was awarded the State Park Pass, you can use your library pass to take out a state park pass, good for one week. The Library has also acquired passes for the Great Lakes Aquarium and for Cook's County Connection. Be sure to call or stop by for details.

There will be a concert at Broadview Manor in the November.

Community Outreach event on November 8 and 15 to help anyone who is experiencing a loss of their insurance care and will assist you with options.

Clerk Skrbich will get a copy of the budget for the Library Board, per request from Su Bubbass.

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Vertachnik to approve the November 11th Regular City Council meeting and working session to be changed to November 12th. MCU

Old Business:

Mayor Oberstar stepped down to make the motion.

Motion by Oberstar, seconded by Pontinen to approve the new camping rates (about an 8% increase). Councilor Skrbec recused himself from the vote. Votes passes 3 to 1.

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Vertachnik to have the Clerk and S.E.H. to go out for bids on our Community Center project. MCU The project is to upgrade heating and cooling and bringing the building up to ADA code.

New Business:

Motion by Vertachnik, supported by Skrbec to approve Kangas fence permit. MCU

Motion by Vertachnik, supported by Skrbec to approve Kopp fence permit. MCU

Mayor Oberstar stepped down to make the motion.

Motion by Oberstar, supported Pontinen to approve ABDO accounting proposal. MCU

Motion by Skrbec, supported by Vertachnik to approve Knights of Columbus gambling permit for BINGO in 2026. Mayor abstained from vote. Motion carries 4 to 0

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Motion by Skrbec, supported by Oberstar to approve two dates for contract negotiations; November 3&4 at 6:00pm. MCU

Motion by Vertachnik, supported by Redepenning to suspend the meeting at 7:32pm for a closed session. MCU

Motion by Oberstar, supported by Skrbec to reconvene the regular city council meeting at 9:01pm. MCU

Mayor Oberstar stepped down to make the motion.

Motion by Oberstar, supported by Skrbec to approve the counter proposal from the City of Biwabik for the police contract. MCU

Motion by Vertachnik, seconded by Skrbec to adjourn meeting at 9:02 P.M. MCU.

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

ATTEST:

Mike Skrbich, Interim Clerk/Administrator

Karl Oberstar Jr., Mayor