

City of Gilbert  
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting  
Tuesday, February 24, 2026  
Council Chambers

Councilor Rudy Vertachnik (step-in for Mayor Oberstar, Jr.) called the meeting to order at 6:10P.M.

Quorum determined.

Present: Councilors Bob Pontinen, Paul Skrbec, Ryan Redepenning and Rudy Vertachnik, Deputy Clerk Lynn Lorey, Administrative Assistant Marion DeLage, and Police Chief Ty Techar.

Absent with notice: Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr.

Pledge of Allegiance

**Additions to the Agenda:** Under Old Business: K. Campground update bids; L. IT Inventory; M. ABDO Audit.

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

**Consent Agenda:**

City Council Minutes

- February 10, 2026 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- February 10, 2026 City Council Working Session Minutes
- January 27, 2026 – City Council Working Session Minutes
- February 2, 2026 – Special Closed City Council Meeting – per Attorney Lindsay, the Closed session is not publicly available.

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

**Public Participation:** None

**Reports – Mayor & Council**

**Councilor Pontinen:** Would like to see more help in the office for Lynn. Suggestions were made to post for a part-time or temporary admin. assistant position. Police Chief Ty Techar suggested asking one of his officers that is on light duty right now to do some temporary office duties for the City.

**Motion** was made by Skrbec, seconded by Redepenning to get a MOU from LELS for the officer on light duty to perform the temporary/part time duties of administrative assistant for the City Hall office. MCU

**Councilor Skrbec:**

**Motion** made by Skrbec, seconded by Redepenning to add an agenda item to the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the organization chart and administrative staff strategy in a closed session. MCU

**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Pontinen to place a temporary pause on retail residential garbage bag sales with Circle K until the price issue is resolved. MCU

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

City of Gilbert  
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting  
Tuesday, February 24, 2026  
Council Chambers

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

**Reports – Staff, Boards & Council:**

**Police Chief Ty Techar:** Vehicles parking on Boulevards – some aren't moving. Next year the department will issue warnings then tickets, etc.

**Deputy Clerk Lynn Lorey:** Update from Attorney Lindsay on the AT&T lease increase: Increase request was denied and based on the 3<sup>rd</sup> amendment of the contract there is a 6% increase in 2027.

Update on ATV Trail from Attorney Lindsay – Strle property has a “no transfer” on the property. Mineral rights have been severed. Wondering if DNR is still interested in purchasing. Property description needs to come from Attorney Lindsay, council not sure what the discussion about this trail is for.

Attorney Lindsay will be bringing documentation to Deputy Clerk Lorey on the Leoni property.

Motion by Pontinen, supported by Skrbec to have Deputy Clerk Lorey open accounts for the City for the 8 different funds, per the Charter, so things are kept separate and work better for the audit.  
MCU

Community Center update: estimate to abate came in just under \$25K. A \$25K allowance for abatement was included in the budget.

Resident Mike Sailer inquired about getting a property changed from commercial to residential. The request was declined as the property is zoned as commercial.

**Old Business:**

Check Register:

- a. Check register 2/12/26 – 2/17/26

**Motion** by Redepenning, supported by Pontinen to approve the 2/12/26-2/17/26 check registers.  
MCU

Deputy Clerk Lorey is working on finalizing things with ADP to bring the payroll back in-house.

**Motion** by Pontinen, supported by Redepenning to meet Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 PM for a closed session regarding the AFSCME contract.

Discussion on charging fees with PSN. Notification and options available will be given to residents.

Audit update: ABDO will not need to come here in person to finish the 2023 Audit.

City of Gilbert  
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting  
Tuesday, February 24, 2026  
Council Chambers

**Motion** by Pontinen, seconded by Redepenning to pay the Ridge In promissory note. MCU

Councilor Skrbec will talk with Attorney Lindsay about tax on pull tabs. Move to Old Business for the next meeting.

Extra quotes are requested for the UTV for the campground.

**Motion** by Redepenning, seconded by Pontinen to move forward with the Mesabi Bituminous quote and to go with a partial bid from Winger for the pavilion. MCU

**Motion** by Pontinen, seconded by Skrbec to allow councilors Vertachnik and Redepenning do an IT inventory for the City. MCU

Discussion to have a new IT contract in place by the next council meeting on March 10, 2026.

**Motion** by Redepenning, seconded by Pontinen to go with 26 pallets of wood from Minnesota Firewood, LLC. with their quote. MCU

**Motion** by Pontinen, seconded by Redepenning to change the First Responder pay from \$9 per call to \$10 per call. MCU

**Motion** by Skrbec supported by Pontinen to move forward with the REVVER quote and start with 3 licenses then move down to 2. MCU

**New Business:**

Much discussion took place regarding Ehler's financial management plan needed for the PFA funding.

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Redepenning to move forward with Ehler's; open to discussion. Councilor Pontinen disagreed with the motion and suggested the financial report be done in-house. Deputy Clerk Lorey will contact Ehlers and set up a meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Skrbec, seconded by Pontinen to adjourn meeting at 8:22 PM. MCU

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

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn Lorey, Deputy Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karl Oberstar Jr., Mayor

City of Gilbert  
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting  
Tuesday, February 24, 2026  
Council Chambers