

City of Gilbert
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2026
Council Chambers

Mayor Oberstar, Jr. called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 6:10 PM
Quorum determined.

Present: Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr., Councilors Bob Pontinen, Paul Skrbec, Ryan Redepenning and Rudy Vertachnik; Deputy Clerk Lynn Lorey, Administrative Assistant Marion DeLage, Police Chief Ty Techar, City Attorney Bryan Lindsay and City Engineer Matt Reid.
Pledge of Allegiance

Additions to the Agenda: Under Old Business: G. SEH Contract for I/I Reduction PH 2 Project, H. SEH contract for Sherwood Forest Sewer & Stormwater Resilience Planning, I. Commercial Garbage Proposal; Under New Business: Advertising for Summer Help.

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

Consent Agenda:

City Council Minutes

- February 24, 2026 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- February 24, 2026 City Council Working Session Minutes

Boards and Commission Minutes

- Gilbert Library Minutes 2/2/26

Counselor Skrbec inquired as to why the Foundation is closing. Mayor Oberstar stated the foundation has been operating since 1991 and there are 4 members on the Foundation's Board that feel it's time to be done. All funds were given to the Library Board.

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Vertachnik to approve the Consent Agenda. Mayor Oberstar, Jr. abstained from the vote, due to not being present at the last meeting. MCU

Public Participation: None

Matt Hiti, representing "Franky's Fund," a memorial ride and fundraising event in remembrance to his brother, Joe Hiti. Hiti asked the council to approve a gambling permit for a 200 ticket raffle at \$100 apiece, fundraiser. Funds raised go to area scholarships, one will go to a outgoing senior at Rock Ridge High School, the other will go to diesel mechanic at the Hibbing College. This will be the 5th year of the event. It's held annually on Labor Day, making this year's event slated for September 7, 2026.

Motion by Pontinen, seconded by Redepenning to approve the gambling permit for "Franky's Fund." MCU

Reports – Mayor & Council

Councilor Vertachnik: Nothing at this time.

Councilor Redepenning: Nothing at this time.

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Councilor Skrbec: City garbage bags at Circle K are now the same price they were before.

The City Charter lists the municipal elections timeline incorrectly. Will get the correct timeline out for the public.

Councilor Pontinen: Nothing at this time.

Mayor Oberstar: Met with a new developer looking to develop Gillespie area.

The school property fell through with the first buyer. Zenith may be interested in that property. Anthem building is officially closed and will be going up for sale. \$50k was offered for the parking lot, as well as \$300k for the Ore Be Gone property. No updates thus far on those verbal offers.

Mr. Slavich donated lights from the old school building. A decision should be made soon on where to install the lights. He will be willing to help with the installation. Possible locations include City Hall, the Gazebo and the Community Center.

Reports – Staff, Boards & Council:

Fire Chief Marc Kwiatkowski: 17 calls for the year, with 19 members. Training has been going good. Will be doing an under-water/ice dive training this weekend. In April there will be an auto extrication class with reps coming up with extrication tools.

Last year the City purchased less expensive air packs and they do not include a buddy breathing system. The buddy breathing system allows a firefighter who runs out of air or has a malfunction, to allow them to hook into another air pack, so two firefighters can use the same bottle. The department would like to purchase a Rapid Intervention Pack (RIP). The Relief Association would like to donate \$11,585 to the City for the purchase of the RIP packs.

Police Chief Ty Techar: met with Dan Solarz, St. Louis County IT (SLCIT). Many counties are moving to a new records management system, including St. Louis County. Some things will need to be updated to accommodate the records management system. Looking at options and funding. Councilor Redepenning will be in touch with SLCIT to see what exactly the department needs.

Lieutenant Trucano met with IRRR regarding building condemnation. There are 5 buildings to be condemned. Assessments are being done. Two were lost to fires, one had pigeons and a roof collapse and the other two are being condemned for having deceased bodies in them for several weeks.

City Engineer Matt Reid:

Motion made by Skrbec, seconded by Pontinen to accept the SEH contract for I/I Reduction PH 2 project. MCU

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Motion made by Skrbec, seconded by Pontinen to accept the SEH contract Sherwood Forest Sewer & Stormwater Resilience Planning. MCU

Deputy Clerk Lynn Lorey: Water pressure issue at Genoa. A booster pump needs replacement. Costs are \$5,500 for parts and approximately \$3k for labor. This is for the West, East French area/Genoa Dr./Bike Trail area. Motor was replaced 4-5 years ago. It's been down for a week and half. Sparta and Rock and Pines was approved at the prior meeting.

Motion made by Skrbec, seconded by Pontinen to approve \$8,500 for the booster pump at Genoa. MCU

Campground update: Wood has been ordered.

City Attorney Bryan Lindsey: Kathy Leoni property update – there was so confusion on a parcel split. City has done everything they need to do. When the deed is done, it gets recorded by the County. Lindsey will get a copy to the city.

Cease and desist update – Letter was sent quite awhile ago. If business is still being conducted, Lindsey will seek an injunction.

Ridge-Inn update – Payment was made. There are stat requirements and right now they are working through the severed mineral rights. The state is asking that it be eliminated

AT&T Lease update – updated at the last meeting, they declined our increase request. In 2027, we get a 6% increase.

GFD air packs – Lindsey provided the Deputy Clerk with the resolution to sell/dispose of the old air packs.

Old Business:

Check Register:

- a. Check register 2/26/26 – 3/2/26
- b. Check register 3/6/26 – 3/9/26

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Redepenning to approve the 2/26/26-3/2/26 and 3/6/26 – 3/9/26 check registers. MCU

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Redepenning to approve the current timesheets. MCU
ADP update – ABDO is reaching out to ADP to getting mobile timekeeping activated. Once all these things are turned on, Lorey can see what needs to be done for training, etc.

Motion by Mayor Oberstar, seconded by Skrbec to approve the North Shore Development contract. Mayor Oberstar stepped down to make the motion. MCU

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Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Pontinen to implement a 3% debit/credit/ach fee, providing notification in the utility billing, by signage and verbally. MCU

City Attorney Lindsey will bring an ordinance to have a portion of the charitable gambling funds go to the City under council's control. Lindsey stated that up to 10% can be used for charity or emergency equipment.

Motion by Pontinen, seconded by Vertachnik to approve Ehler's financial planning for PFA. MCU Payments will also be changed from yearly to semiannual to save the city some money.

City Attorney Lindsey

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, seconded by Pontinen to move forward with the REVVER quote and start with 3 licenses then move down to 2. MCU

No action taken at this time, regarding the commercial garbage bid.

New Business:

A variance hearing for Tom Malkovich on April 14th during the Working Session for his stable request with 30' height on building.

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Pontinen to approve Frank Malich to the Water and Light Board. MCU

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Pontinen to approve the re-appointment of Bruce Mattson (ending in 2028) and Leo Skrbec (ending in 2027) to the Water & Light Board. MCU

Motion by Mayor Oberstar, seconded by Skrbec to approve the Cook Slurry MPCA grant application. Mayor Oberstar stepped down to make the motion. MCU

Motion by Mayor Oberstar, seconded by Skrbec to approve to advertise for 3 summer help for \$16/hr. Mayor Oberstar stepped down to make the motion. MCU

Miscellaneous announcements: None.

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Redepenning to recess to a closed session at 7:50 PM for AFSCME negotiations, personnel and other topics deemed necessary. MCU

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Roll Call Taken – Council, Deputy Clerk and Attorney still present.

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Redepenning to approve the AFSCME agreement and instruct Attorney Lindsey to relay to AFSCME. MCU

Motion by Vertachnik, seconded by Skrbec to adjourn meeting at 9:57 PM. MCU

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

ATTEST:

Lynn Lorey, Deputy Clerk

Karl Oberstar Jr., Mayor