

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

Mayor Oberstar, Jr. called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 6:25 PM
Quorum determined.

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

Absent with notice: Ryan Redepenning

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions to the Agenda: Under New Business: F. Sexual Assault Program Proclamation; G.
Special Meeting, April 2nd at 5:30 PM

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

Consent Agenda:

City Council Minutes

- March 10, 2026 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- March 10, 2026 City Council Working Session Minutes

Boards and Commission Minutes

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

Public Participation: None

Reports – Mayor & Council

Mayor Oberstar: Lengthy working session and many important things the City needs to make decisions on. The City is on board now with Jason Hale with North Shore Development.

Councilor Vertachnik: Nothing at this time.

Councilor Skrbec: Recently contacted by Gilbert Resident Tamara Gulbranson, regarding what originally was a social media post made by her regarding the City’s snow removal process. The City does a great job however there is an issue with snow being pushed onto handicapped sections near the Post Office and Bank. She is asking for the City crew to be more aware and make access better, easier and safer for residents. Councilor Skrbec reiterated noting that handicap accessibility is in issue in the City. Skrbec suggested the Council to look at ADA for the City and decide how to approach it, stating 24% of the population in Gilbert is over the age of 65, and this needs to be a priority. Mayor Oberstar stated these 4 blocks always had priority snow removal, not just plowing. Staff will be reminded.

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Councilor Pontinen: Heard there was issues trying to locate water shut off's. Spoke with City Engineer and he does not have blueprints of everything. If the former City engineer has any, they should be returned to the City. Invite JPJ to the next Working Session so we can figure it out.

Reports – Staff, Boards & Council:

Fire Chief Marc Kwiatkowski: Asked for approval for \$2600 (budgeted item) hose testing. DNR grant was given to the Gilbert Fire Department.

After 22 years on the Gilbert Fire Department, Kwiatkowski submitted his resignation. Deputy Chief Anthony Nemanick will become the next Fire Chief. Kwiatkowski thanked the council, thanked the staff at the City, stating the last few months have been great working with them, he thanked Police chief Ty Techar and his crew “the Gilbert Fire Brigade,” stating we are lucky to have them and appreciates their quick responses. Mayor Oberstar, on behalf of the City Council and the community, thanked Kwiatkowski for his service and wished him the best in his retirement.

Police Chief Ty Techar: Thanked Fire Chief Kwiatkowski for all his hard work and dedication, mentioning how highly other departments think of him and his strong dedication.

Working with IRRR with 5 properties for demo next fiscal year.

City Attorney Bryan Lindsey: no formal report. Mayor Oberstar informed Lindsay of a Special Meeting on April 2nd at 5:30 PM that the Council is requesting his presence as there are many things the City needs his assistance with i.e. audit, commercial garbage, approving AFSCME contract and update on LELS contract.

Councilor Pontinen inquired about getting a water meter installed at a residence in Fayal, who is a Gilbert water customer, asking Attorney Lindsay what his opinion is by the end of the meeting.

Mayor Oberstar directed Deputy Clerk Lynn Lorey to get a few local quotes on apparel for the campground.

Councilor Skrbec spoke with Attorney Lindsay regarding the filing period for elections in reference to the state statute and city ordinance. Attorney Lindsay stated the city would post their dates and would also post the general election dates, as well.

Old Business:

Check Register:

- a. Check register 3/17/2026

Motion by Vertachnik, seconded by Skrbec to approve the 3/17/2026 check register, contingent on correcting codes. MCU

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Goal to bring payroll back in house with ADP, by the end of the year, Deputy Clerk Lorey has been working with them to get all the payroll information correct and keep moving forward with getting the payroll back in house.

Motion by Vertachnik, seconded by Skrbec to approve the Fire Department Relief Association Donation for the purchase of RIT equipment, Resolution 2026-07. MCU

Attorney Lindsay created an update to the city's charitable gambling ordinance. Recommended adding it to the next council meeting for approval. Lindsay will look into meat raffles, as well.

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Vertachnik to approve the 2026-03 Resolution for the sale of fire equipment. MCU

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Pontinen to approve MnDOT agreement for HWY 135, SP8821-399 (TH 135) #1062631, with notification to residents to get information from MnDOT. MCU

Introducing the final draft of Resolution 2026-08 for Technical Assistance Services from North Shore Development – Jason Hale.

Land use permit for Malkovich; according to their drawing, they are compliant with City codes, and a variance/hearing will not be needed. Discussion took place on city codes, Mayor Oberstar stating he would prefer to have the ordinance change then have a variety of variances be needed. He would like to be consistent and fair and if that means changing the ordinance, then that's what he would like to do. Administrative Assistant DeLage will speak with Mr. Malkovich and have them attend the next meeting.

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Vertachnik to hold a Special Meeting on April 2, 2026 at 5:30 PM to discuss the commercial garbage, AFSCME, LELS and approve the next register. MCU

Motion by Pontinen, seconded by Skrbec to move approve Vertachnik land use permit. Councilor Vertachnik abstained from the vote. Motion carries 3 to 0.

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Vertachnik to approve the land use permit for Madison Sand, pending a letter of support from the HOA and Virginia. MCU

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Vertachnik to approve the land use permit for Chapman, must provide the City with proof of state inspection upon completion electrical and plumbing. MCU

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Mayor Oberstar to accept Clerk Mike Skrbich's resignation. Roll call vote: Councilor Vertachnik: yes; Mayor Oberstar: yes; Councilor Skrbec: yes; Councilor Pontinen: yes. MCU

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New Business:

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Vertachnik to table the Library donations following further correction/review. MCU

Mayor Oberstar read the Sexual Assault Proclamation for 2026 Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Miscellaneous announcements: None.

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Vertachnik to recess to a closed session at 7:52 PM for discussion on administrative staffing and other business as deemed necessary. MCU

Regular Session reconvened at 8:54 PM

Roll Call Taken – Council, Deputy Clerk and Attorney still present. MCTV recorder was no longer present.

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Vertachnik to approve the attorney to draft a contract for interim clerk position as discussed in closed meeting. MCU

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Vertachnik to extend the interim clerk position to Deputy Clerk Lynn Lorey. MCU

Motion by Skrbec, seconded by Pontinen to allow recruiting firm to write new clerk description and write market analysis. MCU

Attorney Lindsay suggested a letter be sent to the Fayal customer that needs the Gilbert water meter, stating it would need to be installed in the next 30 days. A date should be given and the letter should include contact information to the resident incase a different date will need to be chosen.

Motion by Vertachnik, seconded by Pontinen to adjourn meeting at 8:58 PM. MCU

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

ATTEST:

Lynn Lorey, Deputy Clerk

Karl Oberstar Jr., Mayor