

City of Gilbert
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 9, 2026
Council Chambers

Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr. called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 6:22PM
Quorum determined.

Present: Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr., Councilor Bob Pontinen, Councilor Paul Skrbec, Councilor Ryan Redepenning and Councilor Rudy Vertachnik; Deputy Clerk Lynn Lorey, Administrative Assistant Marion DeLage, Ellie Freeman (S.E.H.) and Police Chief Ty Techar

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions to the Agenda: Under New Business: G. Gilbert Fire Department donation; H. S.E.H. Ore Be Gone Contract; I. Electrical estimate for lights at the firehall; J. Lift Station – Ore Be Gone.

Motion by Councilor Ryan Redepenning, seconded by Councilor Rudy Vertachnik to approve the Additions to the Agenda. MCU

Consent Agenda:

City Council Minutes

- May 26, 2026 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- May 26, 2026 City Council Working Session Minutes
- June 1, 2026 City Council Special Meeting Minutes – removed due to their unavailability.

Boards and Commission Minutes

Motion by Councilor Paul Skrbec, seconded by Councilor Ryan Redepenning to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of the Special Meeting dated June 1, 2026 (will be added to the next meeting). MCU

Public Participation: None

Reports – Mayor & Council

Councilor Bob Pontinen: Councilor Bob Pontinen voiced concerns regarding the appearance of the area around the ball field and Recreation center. Stating that 30-40 cars park at the Rec center where a big pile of dirt sits in the center of the lot. He would like to see it get moved elsewhere perhaps by the campground, as to not be such an eyesore and take up parking space. Councilor Bob Pontinen thinks the City could make that area look better. Councilor Paul Skrbec stated the dirt pile is for the ball field. Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr. added that he would like to see the fence line along the road should look better. Specifically, the area behind the dugout, to help hide the Public Works area.

Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr. stepped off the chair to make a motion.

Motion by Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr., seconded by Bob Pontinen to straighten the fence and Council discussed stormwater drainage concerns associated with Nevada Avenue curb project and future

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monitoring camouflage the Public Works yard from the baseball field view. Improve the drainage and ditching and gate. The mayor would like to see this done before the Third of July festivities. Councilor Paul Skrbec shared that he believes there are other areas at the moment that need clean up.

Motion carries 4 to 1; with councilor Paul Skrbec as Nay.

Councilor Ryan Redepenning: IT update given:

- Current city data storage systems are outdated and no longer meet requirements.
- Proposed upgrades would increase both local and cloud storage capacity.
- Additional information and final pricing will be presented at a future meeting.
- Hard drives in two city systems have already been upgraded.

Councilor Paul Skrbec: an electronic sign-up form for parade and event staffing needs has been made. It is on the city website as well as Facebook. Councilor Paul Skrbec encouraged the public to volunteer to sign up.

Clerk Lynn Lorey will purchase a bullhorn/megaphone to be used for the events. She will be volunteering alongside her husband, for the parade and games.

Councilor Paul Skrbec stated he has received positive feedback regarding the change in commercial garbage. Concerns brought up include needing more/larger containers at Lake Ore Be Gone; monitoring container capacity needs at the parks and recreation areas, as well as billing concerns. Clerk Lynn Lorey spoke with Jaime from East Mesabi Sanitation.

During discussion regarding residential garbage, the council discussed wanting to know what the remaining inventory count of orange garbage bags is; long term waste collection alternatives and the potential need for future public meetings or pen houses to gather resident feedback regarding waste collection. Mayor Karl Oberstar Jr. stated he wants fairness and the point of the orange bags is for fairness.

Lake Ore Be Gone safety and water levels were discussed. Councilor Paul Skrbec voiced concerns regarding overall safety. Water levels are low, the dock has been moved now to the boat landing, Splashtown will be setting up next week and people are cliff diving again.

A new boat landing will be here in the Fall. Getting better a barrier was discussed as well to keep people from going off the landing. Fire Chief Anthony Nemanick reassured the council and the public that they would still be able to perform a water rescue, even with the water levels so low.

Motion by Paul Skrbec, seconded by Councilor Rudy Vertachnik to get 3 to 4 cement barricades to help keep people from going off the landing. MCU

Councilor Rudy Vertachnik: check with Gulbranson's regarding the lighting on 1st Court and Ohio. The campground only has one working lawnmower ta this time. Clerk Lynn Lorey was contacted by Northland Lawn & Turf, as they are interested in donating a piece of equipment to the city with a value up to \$20,000.00. She will look into seeing if they would be interested in donating mowing equipment.

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Motion by Councilor Rudy Verachnik, seconded by Bob Pontinen to have the two culverts near the cemetery taken out and clean up the rest after, including brush and pipes, block the road and make berms by the gas tank near the cemetery. MCU

Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr. : 2 sections of sidewalk are missing on New York Avenue. Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr. would like to see this replaced asap. The council discussed the following street and infrastructure concerns: deterioration around storm drains on Minnesota Avenue and Broadway, settlement areas and dips on Broadway/Highway 135, raised water shut-off valves throughout the city, sidewalk damage on New York Avenue, drainage issues at wandering Pines location and additional roadway maintenance concerns. Clerk Lynn will meet with Public Works Director Sam Lautigar to discuss the concerns as well as the council was asked to take a look at the Wandering Pines area. All will investigate and report back at the next meeting.

Mayor Karl Oberstar Jr., stepped off the chair to make a motion.

Motion by Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr., seconded by Councilor Paul Skrbec to approve the S.E.H. proposal for the supplemental agreement for engineering and construction administration services associated with Ore Be Gone access road project, in the amount of \$35,800. MCU
Discussion included the project timeline, anticipated construction between August and October 2026 and updates and status of project approvals and grant funding.

Reports – Staff, Boards & Council:

Police Chief Ty Techar: The department is working aggressively on blight enforcement throughout the city. Properties with previous violations are receiving citations, while first-time violators are being notified by letter before enforcement action is taken. Several visible blight concerns along Main Street was also addressed.

Police Chief Ty Techar advised that the City is seeking contractors to perform nuisance abatement work. One previous contractor is no longer providing the service due to safety concerns involving hazardous materials, including discarded needles. Staff is obtaining quotes from other contractors. Council discussed the need to authorize nuisance abatements in a timely manner to ensure cleanup before the holiday. Several properties would be presented to the Council at the next meeting for formal abatement authorization, while voluntary compliance is being pursued where possible. No formal action was taken.

Motion by Councilor Rudy Verachnik, seconded by Paul Skrbec to approve Trudy Salo to attend an annual meeting/training session in Grand Rapids. MCU

Motion by Councilor Rudy Verachnik, seconded by Paul Skrbec to approve the outside sales on the 3rd/4th of July, for the businesses that applied and submitted the required information. MCU

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Old Business:

Check Register:

- a. Check register 5/15/2026 – 5/28/2026

Timesheets for Employees

Mayor Karl Oberstar Jr. stepped off the chair to make a motion.

Motion by Mayor Karl Oberstar Jr. seconded by Councilor Paul Skrbec, to approve the 5/15/2026 – 5/28/2026 check register. MCU

Motion by Councilor Paul Skrbec seconded by Mayor Karl Oberstar Jr., to approve the change orders for the community center updates of \$53,979. MCU

New Business:

Mayor Karl Oberstar Jr. stepped off the chair to make a motion.

Motion by Mayor Karl Oberstar Jr., seconded by Councilor Bob Pontinen to approve the tailgate for old dump truck. Motion carried 4 to 1, with Councilor Paul Skrbec voting nay.

Mayor Karl Oberstar Jr. stepped off the chair to make a motion.

Motion by Mayor Karl Oberstar Jr. seconded by Councilor Ryan Redepenning, to approve the reappoint of Joe Skofich to the HRA Board. MCU

Motion by Councilor Bob Pontinen, seconded by Councilor Rudy Vertachnik to approve the Minnesota 4 Wheel Drive Association request for charitable gambling raffle at their upcoming Trail Jam event. Councilor Paul Skrbec abstained from the vote. Motion carries 4 to 0.

Motion by Councilor Rudy Vertachnik, seconded by Councilor Ryan Redepenning to approve the land use permit to build a deck for Haugland at 113 Minnesota Avenue E. MCU

Motion by Councilor Rudy Vertachnik, seconded by Councilor Paul Skrbec to approve \$1,150 quote from SC Electric for 3 new lights in the firehall. MCU

Mayor Karl Oberstar Jr. stepped off the chair to make a motion.

Motion by Mayor Karl Oberstar Jr., seconded by Councilor Bob Pontinen to approve the new wire install at the Ore Be Gone lift station. MCU

Motion by Councilor Paul Skrbec, seconded by Councilor Ryan Redepenning to approve Resolution 2026-15, donation from the Eveleth Elks #1161 to go towards the gazebo for decorating. MCU

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Motion by Councilor Bob Pontinen, seconded by Councilor Rudy Vertachnik to approve Resolution 2026-15, donation from the Eveleth Elks #1161 to go towards the gazebo for decorating. MCU

Motion by Councilor Paul Skrbec, seconded by Councilor Ryan Redepenning to approve Resolution 2026-16, donation from the Gilbert Fire Department Relief Association for equipment. MCU

Miscellaneous:

After some discussion, it was decided that donation jar, accepting cash donations, are not allowed in City Hall.

Councilor Paul Skrbec will be on vacation June 17-24th.

Leo Skrbec, Gilbert resident, asked the council if they knew when the potholes would be completed for Minnesota & Michigan Avenue.

Mayor Karl Oberstar Jr. stepped off the chair to make a motion.

Motion by Mayor Karl Oberstar Jr., seconded by Councilor Bob Pontinen to approve an additional \$10,000 to Mesabi Bituminous to fill in more potholes. MCU

Motion by Councilor Bob Pontinen, seconded by Councilor Rudy Vertachnik to approve the pump install at the Ore Be Gone lift station for \$5,624. MCU

Motion by Councilor Paul Skrbec, seconded Rudy Vertachnik to recess to a closed session at 8:23PM. MCU

Regular Meeting reconvened at 8:28 PM – all council members present, including Interim Clerk Lynn Lorey and Administrative Assistant Marion DeLage.

Motion by Councilor Paul Skrbec, seconded by Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr. to approve the job descriptions and posting between June 11th and 25th for Public Works Maintenance 2 and Clerk/Treasurer. MCU

Motion by Councilor Rudy Vertachnik seconded by Councilor Paul Skrbec, to adjourn meeting at 8:41 PM. MCU

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

ATTEST:

Lynn Lorey, Deputy Clerk

Karl Oberstar Jr., Mayor