

City of Gilbert
Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, August 12, 2026
Council Chambers

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

Present: Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr., Councilor Bob Pontinen, Councilor Rudy Vertachnik, Councilor Paul Skrbec, Councilor Ryan Redepenning; Clerk/Treasurer Lynn Lorey, Administrative Assistant Marion DeLage; Nathan Moor with S.E.H.

Absent with Notice:

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions to the Agenda: Under Old Business: D. S.E.H. Projects – manhole projects, Remove “D” under New Business and replaced it with Pasty Sales; E. Early Voting.

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

Consent Agenda:

City Council Minutes

- July 28, 2026 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- July 28, 2026 City Council Working Session Minutes
- July 21, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes – request from Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr. to remove the Pledge of Allegiance from the meeting minutes.

Motion by Councilor Paul Skrbec, seconded by Councilor Ryan Redepenning to approve the Consent Agenda. MCU

Public Participation: None

Reports – Mayor & Council

Councilor Ryan Redepenning: nothing at this time.

Councilor Bob Pontinen: Raised concern that visitors of Sparta Beach are using the garbage containers for demo material and large filled garbage bags. He recommended removing the garbage container from that location. Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr. suggested adding this subject to the next Working Session, for lengthier discussion.

Councilor Rudy Vertachnik: Nothing at this time.

Councilor Paul Skrbec: Inquired when the season ends for Splashtown.

Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr.: Inquired about Mesabi Bituminous coming in and finishing the roads and the riprap at the cemetery. Per Clerk/Treasurer Lynn Lorey, it’s not for a lack of effort, they

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have been contacted and are just very busy right now. Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr. suggested telling Mesabi Bituminous that it needs to be done before winter.

A sanitary storm line needs repair that is in the same area where the State is putting in the storm shoreline, Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr. suggested Public Works Director Sam Lautigar go over there and check into it.

Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr., contacted the Minnesota Highway Department about obtaining 2 lights by Summit Street and Highway 135. There is a program where the State puts the lights up and we take it over.

Councilor Rudy Vertachnik inquired when the second culvert would be removed from the cemetery, stating they took the one by the gas plant but there is still another culvert there to be removed. Mayor Karl Oberstar, Jr. stated that Public Works Director Sam Lautigar can reach out to him about it.

Reports – Staff, Boards & Council:

Fire Chief Anthony Nemanick: Per Interim Clerk/Treasurer Lynn Lorey, they have a ladder truck that needs to be inspected. The cost is \$936 and it is in the budget. She then inquired with the council if there is anything needed for that request. Councilor Paul Skrbec stated it needs council approval because it is more than \$500, per the City Charter. Councilor Bob Pontinen stated in the past, if it's in the budget, it doesn't need council approval. Councilor Paul Skrbec referenced the City Charter: Purchases and contracts. The city clerk shall be the chief purchasing agent for the city. All city purchases and contracts shall be made or left by the city clerk when the amount involved does not exceed \$500 provided, however, expenditures of budgeted expenses contained within the approved city budget shall be permitted without any further action. So essentially, if it's a budgeted item, you don't have to bring it for approval.

For additional information: The city contains appropriate controls to allow greater spending authorities up to \$5,000 in circumstances that the city determines are critical needs for the good and orderly operation of the city, however, the application of the rule cannot be avoided by breaking purchases into parts. All other purchases shall be made by contracts led by the council. The \$5,000 spending limit essentially gives the clerk the authority to make emergency expenditures. If the authority is used, it does need to be reported back to the council.

Nathan Moors, S.E.H., for City Engineer Matt Reid: Nothing to report at this time, but available for questions. A summary of the manhole project was given to the council; it is an addition from the existing contract. It includes where they are as far as surplus and includes the addendum to the work.

Clerk/Treasurer Lynn Lorey will get an update from Matt regarding extra funding, if can be used for other projects.

Motion by Councilor Paul Skrbec, seconded by Councilor Ryan Redepenning to approve the S.E.H. contract in the amount of \$64,630 not to exceed. MCU

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Old Business:

Check Register:

- a. Check register 7/27/2026 – 7/28/2026
- b. Check register 8/3/2026 – 8/6/2026

Timesheets for Employees for 7/19/2026 – 8/1/2026

Motion by Councilor Paul Skrbec, seconded by Councilor Ryan Redepinning, to approve the 7/27/2026 -7/28/2026 and 8/3/2026 – 8/6/2026 check registers. MCU

Timesheets for Employees 7/19/2026 – 8/1/2026

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

Motion by Karl Obertar, Jr. seconded by Councilor Paul Skrbec, to approve the timesheets for 7/19/2026 – 8/1/2026. MCU

Roll call vote: 5 to 0, motion passes unanimously.

Approval from the plumbing inspector has finally come through on the Community Center project. The contractors are making a punch list at the end of August.

New Business:

Motion by Councilor Paul Skrbec, seconded by Councilor Ryan Redepinning to approve Land Use permit for Kevin Niesen for a storage shed. MCU

Motion by Councilor Rudy Vertachnik, seconded by Councilor Ryan Redepinning to table the Land Use permit for Steve Fenske for a fence at this time. More information is needed (materials, height). MCU

PERA payments were not made by the previous clerk for 2025 and 2026. Clerk/Treasurer Lynn Lorey informed the council that those payments would be made and are budgeted items.

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

Motion by Karl Oberstar, Jr., seconded by Councilor Ryan Redepinning to approve using charitable gambling funds to pay for the October 12th-16th rental of the kitchen and dining room for the Gilbert Community Methodist church to make pasties. MCU

Mary Lou Sixberry will reach out to Public Works Director Sam Lautigar to see about storing items at the Community Center again.

Motion by Councilor Rudy Vertachnik seconded by Councilor Ryan Redepinning, to recess meeting at 7:20 PM for Closed Session. MCU

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Reconvene the Regular City Council meeting at 9:44PM

Roll call taken: All present.

Motion by Councilor Rudy Vertachnik, seconded by Councilor Paul Skrbec to add a closed session for contract negotiations for Interim Clerk Lorey to the next meeting on August 18th. MCU

Motion by Councilor Rudy Vertachnik, seconded by Councilor Paul Skrbec, to adjourn meeting at 9:46 PM. MCU

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

ATTEST:

Lynn Lorey, Interim Clerk/Treasurer

Karl Oberstar Jr., Mayor