Galesburg City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE:	November 2, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
PLACE:	City Council Chambers, 55 West Tompkins Street, Galesburg, IL
COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mayor Peter Schwartzman, Council Members Angelica Mangieri, Wendel Hunigan, Charles Reynolds, Dwight White, Heather Acerra, Greg Saul, and Steve Cheesman.
COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:	None
OTHERS PRESENT:	City Manager Eric Hanson, City Attorney Dan Alcorn, and City Clerk Kelli Bennewitz.

Called to order by Mayor Schwartzman at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call #1: Present: Mayor Peter Schwartzman, Council Members Angelica Mangieri, Wendel Hunigan, Charles Reynolds, Dwight White, Heather Acerra, Greg Saul, and Steve Cheesman, 8.

Mayor Schwartzman declared a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Deacon Michael Crummer gave the invocation.

Council Member Reynolds moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve the minutes of the City Council's regular meeting of October 19, 2026.
Roll Call #2:
Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.
Nays: None
Absent: None
Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Reverend Andrew Jowers addressed the Council, noting that he hadn't been able to attend a meeting in a while and that he was glad to be present and expressed his appreciation for the opening prayer. He reflected on the recent Halloween holiday, using the metaphor of "cultural costumes" to encourage recognition of a shared, common humanity. He commended the Mayor, Council Members, and city staff for their commitment to local democracy, highlighting Galesburg's rich historical and religious heritage, and cited scripture regarding love and brotherhood. He spoke about historical injustice and appealed to the Council for fairness, unity, and justice. He added that voters shape the direction of the country and urged everyone to consider what is best for all residents of Galesburg regardless of economic status, education, or political beliefs. He also encouraged everyone to welcome Dr. Sheila Coussens-Martin, the new CUSD 205 Superintendent, to Galesburg.

Kathryn Packingham addressed the Council as the Board Chair for VNA Community Services and owner of Caring Senior Service. She reported that Caring Senior Service employs 76 caregivers and three staff members, serving 75 clients within Galesburg and 83 countywide. She stated that during the last fiscal year, the VNA provided nearly 40,000 home-delivered meals to Galesburg addresses, accounting for over 80% of their meal program. She also noted the challenges of rising food costs and reduced funding avenues. She stated that the VNA raised over $145,000 last year and had a $25,000 commitment from the Town of the City of Galesburg. On behalf of the VNA, she formally requested a $100,000 investment from the City of Galesburg. The VNA would provide quarterly progress and expenditure reports in return. Ms. Packingham requested that a funding proposal be placed on the next City Council agenda for a vote to allow their board to plan and for their residents to know where services stand financially. She also announced an upcoming Senior Community Town Hall scheduled for Friday, December 11th, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Public Library, and thanked Council Member Cheeseman for attending the previous session.

Jeannette Chernin addressed the Council and encouraged members of the public listening to participate in the election tomorrow by casting their votes between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., emphasizing the importance of voting and making sure that every vote is counted.

Lisa Klaes addressed the Council, stating that she is also a resident of San Antonio, Texas, and owns property on Clark Street and is a former local business owner. She wants to continue investing in the community but stated that a lack of transparency and clarity regarding the City's budget presents an obstacle. She specifically noted the allocation of hotel/motel taxes collected from her local Airbnb rental property, noting that she hasn't been able to obtain definitive information regarding where these funds are directed. She raised additional concerns regarding public feedback and funding allocations for infrastructure, VNA support, and services for the unhoused and senior populations, and the need for clear financial accounting to enable residents to make informed decisions.

CONSENT AGENDA #2026-20

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion.

26-4064
Approve the purchase of insurance policies from the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association for January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027. Policies include general liability, property damage, auto liability, public official bonds, and law enforcement liability.

26-8019
Approve bills in the amount of $365,054.59 and advance checks in the amount of $551,847.27.

Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve Consent Agenda 2026-20.
Roll Call #3:
Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.
Nays: None
Absent: None
Chairman declared the motion carried by omnibus vote.

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

26-1018
Council Member Reynolds moved, seconded by Council Member Saul, to approve Ordinance 26-3776 on final reading amending Appendix F of Chapter 76 of the Galesburg Municipal Code designating Robertson Avenue at Michigan Avenue a yield intersection.
Roll Call #4:
Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.
Nays: None
Absent: None
Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-1019
Ordinance on first reading amending the zoning for the property at 1970 East Main Street from B-2, General Business, to R-1B, Single Family Residential.

26-2029
Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to approve Resolution 26-40 determining the 2026 Property Tax Levy which does not exceed $11,415,462 which is not more than 105% of the aggregate extensions for the 2025 tax levy, which was about $10,871,869. Because the increase does not exceed 105 percent, a truth in taxation public hearing is not required.
Roll Call #5:
Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.

Nays: None
Absent: None
Chairman declared the motion carried.

26-2030
Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Cheesman, to approve Resolution 26-41 establishing December 21, 2026 at 5:50 p.m. in the City Council Chambers for a public hearing to consider the Redevelopment Plan and Project for the South Henderson Street Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Project Area (TIF 7).
Roll Call #6:
Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.
Nays: None
Absent: None
Chairman declared the motion carried.

BIDS, PETITIONS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

26-3036
Council Member Acerra moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to waive normal purchasing policies and approve the bid from BLD Services LLC in the amount of $510,380 for the South Street Storm Sewer Lining Project.
Roll Call #7:
Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.
Nays: None
Absent: None
Chairman declared the motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (AGREEMENTS, APPROVALS, ETC.)

Council Member Saul moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to sit as the Town Board. The motion carried.

TOWN BUSINESS

26-9022
Trustee Acerra moved, seconded by Trustee White, to approve Town bills and warrants to be drawn in payment of same.

Fund Title	Amount
Town Fund	$268.50
General Assistance Fund	$2,833.86

IMRF Fund	
Social Security/Medicare Fund	
Liability Fund	
Audit Fund	
Total	$3,102.36

Roll Call #8:
Ayes: Trustees Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.
Nays: None
Absent: None
Chairman declared the motion carried.

Trustee Saul moved, seconded by Trustee Acerra, to resume as the City Council. The motion carried.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Council Member Saul reminded everyone about the closure of the railroad intersection at Linwood Road near the former Maytag facility and that drivers will have to use the viaduct or Henderson Street as alternate routes.

Council Member Cheesman noted the opening of a new shelter at Iowa Court as the second facility established through a partnership with the Knox County Housing Authority, City, and the 708 Mental Health Board. He also commended the progress made across various community initiatives, including street improvements, housing, job growth, services for the unhoused, community center, and organizational transparency, while emphasizing the commitment to continued progress. He also announced the upcoming Veterans Day parade on Sunday, encouraging support and recognition for veterans and active-duty service members. He noted that Election Day is tomorrow, encouraging residents to research candidates thoroughly regarding their character, record, and positions, and to vote for the best candidates regardless of demographic background or party affiliation.

Council Member Mangieri echoed comments regarding election day tomorrow. She also stated that there are several ongoing community food drives, including one hosted by WGIL, and directed interested residents to check Facebook for details.

Council Member Hunigan paid tribute to firefighters, highlighting their essential roles as first responders, community helpers, and role models. He commended the members of the Galesburg Fire Department for inviting him to observe a training exercise at the Dale May Training Site on October 22nd. During the visit, he was able to tour the two-story facility, met with fire personnel, and observed the specialized facility designed to simulate real-world emergency environments.

He noted several key operational details regarding the department, including that the City operates three fire stations staffed by 40 firefighters working 24-hour shifts followed by 48

hours off duty to ensure continuous community protection. He emphasized the necessity of ongoing professional education and highlighted equipment recently approved by the City Council, such as thermal imaging cameras, which enable firefighters to navigate dark, smoke-filled environments and communicate effectively during structural fires.

Describing the training exercise, he reported that personnel responded to a simulated fire conducted involving controlled flames, heavy smoke, and wearing full protective gear. The exercise required firefighters to navigate rapid temperature increases and limited air supply while locating and rescuing weighted mannequins. He expressed his gratitude to the firefighters for their dedication, physical endurance, and ongoing commitment to public safety.

Council Member Reynolds echoed Council Member Hunigan's sentiments regarding the Fire Department and offered thanks for their service. He also encouraged citizens to exercise their constitutional right to vote in tomorrow's election.

Council Member White encouraged everyone to look up Dorothy Parker, co-writer of "A Star Is Born," noting her background and accomplishments were very enlightening. He shared that he enjoyed participating in the Treat Street event and interacting with the public and local youth. He also added that he attended the Carl Sandburg men's basketball team's season opener, where they secured a 19-point victory, and encouraged community attendance at the upcoming women's basketball game on Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

Echoing remarks from Pastor Jowers, he appealed for humanity, emphasizing shared human experiences, common needs, and mutual respect regardless of ethnicity or religious background. Regarding economic development, he noted the TIF district initiative located within the Fourth Ward and remembers when that ward was a thriving industrial center anchored by employers such as Maytag and Butler Manufacturing. He's optimistic that this will revitalize the corridor by attracting manufacturing and commercial business, helping to restore economic activity and community pride.

Mayor Schwartzman encouraged residents to vote, noting that while early voting had concluded, voters still had tomorrow to cast their ballots either at their designated precinct or at City Hall. He thanked City employees who gave up their time on Saturday to participate in Treat Street, noting the positive community feedback he received on the event.

The Mayor also extended his appreciation for the many ongoing City endeavors, emphasizing that numerous positive developments continue to occur throughout Galesburg. Addressing members of the public who spoke during the meeting, he clarified that immediate responses are typically not provided during the public comment portion of the meeting, but many of the Council Members usually remain available for informal discussions after the meeting.

There being no further business, Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Roll Call #9:
Ayes: Council Members Mangieri, Hunigan, Reynolds, White, Acerra, Saul, and Cheesman, 7.
Nays: None
Absent: None
Chairman declared the motion carried.

Peter D. Schwartzman, Mayor

Kelli R. Bennewitz, City Clerk