

CITY OF GALESVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

January 9, 2025

Mayor Tom Thatcher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council attending: Bruce Bender, Dave Carlson, Randy Larson, Diane Redsten, Jesse Swing, Ryker Todd.

Council Absent: none

Others in attendance: Public Works Director-Todd Peterson, Library Director- Laura Oanes, Police Chief-Paul Evenson, Trempealeau County Times-Zach Rastall, Amanda Thoma, Dan Lilla, Meghan Docken, Jones-R-Chad, Schulz-E-Tory-Kale, Rob Grover

Mayor Thatcher led the Pledge of Allegiance

Open meeting laws have been met by posting the agenda on the community board at City Hall, Galesville Public Library, website and distributed to all news media requesting notification in accordance with the open meeting laws on or before 4:00 p.m. on the day before the meeting.

Motion by Diane Redsten to approve the regular council meeting minutes from December 12, 2024; seconded by Ryker Todd. Ayes -6, Nays -0, Motion carried

Motion by Diane Redsten to approve the December 2024 Treasurer's Report and Cash Accounts Balance Reports; seconded by Randy Larson. Ayes -6, Nays -0, Motion carried.

No public comments

Paul Evenson, Police Chief was given the opportunity to discuss the monthly report submitted.

Laura Oanes, Library Director was given the opportunity to discuss the monthly report submitted.

Mayor Thatcher, Chairperson of the Plan Commission, discussed the width and extension of S 12<sup>th</sup> Street, donation of land from Ridgeview-Gale Assoc LTD and request for price for comprehensive plan. No recommendations to the council at this time.

Motion by Dave Carlson to recommend the petition to revise Title 15, Construction Standards, Codes Adopted, Section 15-1-4; seconded by Jesse Swing. Ayes -6, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Ryker Todd, Chairperson of the Police, Fire & Personnel Committee reported that the current agreement with Employee Benefits Corporation to maintain the Health Reimbursement Arrangement will not work as they presented. Claims will have to be submitted by the employee through a portal or through the City Clerk.

Motion by Ryker Todd to amend the agreement with EBC for employees to remit claims through the portal; seconded by Dave Carlson. Ayes -6, Nays -0, Motion carried.

The change to the Personnel Manual to clarify Law Enforcement Holiday Compensation was tabled until there is more information.

Jesse Swing discussed the error of \$5,150.40 on the 2025 budget spreadsheet and the agreement with the Fire Department allocations to accounts need to be made to balance the budget.

Motion by Jesse Swing to approve changes to the 2025 budget by decreasing the attorney budget \$5,050.40, decrease the General Public Buildings \$3,100.00, increase Fire Department \$3,000.00 and increasing the Total Library/Comm Room \$5,150.40; seconded by Ryker Todd. Vote: Bender-yes, Carlson-yes, Larson-yes, Redsten-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes.

The committee reviewed the interest rate at Bluff View Bank, 2024 tax collection, December overtime report, bills for payment, bank statements, payroll, check registers, journal entries and budget comparison.

Dave Carlson, Chairperson of the Streets & Sidewalks Committee, discussed the conversation about the pedestrian safety issues in the downtown area. There was discussion of removing 2 parking spots between the pharmacy and Coulee Boutique due to the difficulty of seeing pedestrians as you are heading North on 53. There was more discussion on removing parking on all 4 quadrants of the area.

Motion by Dave Carlson to eliminate the parking spot on North bound Main Street in the SE quadrant of the intersection closest to Gale Avenue; seconded by Bruce Bender. Discussion of the proper notification on the agenda to the public was discussed. There was concern of vehicles using the vacant spot to pass vehicles turning. Pedestrian visibility, bump outs, RRFB's and placing flexible pedestrian crossing signs ahead were discussed and are not proposed to bring forward at this time. Ayes -3, Nays -3, Mayor broke the tie with Nay. Motion failed.

There were (16) \$10 parking citations issued during the last snow fall. Officer Medema's opinion is that some of the problems with people ignoring the parking regulations is that it is more convenient to pay the fine than to move their car. He recommends increasing the fine.

Motion by Dave Carlson to draft an ordinance for submission in February that would change the forfeiture for winter parking regulations from \$10 to \$40; seconded by Randy Larson. Ayes -6, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Dan Lilla, Meghan Docken and Amanda Thoma representatives from Trempealeau Youth Sports Club and Galesville Area Summer Recreation gave an update on the status of the co-op of the programs and the participation. There were 72 participants from the city.

Dan Lilla also had a short video on the Parkland Project in Trempealeau.

Motion by Diane Redsten to approve paying the bills: General: \$57,654.36; Sewer: \$5,294.03; Water: \$4,442.16; Library: \$3,757.99 Total: \$71,148.54; seconded by Jesse Swing. Vote: Bender-yes, Carlson-yes, Larson-yes, Redsten-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

Correspondence and other reports

Motion by Dave Carlson to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Diane Redsten. Ayes -6, Nays -0, Motion carried.

**X**

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Jennifer Hess  
City Clerk/Treasurer