

CITY OF GALESVILLE

COUNCIL MEETING

November 13, 2025

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

Council attending: Dave Carlson, Rob Grover, Randy Larson, Jean Seely, Jesse Swing, Ryker Todd

Council Absent: None

Others in attendance: Attorney- Bruce Hart, Library Director- Laura Oanes, Police Chief- Paul Evenson, Trempealeau County Times-Madeline Wilcox, Davy Engineering – Mark Davy, David Shimek and James Maloney, Officer- Caleb Correra, Adam McRae, Lucas Teska, Garrick Micke, Megan Micke.

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.

Announcement of closed session under Section 19.85 (1)(C) Wis. Stats.: considering employment of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, specifically to discuss compensation and performance evaluation of public employees. Governing Body members, the municipal attorney and municipal clerk may attend the closed session.

Motion by Dave Carlson to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes from October 8, 2025; seconded by Ryker Todd. Ayes -5, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Motion by Randy Larson to approve the Council Meeting minutes from October 9, 2025; seconded by Dave Carlson. Ayes -5, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Motion by Jean Seely to approve the Special Council Meeting minutes from October 16, 2025; seconded by Randy Larson. Ayes -5, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Motion by Dave Carlson to approve the Special Council Meeting minutes from October 20, 2025; seconded by Ryker Todd. Ayes -5, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Motion by Ryker Todd to approve the October 2025 Treasurer's Report and Cash Accounts Balance Reports; seconded by Jean Seely. Ayes -5, Nays -0, Motion carried.

There were no public comments

Motion by Jesse Swing to suspend the rules to consider item a. Update on the West Side Water, Sewer & Street Project; seconded by Ryker Todd. Ayes -5, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Mark Davy was in attendance to answer questions and address concerns over the project not being completed this fall. James Mahoney said the sidewalks would be done this week and that they are leaving the driveways gravel to avoid damage to cement. Sidewalk corners will not be completed because they must have the ADA compliant ramps installed. McCabe will be coming to prepare the streets for winter use and will be responsible for any maintenance that is required until the project is complete. The city will be responsible for regular winter maintenance of the streets. In the spring curb and gutter will be poured first and then the black top. The roads will have an opportunity to stabilize over the winter and make for a better base in the spring. Mark recommended keeping track of any additional costs the city incurs over the winter to see if they can be taken to the contractor if necessary. At this point the contractor is willing to work to complete the project and it is in our best interest to work with him. It would cost more money to bring in another contractor at this point to complete the project. Streets will be open for traffic as soon as possible. We appreciate the understanding and patience of residents that have been affected.

Paul Evenson, Police Chief, had no additional comments to the monthly report that was submitted.

Laura Oanes, Library Director, had no additional comments to the monthly report that was submitted.

Todd Peterson, Director of Public Works was not present at the meeting.

There were (3) permits issued by the Building Inspector in October

The Park Commission met and discussed the temporary decoration of city park space for an extended amount of time. There was concern that the application is intimidating and there shouldn't be a fee. The intent isn't to restrict the decoration but to have documentation of who is responsible for the decorations.

Alderpersion Rob Grover arrived at 7:18.

Motion by Ryker Todd to adopt ordinance Sec. 12-1-7 Decoration of City Park Space as recommended by the commission; seconded by Randy Larson. Ayes -4, Nays -2, Motion carried.

Motion by Dave Carlson to recess the meeting until completion of the 2026 Budget Hearing; seconded by Jesse Swing. Ayes -6, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Mayor Thatcher called the Public Hearing for the 2026 Budget to order at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting was opened to public comments. The mayor called three times for public comments, being none.

Motion by Dave Carlson to close the public comments; seconded by Ryker Todd. Ayes -6, Nays -0, Motion carried.

	2025	2026	Percent of
Revenues:	Budget	Proposed Budget	Change
Taxes: Property Tax	768,569.00	911,816.00	18.64%
Taxes: Other	28,000.00	30,000.00	7.14%
Special Assessments	0.00	0.00	NA
Intergovernmental Revenues	597,294.98	584,912.09	-2.07%
Licenses/Permits	7,750.00	12,700.00	63.87%
Fines/Forfeitures/Penalties	1,100.00	1,100.00	0.00%
Public Charges for Services	2,300.00	2,200.00	-4.35%
Intergovernmental Charges	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00%
Miscellaneous Revenue	186,202.00	108,332.63	-41.82%
Other Financing Sources	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Revenues	1,594,215.98	1,654,060.72	3.75%
Cash Balance Applied	0.00	0.00	
Total Revenue/Cash Balance Applied	1,594,215.98	1,654,060.72	3.75%

	2025	2026	Percent of
Expenditures:	Budget	Proposed Budget	Change
General Government	214,953.36	247,144.37	14.98%
Public Safety	554,108.90	574,108.75	3.61%
Public Works	234,635.23	232,451.83	-0.93%
Health/Human Services	7,695.00	7,740.00	0.58%
Culture/Recreation/Education	127,090.10	103,436.53	-18.61%
Conservation/Development	33,768.01	29,853.25	-11.59%
Capital Outlay	166,953.21	113,000.00	-32.32%
Operating Transfers, Debt Service & Library	255,012.18	346,326.00	35.81%
Grant Expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Expenditures:	1,594,215.98	1,654,060.72	3.75%

Motion by Dave Carlson to approve the budget as presented; seconded by Jesse Swing. Vote: Carlson- yes, Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Jean Seely to adjourn the public hearing; seconded by Randy Larson. Ayes -6, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Motion by Ryker Todd to reconvene the regular council meeting; seconded by Jean Seely. Ayes -6, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Motion by Jean Seely to approve the Decoration of City Park Space Permit as recommended by the commission; seconded by Dave Carlson. Ayes -5, Nays -1, Motion carried.

Jean had a concern with the refundable deposit amount listed on the permit in the packet being \$0.00. The Park Commission wanted the council to set the deposit amount and list in the fee schedule.

Motion by Dave Carlson to amend the motion to make a refundable deposit of \$50.00; seconded by Jesse Swing. Ayes -5, Nays -1, Motion carried.

Dave Carlson, Chairperson of the Public Utility Committee, reported that they met per the minutes submitted.

Motion by Dave Carlson to approve Resolution 2025-009 Authorizing an Increase of REC Charge and Sewer Usage Rate for 2026; seconded by Jesse Swing. Vote: Carlson- yes, Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

The volumetric charge for sewer will be \$10.70 per 1,000 gallons and the REC charge will be \$43.00 per quarter.

Motion by Dave Carlson to approve the 2026 Sewer Budget as presented; seconded by Randy Larson. Vote: Carlson- yes, Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dave Carlson to approve the 2026 Water Utility Budget; seconded by Jean Seely. Vote: Carlson-yes, Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

Jesse Swing, Chairperson of the Finance & Insurance committee, reported that they met per the minutes submitted.

Motion by Jesse Swing to open a non-interest-bearing account for Safe Drinking Water Loan at Bluff View Bank; seconded by Ryker Todd. Vote: Carlson- yes, Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Jesse Swing to close Rehab Account at Bluff View Bank and issue check to DOA for balance; seconded by Ryker Todd. Vote: Carlson- yes, Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

The city participated in the Community Development Block Grant program that has been discontinued by the state. The program allowed residents with R-1 zoning to apply for assistance with repairs to their home interest fee until the property was sold or the owner passed away. Jennifer has reconciled the current grants with the Department of Administration. The remaining money in the account has to be turned over to the DOA and no further applications can be processed by the city. Future payoffs will be deposited into the general checking and a \$250 administration fee kept by the city and the remainder sent to the DOA.

Motion by Jesse Swing to close Money Market Plus Account at Bluff View Bank and transfer funds to Money Market Account allocating \$90,175.00 to the replacement of storm drain; seconded by Ryker Todd. Vote: Carlson- yes, Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

Future financing for 1 squad car will be looked at by obtaining loan rates from Ford Credit and other lenders before making a recommendation to the council. We are waiting for another bid on the repairs to the roof on the

library for consideration. The intent would be to use cash to pay for the replacement of the AC unit on the roof of the library.

Motion by Jean Seely to approve Application for Payment No. 2 from McCabe Construction, Inc, for the West Side Project for \$526,166.19; seconded by Randy Larson. Vote: Carlson- yes, Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dave Carlson to approve the annual lease for 6 acres of cropland and agreement for mowing services of “Old Dump Site” with James Emerson.; seconded by Jesse Swing. Ayes -6, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Motion by Rob Grover to approve Street Use Permit from Galesville Area Chamber of Commerce for December 13, 2025; seconded by Ryker Todd. Ayes -6, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Motion by Ryker Todd to approve application for Temporary “Class B” Wine Alcohol Beverage License for Garden of Eden Preservation Society on December 5-6, 2025; seconded by Dave Carlson. Ayes -6, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Motion by Dave Carlson to approve application for Temporary Operator’s License for Tom Sherwin on December 5-6, 2025; seconded by Ryker Todd. Ayes -6, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Motion by Jesse Swing to confirm appointment of General Engineering Company as building inspector; seconded by Rob Grover. After discussion Jesse rescinded his motion; seconded by Rob.

The mayor recommended sending the contract to the Plan Commission.

There was discussion about the fee schedule that was presented by GEC.

Joe Nordie will continue as the building inspector until a new one can be appointed.

The appointment of GEC would eliminate the requirement for applying for another permit from the County.

Motion by Jesse Swing to adopt ordinance 7-1-26 Temporary Keeping of Goats; seconded by Randy Larson. Vote: Carlson- no, Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

There is currently an ordinance that prohibits goats from being kept in the city. The request was brought forward to allow goats to eliminate noxious weeds instead of using chemicals.

Dave felt there should be an opportunity for the public to have input via public hearing.

Motion by Jesse Swing adopt the Temporary Goat Grazing Permit; seconded by Rob Grover. Vote: Carlson- no, Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

The application includes notifying neighbors and many other things that will be verified by the city before the permit is issued.

Motion by Ryker Todd to amend Ordinance 13-1-143(g) Temporary Fences; seconded by Jean Seely. Vote: Carlson- no, Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

The permit requires the installation of and electrified fence to contain the goats on the property being permitted.

Motion by Jesse Swing approve Accounts Payable and Manual Checks for General: \$181,451.93, Sewer: \$25,699.61, Water \$15,241.08, Capital Project Fund \$787,628.64; Library \$3,996.10; Total \$1,014,017.36; seconded by Dave Carlson. Vote: Carlson-yes; Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

Correspondence and other reports submitted included:

October budget comparison detail for General, Sewer and Water funds

Lake Marinuka Protection & Rehabilitation District minutes, September 23, 2025

Galesville Area Chamber of Commerce minutes, September 10, 2025

Police, Fire & Personnel Committee minutes, September 16, 2025

Motion by Dave Carlson to go into closed session under Section 19.85 (1)(C) Wis. Stats.: considering employment of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, specifically to discuss compensation and performance evaluation of public employees. The municipal attorney and city clerk may attend the closed session; seconded by Jean Seely. Vote: Carlson-yes; Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

City clerk didn't attend the closed session.

Motion by Dave Carlson to reconvene into open session for purposes of taking action on matters discussed in closed session; seconded by Jean Seely. Ayes -6, Nays -0, Motion carried.

No action taken on matters discusses in closed session.

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

X

Jennifer Hess
City Clerk/Treasurer