

CITY OF GALESVILLE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

February 12, 2026

Mayor Tom Thatcher called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Council attending: Dave Carlson, Rob Grover, Randy Larson, Jean Seely, Jesse Swing, Ryker Todd
Council Absent: none

Others in attendance: City Attorney Dan Arndt, Sheriff Erica Koxlen, Chief Deputy Wayne Dahl, District Attorney John Sacia, Police Chief Paul Evenson, Police Officers Dustin Barton, Caleb Correa, Andrew Dahl, Public Works Director Todd Peterson, Deputy Dan Wiczorek, Andy Parrish, RL Sacia, SL Sacia, LaVonne Peterson, Bill Wagner, Trempealeau County Times-Madeline Wilcox, Tory-Kale Schulz, Victoria Rey

Note: Alderperson Ryker Todd departed the meeting at 5:10 p.m. due to a fire call.

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.

The meeting was opened to public comments.

Andy Parrish spoke about the process in which the flock camera was put into place.

Mayor Thatcher clarified that installation followed Ordinance 2-2-3(b)(1). No city funds or employee labor were utilized for the installation on the city-owned pole.

Attorney Arndt provided a legal opinion that the Mayor acted within his executive authority to cooperate with law enforcement and noted that the city bears minimal liability for privacy actions in this matter.

Sheriff Koxlien and Chief Deputy Dahl presented information regarding the Flock Safety license plate readers (LPRs)

Cameras record vehicle makes, model, color, and plate number. They do not identify drivers or run owner information automatically.

A web portal is being developed to allow public viewing of search counts and participating organizations every 24 hours.

The County does not share data with Federal partners and filters searches related to immigration or reproductive rights.

The system was reviewed by the Law Enforcement Committee and approved within the County budget.

Council members raised concerns regarding public privacy, the lack of a written contract between the City and County, and the integration of private data (e.g., Ring doorbells) into the broader Flock network.

Motion by Jean Seely that the City of Galesville direct the mayor to request the immediate removal of the Flock Safety license plate reader camera from the city-owned pole north of the Beaver Creek bridge over US Highway 53/South Main Street, and that the city revoke any prior authorization for its installation; seconded by Dave Carlson. Vote: Carlson-yes; Grover-no, Larson-no, Seely-yes, Swing-no. Motion failed

Members debated the merits of the camera for crime solving versus the privacy concerns of citizens.

Motion by Jean Seely that the City of Galesville adopt a policy requiring Common Council approval prior to the installation, activation, or authorization of any municipal security surveillance system on stationary public property within the city; seconded by Dave Carlson. Vote: Carlson-yes; Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes. Motion carried.

Council members can provide the clerk with input that will be included in the packet for a Committee of The Whole meeting to discuss and compile a policy and ordinance for security surveillance systems.

Motion by Dave Carlson to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Rob Grover. Ayes -5, Nays -0, Motion carried.

X

Jennifer Hess
City Clerk/Treasurer