

CITY OF GALESVILLE

COUNCIL MEETING

September 10, 2026

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

Council attending: Bruce Bender, Dave Carlson, Randy Larson, Jean Seely, Jesse Swing

Council Absent: Richard Sacia,

Others in attendance: Attorney – Bruce Hart, Director of Public Works – Todd Peteson, Interim Police Chief – Dustin Barton, Library Director – Laura Oanes, Bethany St. Joseph Corp - Megan Feirtag and Joe Kruse, Trempealeau County Times- Lucas Riley, Richard L Sacia.

Aldersperson Dave Carlson 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) and (g) of the Wisconsin Statutes for considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction and for conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy in litigation in which the governmental body is or is likely to become involved.

Public Comments

Motion by Jean Seely and seconded by Randy Larson to approve the Council Meeting minutes from August 13, 2026. Motion carried 5-0

Motion by Jesse Swing and seconded by Dave Carlson to approve the August 2026 Treasurer's Report and Cash Accounts Balance Reports. Motion carried 5-0

Dustin Barton, Interim Police Chief, had no additional comments to the report submitted

Laura Oanes, Library Director, had no additional comments to the report submitted

Todd Peterson, Director of Public Works, had no additional comments.

There were no permits issued by the Building Inspector.

Jean Seely, Chairperson of the Police, Fire & Personnel Committee, reported that they met per the minutes submitted.

Motion by Jean Seely and seconded by Dave Carlson to approve letter of agreement with PeopleFirst Leadership Partners, Inc. for Police Chief recruitment services, consistent with the committees August 10th motion a minimum project fee of \$7,500.00 and a maximum fee of 20% of the position's projected annual wage not to exceed \$20,800.00 based on the advertised \$39 to \$50 per hour range with expenses billed at cost. Vote: Bender-yes, Carlson- yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Jean Seely and seconded by Bruce Bender to approve changing health, dental, vision, life, disability and accidental insurance coverage to Employee Trust Funds effective January 1, 2027 per the Police, Fire & Personnel Committees recommendation on August 19th. With the city paying 88% of the monthly premium employees will pay 12%. The cities health insurance contribution limited to 88% of the lowest ETF plan option. Vote: Bender-yes, Carlson- yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-no. Motion carried.

Jean Seely, Chairperson of the IT Committee reported that they met per the minutes submitted. No action to be taken.

Jesse Swing, Chairperson of Finance and Insurance Committee reported that they met per the minutes submitted. No action to be taken

Megan Feirtag, Interim Chief Executive Officer for Bethany St. Joseph Corp, introduced a Capital Improvement Plan for Marinuka Manor and Eden House. Joe Kruse shared that there are real concerns about continuing to operate and provide care without addressing some of the facility issues that have been identified. A consultant recommended that over the next 10 years it will cost over 5 million dollars on the facility to keep it operational. There is a fund owned by the city with about 2 million dollars in it to use and they recommend leaving \$500,000 in the in the event there was a crisis or emergency. In order for Bethany St. Joseph to decide if they are able to continue to manage the facility hinges on the capital needs for the nursing home

They are going to prioritize the capital needs and bring it back to the council.

Megan also shared the proposed 5-year Management Agreement from Bethany St. Joseph Corp for Marinuka Manor and Eden House that is up for renewal in July of 2027. According to the agreement either party has to give a 180-day notice if either wish to discontinue. The most significant change is going to be with the management fees to Bethany St. Joseph going from \$4,000 a month to \$25,000 per month. This increase will be to break even for the services that they provide.

This will be a continued conversation that will need to be resolved by January 1st.

Motion by Dave Carlson and seconded by Randy Larson to approve the Street Use Permit from G-E-T School District for September 18, 2026. Motion carried 5-0

Motion by Jean Seely and seconded by Dave Carlson to approve the update to the employee manual for the opt-out incentive. Vote: Bender-yes, Carlson- yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Jesse Swing and seconded by Dave Carlson to approve applying for a 3% Simplified Rate Increase with Public Service Commission. Motion carried 5-0

Motion by Jesse Swing and seconded by Randy Larson to Approve Accounts Payable and Manual Checks for General: \$90,257.85 Sewer: \$30,450.63, Water \$14,066.05, Capital Project Fund \$19,612.00, Library \$10,289.69; Total \$164,676.22. Vote: Bender-yes, Carlson- yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes. Motion carried.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

- a. Police, Fire & Personnel 5:30 September 22, 2026
- b. Finance & Insurance 6:00 October 5, 2026
- c. Council 7:00 October 8, 2026

Correspondence and other reports submitted included:

August budget comparison detail for General, Sewer and Water funds

Galesville Chamber of Commerce minutes, July 8, 2026

Plan Commission minutes, August 18, 2026

Lake Marinuka Protection & Rehabilitation District minutes, June 23 and July 26, 2026

Motion by Dave Carlson and seconded by Jean Seely to convene into closed session under Section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes: Considering Employment, Promotion, compensation or Performance Evaluation Data of Any Public Employee Over Which the Governmental Body has Jurisdiction, specifically to review and discuss specific wage adjustment data for individual municipal staff members, including the Police Chief, Police Officers, Public Works Director, Public Works and Clerk Treasurer. In addition, under Statutory Authority: Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(g), which permits a closed session for conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy in litigation in which the governmental body is or is likely to become involved. Specifically for Notice of Claim filed against the municipality by Diane Nagle. Governing Body members, the municipal attorney and municipal clerk may attend the closed session. Vote: Bender-yes, Carlson- yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dave Carlson and seconded by Bruce Bender to reconvene into open session. Motion carried 5-0

Motion by Dave Carlson and seconded by Bruce Bender to recommend wage increases as discussed in closed session. Vote: Bender-yes, Carlson- yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dave Carlson and seconded by Randy Larson to deny the notice of claim filed against the City of Galesville by Diane Nagle. Vote: Bender-yes, Carlson- yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dave Carlson and seconded by Jesse Swing to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0

X

Jennifer Hess
City Clerk/Treasurer