

CITY OF GALESVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

September 14, 2023

Mayor Vince Howe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council attending: Vince Howe, Thomas Thatcher, Jean Wallner, Kelly Kreger, Diane Redsten, Dave Carlson, Tory-Kale Schulz. Council Absent: None Others in attendance: Attorney-Bruce Hart, Police Officer-Christian Medema, Public Works Director-Todd Peterson, Library Director-Laua Oanes, Trempealeau County Times-Ben Pierce, Jean Seely, Chad Jones, Fire Chief-Lucas Teska, Austin Heidlage, Bruce Bender, Diane Thatcher, Jacob Halama, Jim Riley, Brad Simonson, Dalton Nephew

Mayor Howe led the Pledge of Allegiance

Open meeting laws have been met

There was a public comment from Jean Seely in regards to the city employees speeding on West Ridge Avenue.

Mayor Howe announced the retirement of Police Officer Eric Puent and thanked him for his 8 years of service.

Motion by Kelly Kreger to approve the regular council meeting minutes from August 10, 2023; seconded by Dave Carlson. Ayes -6, Nays -0, motion carried.

Motion by Diane Redsten to approve the special council meeting minutes from August 16, 2023; seconded by Jean Wallner. Ayes -6, Nays -0, motion carried.

Motion by Kelly Kreger to approve the August 2023 Treasurer's Report and Cash Account Balance Report; seconded by Tom Thatcher. Ayes -6, Nays -0, motion carried.

Motion by Tom Thatcher to approve the August 2023 Police Report; seconded by Jean Wallner. Ayes -6, Nays -0, motion carried.

Motion by Tom Thatcher to approve the Galesville Public Library Director's Report; seconded by Kelly Kreger. Ayes -6, Nays -0, motion carried.

Tom Thatcher reported that the Police, Fire & Personnel Committee reviewed the flexible savings account for employees. It would cost the city \$1,170 regardless of participation and it would be implemented by the city. There was no action taken.

Diane Redsten reported that the Street's & Sidewalks Committee met to gather information from the public regarding changes to ordinances that were referred by the council. Revisions were done to both ordinances and a recommendation from the committee to bring changes to the council. The 2024 budget was discussed.

Dave Carlson reported that the Parks & Sanitation Committee met to develop a 2024 budget request that will be forwarded to Jennifer.

Jean Wallner reported that the Recreation Committee met to discuss the summer rec program to discuss the program and how it worked. The conclusion was to recommend to the council to go ahead with the same \$12,000.00 budget. They will also try and meet with the Trempealeau Youth Sports with the discussion of possible of one umbrella organization to cover all youth summer programs. There will need to be cooperation for both groups.

Kelly Kreger reported that the Finance Committee reviewed and approved the bills, reviewed the August 2023 Treasurer's report to the bank statements, verified check registers for payroll and accounting, verified journal entries, reviewed the stale dated check policy, reviewed paperless billing and auto pay for utility customers. A charge account has been opened at Express Mart for the Police Department. Reviewed the budget comparison and developed a revised Procurement Policy.

Motion by Kelly Kreger to adopt the Procurement Policy going forward; seconded by Jean Wallner. Ayes -6, Nays -0, motion carried.

Fire Chief Lucas Teska presented the council with information on a full-time fire chief for the Galesville fire department. The concern is that there are not enough fire fighters to respond to calls during the day. There is also concern of the vulnerability of the department during the day with the schools, nursing home, senior housing and factories. With a full-time chief they would be able to help manage any incidents from the get go with the ability to call in more resources if necessary. This position would also allow fire inspections twice a year between the city and the town, schedule required maintenance on the equipment, prepare and complete reports in a timely manner, and assist with recruitment of members. The department budget is split 50/50 with the town of Gale. Last year the request was for \$65,000, creating this position would add approximately \$40,000 to the budget. The Fire Board would come up with the recommendation of a hiring process. Other departments have chiefs that are business owners in the community and can use their discretion on using their time to complete the required tasks. Lucas is using PTO to complete the fire inspections and reports required of the chief.

Brad Simonson gave an update on the completion of the design development phase of the project at Old Main. The ceiling has been opened on the second floor so the system could be viewed. The current system would allow for 40 psf foot and needs to be at 100 psf. Three options were reviewed with the first being recommended to insert a steel channel. An MC 10x25 channel (10" tall with 3.25" flanges) will fit in the space using only every other joist for an estimate of \$84,000. The next step would be the construction document phase which would be drawing up the details and engineering and getting it out for bids. This council previously approved this phase for \$3,500.

Motion by Dave Carlson to have Brad proceed with phase 3 based on option 1; seconded by Tory-Kale Schulz. Vote: Thatcher-abstained, Schulz-yes, Kreger-yes, Carlson-yes, Wallner-yes, Redsten-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Jean Wallner to approve Application for License to Serve Fermented Malt Beverages and Intoxicating Liquors for Savanna McMahon and Kathryn Mead; seconded by Dave Carlson. Ayes -6, Nays -0, motion carried.

There was discussion about the request from Jake and Ashley Halama to use the city shop on December 2 for the Christmas Extravaganza. It was a great event last year and is a good idea for the community. There is concern about the equipment being parked outside and the amount of the traffic. Last year the event brought in over 500 people over a 6–8-hour period. It was recommended that they contact the school for possible availability. There was concern of setting a precedence for future requests for that property for use without a fee. The city has agreements and charges to use other city property. There is a cost incurred by the city for the time and labor for the event.

Motion by Tory-Kale Schulz to approve, just like last year, the request from Jake and Ashley Halama to hold the Christmas Extravaganza event at the city shop on December 2, 2023; seconded by Dave Carlson. Ayes-3, Nays-3 (Thatcher, Wallner, Kreger) Tie was broken by Vince with a No vote.

La Crosse Sign Group presented a quote for \$44,845.00 for (3) Galesville signs as recommended from the committee. The cost will be split evenly between the lion's club, chamber of commerce and the city. Reedy Concrete is going to cover the cost of (1) of the bases for a sign. The signs will not have wiring for lighting. The quote will be submitted for the budget so no action was taken.

Th Motion by Kelly Kreger to adopt Resolution 2023-02 adopting a policy for stale dated checks; seconded by Diane Redsten. Vote: Thatcher-yes, Schulz-yes, Kreger-yes, Carlson-yes, Wallner-yes, Redsten-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dave Carlson to approve the changes recommended in 8-1-5 and 8-1-7 as presented in the council packet; seconded by Kelly Kreger. Vote: Thatcher-yes, Schulz-yes, Redsten-yes, Kreger-yes, Carlson-yes, Wallner-yes. Motion carried.

Diane reviewed the changes recommended by the committee and attorney to 6-2-5.

Motion by Diane Redsten to table Ordinance 6-2-5 Obstructions and Encroachments and send back to the committee for reviewing attachments to the sign; seconded by Jean Wallner. Ayes-5, Nays-1 (Schultz), Motion carried.

Diane reviewed the changes recommended by the committee and attorney to 6-2-6.

Motion by Diane Redsten to table and take back to the committee to revise; seconded by Kelly Kreger. Ayes-6, Nays-0, motion carried.

Motion by Kelly Kreger to approve paying the bills: General: \$597,163.65; Sewer: \$16,502.00; Water: \$4,999.94; ARPA: \$7,096.00; Library: \$5,100.43; Total: \$630,862.02; seconded by Dave Carlson. Vote: Thatcher-yes, Schulz-yes, Kreger-yes, Carlson-yes, Wallner-yes, Redsten-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dave Carlson to convene in closed session Pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility; seconded by Tory-Kale Schulz. Vote: Thatcher-yes, Schulz-yes, Kreger-yes, Carlson-yes, Wallner-yes, Redsten-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dave Carlson to reconvene to open session; seconded by Tom Thatcher. Ayes -6, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Motion by Dave Carlson to forward the recommended wage adjustments that were discussed in closed session forward in the budget process; seconded by Kelly Kreger. Vote: Thatcher-yes, Schulz-yes, Kreger-yes, Carlson-yes, Wallner-yes, Redsten-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dave Carlson to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Tory-Kale Schulz. Ayes -6, Nays -0, Motion carried.

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Jennifer Hess  
City Clerk/Treasurer