

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
GALESBURG CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 3, 2008; 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
GALESBURG CITY HALL
200 E. MICHIGAN AVE.
GALESBURG, MI**

GALESBURG

200 E. Michigan Avenue
Galesburg, Michigan 49053
Phone: (269) 665-7000
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I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Allen at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Doxey, Jackson, Kissinger, Nicolow, VanNess, Yingling, Allen

ABSENT: None

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Allen.

III. COMMUNITY COMMENT

Lisa Smith of 134 E. Michigan Ave. said that she is here to obtain a receipt from Gary Allen for the money he got... *at this point in the meeting Mayor Allen gaveled Mrs. Smith and told her that she was out of order, because her comments were of a personal nature, not to be discussed at this meeting.*

Linda Carlton, President of the DDA, thanked Councilmember Doxey for attending the sign grand opening and unveiling last Wednesday. She was the only elected official present for the ceremony.

Edgar Kettle on behalf of Medallion Management addressed Council regarding the renovation of the Galesburg Village Apartment Complex. They are proposing a package deal including new roofs, siding, windows, appliances and interior remodeling. They will make this entire complex nicer for the residents and community. Because of the way they are regulated by MSHDA they are restricted in the amount of rent they can collect. They have to make sure that the income streams match their outlay. This is the reason they are asking for a Payment In Lieu of Taxes from the City of Galesburg, or in place of a PILOT they would also accept a freeze in property taxes to the current level for a term of 20-30 years. This would not represent a loss to the City, but would allow them to keep the taxes at a manageable level. They are asking the City for a memo of understanding indicating that the City is willing to allow them to enter into either the PILOT or the tax

freeze. There is a lot of work involved in this project and it will mean a significant improvement to the community.

IV. READING AND APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Motion by Councilmember Kissinger, supported by Councilmember Nicolow to take the approval of the minutes of October 6 and 13 together, to pull the approval of the minutes of October 20th from the agenda per the request of the City Clerk, and to approve the minutes of October 6 and 13th as submitted.

Motion approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Councilmembers Doxey, Jackson, Kissinger, Nicolow, VanNess, Yingling, Allen

NAYS: None

V. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Edgar D. Kettle on behalf of Medallion Management Inc. of Kalamazoo requesting consideration of the adoption of a Payment In Lieu of Taxes Ordinances (P.I.L.O.T.) for the Galesburg Village Apartment complex at 616 35th St.

REFERRED TO THE CITY ATTORNEY, THE CITY ASSESSOR AND THE CITY TREASURER FOR INFORMATION AS TO THE LEGALITY, THE AMOUNT OF MONEY REPRESENTED IN ABATED TAX REVENUE AND WHETHER THE CITY CAN SUSTAIN AN ABATEMENT

2. Application and issuance of a sign permit issued by the Kalamazoo County Road Commission to Writton Graham, City of Galesburg for the Welcome to Galesburg Sign

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

3. Letter from Comcast Cable providing information about changes in their channel line up, the deletion of channel 206 MOJO and addition of Digital Starter Channel 206 and Versus/Golf Channel HD

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

4. Letter from Comcast Cable providing notice of an increase in their cable rates beginning January 9, 2009

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

5 Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Letter submitting their 3rd quarter report from the Household Hazardous Waste Center.

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

6. Application from Michael Kupiecki for appointment to the Local Officer Compensation Commission

REFERRED TO THE MAYOR

7. Letter from Jacquelyn M. Smith stating a complaint about the City Clerk related to a slip and fall claim in front of the Galesburg Dollar Store.

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no scheduled public hearings.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

VIII. REPORTS OF OFFICERS & BOARDS

a. Accounts payable

Motion by Councilmember Nicolow, supported by Councilmember Doxey to authorize payment of the bills in the amount of \$14,359.71 as presented by the City Clerk.

Motion approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Councilmembers Doxey, Jackson, Kissinger, Nicolow, VanNess, Yingling, Allen

NAYS: None

c. Department of Public Works

Supervisor Wilson reported that he took the Big Blue Truck in for service. The right front wheel seal is leaking. They got estimates for repair from Western Michigan International Trucks and from C&C Auto in the amount of \$1,293 and \$1,020 respectively. He asked for Council authority to take the truck to C&C for repair. Also, the little generator that powers the patrol systems for the well house during power outages died and will have to be replaced. They got a price from Steensma for \$823.76 and from M&M for \$829.00. He has also received one bid on the confined space equipment that was authorized for bid letting at the October 20, 2008

meeting. That bid came from Clean Earth Environmental. They are the only bidder and have bid \$2,000.00. They will issue a check or a credit voucher as the city likes.

Motion by Councilmember Nicolow, supported by Councilmember Jackson to **authorize truck repair at C&C Auto in the amount of \$1,020** for the big blue truck.

Motion approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Councilmembers Doxey, Jackson, Kissinger, Nicolow, VanNess, Yingling, Allen

NAYS: None

Motion by Councilmember VanNess, supported by Councilmember Jackson to **authorize purchase of a replacement generator from Steensma Lawn & Power Equipment in the amount of \$823.76.**

Motion approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Councilmembers Doxey, Jackson, Kissinger, Nicolow, VanNess, Yingling, Allen

NAYS: None

Motion by councilmember Nicolow, supported by Councilmember Jackson to **accept the Bid from Clean Earth Environmental for the purchase of the confined space equipment in the amount of \$2,000.**

Motion approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Councilmembers Doxey, Jackson, Kissinger, Nicolow, VanNess, Yingling, Allen

NAYS: None

c. Police Department

Councilmember Nicolow questioned the police report, saying that everyone, except for Officer Jamie Swickley, has been certified on for PPCT Training, yet hers is expired. He asked Officer Anson to check into the matter with Chief Mau. His other question is, in looking at the reports from last month to this month we show two part time and two full time officers. The two part time officers are getting 10-25 citations per month while one of the full time officers had just two in October and 2 in September. He would like to know why there is such disparity in activity between these officers.

Councilmember Jackson said that it is because of the time of day that Officer Heppler works. Councilmember Nicolow asked if there is a time when he is needed in the City more than the time he is working here. He also wants to make sure that he is not being too nice to everyone and that he is actually out on patrol.

Motion by Councilmember Nicolow, supported by Councilmember Jackson to accept the Police Report as submitted.

Motion approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Councilmembers Doxey, Jackson, Kissinger, Nicolow, VanNess, Yingling, Allen

NAYS: None

e. Minutes of City Boards & Commissions;

- Galesburg DDA meetings of September 10, 24, and 30, 2008

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Employee benefits – Payment in Lieu of Insurance

Councilmember Nicolow talked about looking at a report on earnings in the Galesburg Area. It showed a median income in this area of \$41,000 annually. He would like the record to show that the City is not paying less than the private sector is in wages, as has been asserted by certain employees at past City Council Meetings.

City Clerk Miner told Councilmembers that this item is on the agenda at the request of Councilmember Jackson. It belongs, rightfully on the agenda of the Personnel Policy Committee, as the issue of the rate of City paid insurance payments and the rate of payment in lieu of insurance should both be included in the personnel policy manual. She recommended referring this matter to the Personnel Policy Committee for their recommendations.

Motion by Councilmember Nicolow, supported by Councilmember VanNess to call a meeting of the Personnel Policy Committee for 6:00 P.M. on Monday, December 1, 2008 for the purpose of this discussion.

Motion approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Councilmembers Doxey, Jackson, Kissinger, Nicolow, VanNess, Yingling, Allen

NAYS: None

X. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

XI. COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilmember VanNess thanked and complimented the Fire Department for their work at the fire at Eaton Corporation and the false alarm following it. They did an

excellent job. They also did a great job with the haunted saw mill.

Mayor Allen reported that the Snyder building went up for tax sale last week and was purchased by an individual named Mike Rausch who paid \$150.00 for the building. Mr. Rausch has said that he would like to do something with this building, and to that end He and Allen will meet this coming Wednesday to discuss what he would like to do and what the City can do to help him.

Keith Diller thanked the Council and the DPW and said that Burgess Drive looks good.

Sue Graham said she would like to see community comment time added to the end of the agenda like it is at the beginning.

Councilmember Nicolow responded, saying, that the Council has agreed that at any time during the meeting, someone who has a question can raise their hand and be heard.

Sheila Garrett asked if anything has been done about the dumpster on Washington St. DPW Supervisor Wilson informed her that it is gone.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Jackson, supported by Councilmember VanNess to adjourn.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Miner, CMC
City Clerk