

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION  
GALESBURG CITY COUNCIL  
MARCH 16, 2009; 7:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS,  
GALESBURG CITY HALL  
200 E. MICHIGAN AVE.  
GALESBURG, MI**

**GALESBURG**

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The Regular meeting of the Galesburg City Council was called to order by Mayor Allen at 7:00 p.m.

**I. ROLL CALL:**

PRESENT: Councilmembers Garrett, Jackson, Kissinger, Nicolow, Van Ness, Yingling, Allen.

ABSENT: None.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Allen.

**III. COMMUNITY COMMENT**

There were no comments from community members.

**IV. READING AND APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES**

Motion by Councilmember Kissinger and supported by Councilmember VanNess to approve the minutes of March 2, 2009 as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Letter from City Clerk Miner to Community Assistance Specialist Joe Agostinelli of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation requesting consideration of a grant application to the Community Development Block Grant Program for Downtown Infrastructure Improvement.

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

2. Request from the Lioness Club for permission to hold the annual White Cane Sale on April 24 and 25, 2009 in Galesburg and to hold their annual Flower Sale on May 9, 2009.

Motion by Councilmember Kissinger and supported by Councilmember Nicolow to approve the request by the Lionesses.

Motion approved unanimously.

3. Letters from Comcast Cable:

- a. Providing notice of changes and additions to their channel lineup.
- b. Regarding negotiations for their continued coverage of the NFL Network

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

4. Letter from Mike Schwartz of Prein & Newhof Engineering Firm detailing projected costs for Downtown Infrastructure Improvement

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

5. Letter from G2 Consulting Group submitting notice of a proposal for Metro PCS compound expansion of a 250 foot lattice style telecommunications tower located at 1570 S. 36<sup>th</sup> St., Galesburg, MI.

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

6. Letter from Beth Aben, Deputy director of the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth Bureau of Construction Codes regarding their assistance to cities, townships & villages in implementation of Michigan Building Codes, the Land Survey and Remonumentation Act, the Manufactured Housing Commission Act and the Boiler and Elevator Laws and Rules.

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

7. Application from City Clerk Miner for the use of the Guthrie Community Room on May 9, 2009 and a request for waiver of rental fees for the "First Annual Galesburg Spring Souper & Silent Auction". Clerk Miner asked Councilmembers and Audience Members to attend the "Souper" and contribute a pot of soup & silent auction item.

Motion by Councilmember Nicolow and supported by Councilmember VanNess to **approve the request for the use of the Guthrie Room and waiver of the fee**

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

## VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no scheduled public hearings.

## VII. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

## VIII. REPORTS OF OFFICERS & BOARDS

### a. Treasurer's Report

Motion by Councilmember Jackson and supported by Councilmember Kissinger to accept the Treasurer's Report setting forth a total balance in all funds of \$1,646,398.18.

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

### c. Accounts payable

Motion by Councilmember Jackson and supported by Councilmember Kissinger to approve the accounts payable report and authorize issuance of checks in the total amount of \$244,094.16.

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

### b. Department of Public Works

Supervisor Wilson said that the main meter in well house #2 is broken. The cost to repair it is **\$1,710.00. This is an unbudgeted expense and he is requesting a supplemental appropriation** for it. They believe that sand got in the meter causing the damage, and that this is what caused the problem we had last year. He requested Council approval of the supplemental appropriation so they can repair the meter.

Motion by Councilmember Garrett and supported by Councilmember VanNess to approve repair of the water meter in Well House #2.

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

### c. Police Department

Sgt. Heppler said there is nothing to report.

Mayor Allen asked if the City qualifies for any stimulus money through the COPS Program.

Sgt. Heppler said that in order to qualify for money through that program, you would have to create new positions, which would then have to be funded for 3 years. The COPS program would fund 2 years, but then the City would have to keep the position active for one additional year. Richland Village is looking into this program too.

Mayor Allen asked if the City can take our 2 part time officers and make them full time positions under this program. Sgt. Heppler said we would need to create 2 completely new positions and keep 2 part time officers as well.

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Allen described the specifics of an infrastructure grant project that the City is pursuing through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Community Development Block Grant Program. This project would repave all three City Parking Lots, repave Battle Creek St., Norm's Place, Mill St., and McBeth St., replace a number of sidewalks on Battle Creek St., and complete a streetscaping project that will install 20 new street lights as well as new benches, waste receptacles, flower planters, 3 pedestrian crossings, new seasonal banners, flowers and trees. The total project cost is estimated to be approximately \$740,000.00.

DPW Supervisor Wilson said that the 10% matching funds for this project will come from money the City budgeted for repaving of Battle Creek Street.

Motion by Councilmember VanNess and supported by Councilmember Kissinger to pursue the **grant application for infrastructure improvements**.

Motion approved unanimously.

Wrifton Graham said that we have met with representatives of the State twice on this issue. We are also looking into a façade grant program wherein property owners will apply for grant funds to fix up the exterior of their buildings at a 50/50 grant match requirement.

Motion by Councilmember Kissinger, supported by Councilmember Garrett that the City Clerk is authorized to **send a letter to the MEDC in support of a Façade Improvement Grant request**.

Motion approved unanimously.

Councilmember Garret asked about the status of the old school property on Blake St. owned by Mr. Rosenberger. Mayor Allen answered that there is nothing being done over there right now. As it currently stands, the permits issued in 2007 have expired and Mr. Rosenberger will need to reapply to the City for permission to subdivide the property.

Councilmember Garrett asked if the City is ticketing him for not keeping the property cleaned up and mowed. He has not mowed along 35<sup>th</sup> St. He has planted pine trees in there.

## **X. OLD BUSINESS**

Councilmember Kissinger thanked DPW Supervisor Wilson and the other fire fighters of the Galesburg Charleston Fire Department for their timely response to Ike Payne Park when his son was injured there recently. They did a great job. He said that the Parks Board met last Monday night. They are checking with some of the schools that have recently been closed in the area about getting their unused playground equipment. They would like to put basketball hoops up in Community Park in a ½ Court design.

Linda Carlton, President of the Galesburg Downtown Development Authority urged the parents of all little league kids to vote in the Kellogg Foundation grant contest. This is a program where a community can nominate a local ball field for up to \$50,000 in grant money for improvements to the ball field for kids. You can vote at [FrostedFlakes.com](http://FrostedFlakes.com).

Councilmember Nicolow asked where we stand on the Fire Department. Mayor Allen said that Fire Chief Henson is pursuing a grant application for a new fire house.

Councilmember Garret questioned the status of the Blank property.

Wrifton Graham asked if he can have permission to put a wireless internet service router in City Hall at his expense. He would like to purchase the material and asks for permission to install it.

Motion by Councilmember Nicolow and supported by Councilmember Kissinger to authorize Mr. Graham to install a wireless router in City Hall.

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

Mr. Graham asked if the City or the State is responsible for painting the curbs on a State Highway.

DPW Supervisor Wilson answered that the City is. He said that on April 12, the DPW staff is going to the Fetzer Center at WMU for water certification training.

Mayor Allen appointed a committee of four people to work on the infrastructure grant project; Rob Wilson, Debbie Miner, Gary Allen, Wrifton Graham. They will bring status reports back to the Council as they become available. Of course nothing will be done without the approval of the City Council. He is also working on a grant program for parks.

Councilmember Kissinger said that the United Way has agreed to give the City grant money to do parks improvements.

## **XI. COUNCIL COMMENT**

There were no comments from Councilmembers.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilmember Kissinger and supported by Councilmember Jackson to adjourn.

Motion approved unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Miner, CMC  
Galesburg City Clerk, CFO