

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
GALESBURG CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 6, 2009; 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
GALESBURG CITY HALL
200 E. MICHIGAN AVE.
GALESBURG, MI**



GALESBURG

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**RESOLUTION #040609-01
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF GALESBURG**

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, Van Ness, Yingling, Allen.

ABSENT: Councilmember Nicolow.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Allen.

III. COMMUNITY COMMENT

Linda Carlton, Chair of the Galesburg Downtown Development Assn. said that the Committee in charge of Greater Galesburg Days will meet this coming Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 6:00 here in the Guthrie Room. She announced that the date of the DDA Style Show has been changed from April 4th to April 25, 2009. That event will also be held here in the Guthrie Room beginning at 11:00 A.M.

IV. READING AND APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

There were no Council Minutes presented for approval.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Michigan State University Extension Office in Kalamazoo County submitting their 2009 Partner Report.

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

2. Proposal from Approved Fire Protection for charging, replacing and maintaining the City's out of date Fire Extinguisher.

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

3. Letter from the Scleroderma Foundation requesting a proclamation recognizing their organization during the month of June.

Whereas, scleroderma is a chronic, autoimmune connective tissue disease, and the scleroderma literally means "hard skin", and

Whereas, common symptoms include hardening and thickening of the skin, one of the most visible manifestations of the disease. Other symptoms include Raynaud's Phenomenon (abnormal sensitivity to cold in the extremities), swelling of the hands and feet, pain and stiffness of the joints, joint contractures, digestive system and gastrointestinal tract problems, oral, facial and dental problems, and kidney, heart and lung involvement, and;

Whereas, characteristics of the disease include an over-production of collagen and damage to blood vessels. Classified as an autoimmune disease, scleroderma is chronic and debilitating. Autoimmune diseases, which affect more than 50 million Americans, are the third leading cause of death in the United States. Scleroderma is the most fatal and least recognized of these diseases. It primarily affects women between the ages of 25 and 55. There is no known cause or cure, and;

Whereas, the City Council of the City of Galesburg wholeheartedly endorses the Scleroderma Foundation Michigan Chapter's three fold mission of;

Support; to help patients and their families cope with scleroderma through mutual support programs, peer counseling, physician referrals, and educational information.

Education; to promote public awareness and education through patient and health professional seminars, literature, and publicity campaigns.

Research; to stimulate and support research to improve treatment and ultimately find the cause of and cure for scleroderma and related disease.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Galesburg City Council hereby commends the efforts of the staff and

volunteers of the Scleroderma Foundation Michigan Chapter to build awareness of this devastating disease.

Be it further resolved, that although progress has been made in the fight against scleroderma, we must commit ourselves to the work that needs to be done in hopes of someday finding a cure. Until then, we continue to strive to improve the quality of life of individuals with scleroderma and bring awareness to those efforts and therefore declare the month of June to be Scleroderma Awareness Month in Galesburg.

Motion by Councilmember Jackson and supported by Councilmember Kissinger to approve the request from the Scleroderma Foundation and place an affirmative roll call vote on the resolution of recognition.

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Nicolow

4. Letter from AT&T providing notice of contract expirations and negotiations between April 4, 2009 and August 8, 2009 and informing of the possibility of work stoppage and associated picket lines.

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

5. Letter from the City Clerk to Brian Doyle and Craig Shumaker of Fleis & Vandenbrink Engineering informing them of the discontinuation of services effective March 23, 2009.

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

6. Letter from Comcast Cable providing information about price reductions in the cost of three of their triple play bundle packages.

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

7. Letter from Lanson and Linda Becker requesting reconsideration of the resolution limiting the sale of grave sites at Oakgrove Cemetery to City Residents.

MAYOR ALLEN APPOINTED HIMSELF, COUNCILMEMBER JACKSON, DPW SUPERVISOR WILSON AND CITY CLERK MINER TO A COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE SALE OF GRAVE SITES TO NON RESIDENTS. HE NOTED THAT THERE IS A NEW AREA OF THE CEMETERY THAT WILL PROVIDE ABOUT 100 SITES NOW AVAILABLE.

8. Excerpt of new provisions in the Liquor Control Act as it pertains to eligibility for and availability of Class C Liquor Licenses

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

9. Letter from Sue Graham of Signature Real Estate & Property Management, Inc. declining her appointment to the Parks Board.

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no scheduled public hearings.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Resolutions for Adoption

1. Quad Cities Little League Use of Ike Payne Park

DPW Supervisor Wilson spoke regarding the rental of the Park by Quad Cities Little League. The City does not currently have a key to gain access to the out building at the park. The Little League has many keys, but none have been given to the City. This property is City owned. The Little League stores their equipment in the building and circumstances occurred in which the City's lock was taken off of the building and the Little League's lock was left on. We are now in a position of not being able to get into our own building. He stated that he has requested that the City be given a key to the Little League's lock, but they are resisting.

City Clerk Miner pointed out that the reduction in fees requested by the Little League in their application will put the City in the position of not being able to recover expenses incurred for Little League's use of the park. The City incurs expenses for electrical use, water use, trash hauling and maintenance.

Discussion was held on the wisdom of increasing the cost for the use of the field by the Little League.

Motion by Councilmember Jackson and supported by Councilmember VanNess to pull the resolution authorizing a reduction in fees for the Quad Cities Little League use of Ike Payne Park until such time as the Mayor, City Clerk and DPW Supervisor have met with representatives of the Little League to negotiate a more equitable agreement.

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Nicolow

VIII. REPORTS OF OFFICERS & BOARDS

a. Accounts payable

Councilmember Garrett inquired of Mayor Allen regarding the spending freeze he instituted in December. It was her understanding that the freeze applied to everything with the exception of items required for the provision of essential services.

Mayor Allen responded that he had indeed issued such an order.

Councilmember Garrett asked why there so many purchases here from the Library. Were they not included in the freeze?

Mayor Allen responded that the Library was included in the freeze.

City Clerk Miner reported that Librarian Kowalewski had informed her that she spoke with Mayor Allen and received permission to purchase books and other supplies for the Library.

Mayor Allen stated that he did not lift the spending freeze for the Library.

City Clerk Miner stated that any invoice included in the accounts payable report could be removed, prior to approval of the report for payment.

Motion by Councilmember Jackson and supported by Councilmember VanNess to approve accounts payable in the total amount of \$8,944.93.\

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Nicolow

b. Department of Public Works

Supervisor Wilson spoke about an incident of vandalism that occurred late last Saturday Night, early Sunday morning. Several of our fire hydrants were opened and allowed to drain into the street.

We now have a well that is vibrating very badly. It will cost \$250.00 to pull the motor out and inspect it. This is the number 2 well. The incident that occurred could have caused damage to the pump and it may cost more for repair than the \$25.00 he has reported. He requests permission to pull the pump and take whatever action is necessary to repair the system.

Motion by Councilmember Jackson and supported by Councilmember Kissinger to approve the repair of the water pump in well #2 .

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Nicolow

Supervisor Wilson asked if the Council wants power turned back on to the bathrooms in Ike Payne Park for the Quad Cities Little League.

Mayor Allen instructed Mr. Wilson to turn the power back on and the resolution for little league will be taken up at our next meeting.

c. Police Department

Chief Mau reviewed the Police Report. He said that the laptop computer for the cruiser came back from the shop, but still needed more work and he had to take it back in. Councilmember Garrett asked Chief Mau what he knows about the cars at 83 Division St. and 3 Beckwith. These cars do not have plates. She also asked if there has been any action yet on the guy at 83 Division racing his bike up and down the road. Chief Mau explained that at the end of the street on Grant there was a car parked for 4 days without plates, or with expired Tennessee plates on the back and Kentucky plates on the front. He reported that Sgt. Heppler is on vacation this week.

Motion by Councilmember Kissinger and supported by Councilmember Jackson to approve the police report.

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Nicolow

e. Minutes of City Boards & Commissions;

- Galesburg Memorial Library meeting minutes for February 24, 2009
- Galesburg Historical Museum meeting minutes for February 18, 2009

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Little League Application for use of Ike Payne Park

See resolutions for action.

B. Wrifton Graham

Asked Councilmembers to approve transfer of a liquor license into Galesburg.

City Clerk Miner stated that the Council cannot approve the actual transfer of a license until such time as the proper paperwork has been submitted and appropriated background and building checks have been done.

Mr. Graham said that MLCC appears to be doing things differently now and that he just needs the support of the Council on the proposal to transfer a liquor license into Galesburg from another municipality.

Motion by Councilmember Jackson and supported by Councilmember Kissinger to issue a statement of support for the transfer of a liquor license into Galesburg on behalf of Wrifton Graham.

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Nicolow

C. Roof Replacement of Bathroom Building at Ike Payne Park

Supervisor Wilson said that the roof on the outbuilding at Ike Payne Park needs to be replaced. It will cost around \$750 to do the repair. He has priced out one of the new metal roofs. This type of roof will last the longest. He and Bill Bresson will put the roof on themselves, saving as much money as possible.

X. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

XI. COUNCIL COMMENT

Mayor Allen spoke regarding the vandalism late Saturday night, early Sunday morning. The opening of the hydrants caused the loss of 750,000 gallons of water that poured out and washed out a couple of roads. The DPW Supervisor has reported to him preliminary figures estimating the loss at \$2,673.12. This is more than a prank. He would like the City to prosecute the vandals. Charleston Township was hit too. They are willing to offer a \$500 reward for information resulting in the arrest of the individual or individuals involved. He is asking that the City match Charleston's \$500 making a total reward of \$1,000 for information leading to arrest. The School has video surveillance that shows a car that was

involved. This video can be sent to the State Police Crime Laboratory and enhanced to provide more detail on the identity of the vandals.

Motion by Councilmember Jackson and supported by Councilmember Kissinger to approve the request of Mayor Allen to offer a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest(s) of individuals responsible for vandalism to the City's fire hydrant.

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Nicolow

Mayor Allen asked Chief Mau to send the video from the School sent on to the State Police Crime Lab to have the video enhanced.

Councilmember Kissinger reported that the Parks Board has asked the City Engineer to attend their next meeting to help them get a 5 year master plan started.

City Clerk Miner said that she could help with the master plan and save the money the engineer will charge the parks board. She asked Councilmember Kissinger to cancel the arrangements for the engineer to attend their meeting.

Councilmember Garrett apologized for missing the Library Board meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Miner, CMC
City Clerk, CFO