

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION  
GALESBURG CITY COUNCIL  
APRIL 20, 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. CALL TO ORDER**

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**

Jaek Urban, Kalamazoo County Commissioner, spoke in support of the Kalamazoo County Transportation Millage that will appear on the May 5, 2009 Consolidated School Election Ballot. He reported on recent activities and improvements in public transportation in Kalamazoo County. They placed a ballot question on the November 2008 Presidential Election Ballot too, but that question failed. They did some restructuring of the millage question and are confident that the public will be well served by the current proposal which separates City of Kalamazoo voters and City of Galesburg voters by charging only a percentage of the millage to Galesburg because we are not served by regular bus routes, but only by Caravan service. The previous question did not seem fair to voters, but the reduced millage in Galesburg more fairly reflects the level of service offered at .04 mills. This should collect \$11,500 from Galesburg residents who will still have to pay for caravan services, but not at full cost. He stated that the City Council has the authority to take money from the General Fund budget and dedicate it to transportation needs, should they feel so inclined.

Councilmember Nicolow asked if County Commissioner Urban has any record of the volume of caravan service to Galesburg in the past so then can see how much City residents are using the service?

Mr. Urban said that he has the figures available at home, but did not bring them with him tonight. The service is

being used in Galesburg. It is usually the elderly and disabled that utilize the Caravan service.

Jeannie Scott said that her sister uses Caravan every day to go to work, and she knows that there are other seniors in River Manor that use the service to get to doctors appointments.

Councilmember Nicolow remarked that the City does not get bus service from Kalamazoo Transportation Authority. That is the problem he had with the millage that was proposed last fall.

Clara Srackangast pointed out that the City of Galesburg does not appear on their informational flier at all. How are the people of town supposed to know that service will be provided to them by Caravan when it is not listed in the flier?

Mr. Urban pointed out that the loss of this program would be devastating to the County. They really need people to get behind this millage.

Linda Carlton said she read from the flier that Caravan only has 17 vehicles to serve all of Kalamazoo County, is that correct? Mr. Urban answered affirmatively. Linda reminded everyone that this Saturday is the DDA's Style Show at 11:30 A.M. in this room at City Hall. Tickets are \$10.00. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of April the Greater Galesburg Day Committee will meet at 5:00 P.M. where they will pull everything together for the advertisement. The Downtown Development Authority will meet directly following the Greater Galesburg Day meeting.

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

Motion by Councilmember VanNess and supported by Councilmember Garrett to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2009 Special Meeting with Charleston Township Trustees as submitted.

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

ABSENT: Councilmember Kissinger.

Motion by Councilmember Kissinger and supported by Councilmember VanNess to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 16, 2009 as submitted.

Motion approved unanimously.

#### V. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letters from the DDA re:
  - a. Requesting the closure of Norms Place during Greater Galesburg Days June 18, 19, and 20<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by Councilmember Nicolow and supported by Councilmember Kissinger to approve the request from the DDA for the closure of Norms Place on June 19, 20, and 21 for Greater Galesburg Days.

Motion approved unanimously.

- b. Requesting waiver of the fees for Garage Sales during Greater Galesburg Days; June 18, 19, and 20<sup>th</sup> and requesting permission for the use of Community Park for certain events on June 20<sup>th</sup> for Greater Galesburg Days and for the waiver of the fees.

Motion by Councilmember Kissinger and supported by Councilmember Jackson to approve the request from the DDA for a waiver of Garage Sale permits and fee requirements for the use of Community Park for Greater Galesburg Days.

Motion approved unanimously.

2. Letter from Joe Agostinelli, CATeam – Community Assistance Specialist providing official notice of the City of Galesburg's authorization to file a Notice of Intent for the Downtown Infrastructure Grant Project.

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

3. Letter from the Galesburg Memorial Library requesting that the City Council approve the levy of 1 mil against property owners in Galesburg for the operational expenses of the Library, and making requests about the handling of their funds.

PULLED FROM THE AGENDA AT THE REQUEST OF THE LIBRARY BOARD

4. Letter from Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services providing their Surface Water Monitoring Program Annual Report

#### VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no scheduled public hearings.

#### VII. ACTION ITEMS

##### A. Resolutions for Adoption

**RESOLUTION #04202009-01  
CITY OF GALESBURG  
COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN  
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
GALESBURG**

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the Galesburg City Council held on Monday, April 20, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. with Councilmembers Allen, Garrett, Jackson, Kissinger, Nicolow, VanNess and Yingling present, and none absent the following resolution was offered by Councilmember Kissinger, and supported by Councilmember Jackson:

**WHEREAS**, the City Clerk has received application from Mike DeGraaf of the Quad Cities Little League for the use of Ike Payne Park for their Youth Baseball & Softball Games from April 13<sup>th</sup> through June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at a reduced rate of \$10.00 per day for 50 days for a total rental fee of \$500.00; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution #010708-5 established a contractual rate of \$600 for youth sports that use the park for large or continual blocks of time, paid in advance of the first annual event; and

**WHEREAS**, the request by the Galesburg Augusta Little League for the use of Ike Payne Park for 50 days @ \$10.00 per day for a total of \$500.00 would require a waiver of \$100.00 in fees for contractual use of the park by the Galesburg City Council.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the City Council of the City of Galesburg hereby waives the customary fee for the use of Ike Payne Park by the Galesburg Augusta Little League and agrees to accept the payment of \$500.00 as payment in full on the contractual agreement for use of the park.

Motion by Councilmember Kissinger and supported by Councilmember Jackson to approve the resolution authorizing an agreement between the City of Galesburg and the Galesburg Augusta Little League for the use of Ike Payne Park for youth sports.

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

## VIII. REPORTS OF OFFICERS & BOARDS

### a. Treasurer's Report

Motion by Councilmember Kissinger and supported by Councilmember VanNess to accept the Treasurer's Report indicating a balance in all accounts totaling \$1,474,057.09.

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

### b. Accounts payable

Motion by Councilmember Kissinger and supported by Councilmember VanNess to approve the accounts payable report and authorize the issuance of warrants in the amount of \$10,922.66.

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

### c. Department of Public Works

There was no report from the DPW Supervisor.

### d. Police Department

There was no Police Report.

Mayor Allen asked Sgt. Heppler if there is any final word on the fire hydrant vandalism. Sgt. Heppler replied that their investigation is on going. They have interviewed a number of people and hope to bring about the arrests soon.

### e. Minutes of City Boards & Commissions;

- Galesburg Historical Museum minutes of the Meeting held March 18, 2009
- Galesburg DDA
- Galesburg Parks Board minutes of the meeting held March 9, 2009.

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

## X. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Update on Infrastructure Grant Project

Mayor Allen requested that City Clerk Miner report on the status of the Downtown Improvement Infrastructure Grant Project, as she has been the one in contact with MEDC.

Ms. Miner outlined recent activities associated with the City's application for CDBG funding for the proposed downtown improvements. The preliminary request has been reviewed by the Local CATeam and they are interested in our application. It is a project that looks doable to them. Many members of the Community Assistance Team are familiar with Galesburg and with the downtown and its 6-way intersection.

She reported that she learned, just today, that the City of Galesburg has been selected to submit a Notice of Intent to apply for grant funding, and is now showing up on the MEDC website as a funding eligible community. The next step is to complete the Notice of Intent not later than April 30, 2009 in order to meet the deadline for consideration at the MEDC CDBG May Board Meeting. The project under consideration includes installation of 20 new street lights; 8 new benches; 8 new waste receptacles; 8 new flower planters; a new bike rack, repaving of the three Municipal parking lots; repaving of W. Battle Creek St., Mill St., Norm's Place and McBeth St.; Sidewalk replacement along both sides of Battle Creek St. and on Michigan Ave. from the old Bakery to the Post Office, 3 Pedestrian Walk Ways; banners and flowering trees and plants. This represents a \$740 thousand dollar investment of which \$125,000 will be paid by the City from the funds budgeted for the repair of Battle Creek St.

The current year's budget includes \$83,000 in funding to repave Battle Creek St., but when bids were let last fall they came in much higher. The lowest bid was over \$100,000 and the City did not have that much money so the project was not completed. The Clerk is proposing to take the ACT 51 funding appropriated in 2008/2009; schedule it as budgeted use of fund balance in FY 2009/2010; add an additional \$42,000 in ACT 51 funding from the 2009/2010 proposed budget; giving the City a total of \$125,000 to use as matching funds for the grant application. In that manner, if for some reason the grant does not go through, the City will still have appropriated enough money from ACT 51 funds to pave W. Battle Creek Street anyway.

This grant application represents a nearly 1 Million dollar investment in downtown Galesburg and will give the downtown a new look that will hopefully spur interest and bring new business and residents to town.

There was another grant project that the City wanted to operate simultaneously; however, the CATeam limited the City to one grant project per year.

Wrifton Graham of the DDA announced that the DDA is offering a downtown beautification project of their own, in the form of new paint for any business owner that is willing to supply the labor, the DDA will pay for up to \$200.00 in paint to repaint the outside of their buildings. The owner of the Good Will building is happy to see what is happening in Galesburg and is excited to get to work on his building too.

#### **XI. COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilmember Garrett said that she has agreed to sit in for Councilmember Nicolow for Library Board meetings. She asked if the vandalism of the fire hydrants could be considered domestic terrorism and subject to that kind of charge.

Councilmember Yingling spoke regarding the liquor license transfer referred to by Mr. Graham at the last City Council meeting. He had asked City Council for a vote of support on the transfer of a liquor license from another community into Galesburg, and Council voted generally in favor of the transfer. However, if the location he wants to transfer the license to is the site of the proposed Chinese Restaurant, there will be a problem. He will have to get the support of both of the churches that are within 500 feet of the proposed location.

Councilmember Jackson complimented the Police for the great job they are doing on tracking down the individuals responsible for the vandalism on the fire hydrants.

Mayor Allen said that the City will be looking for restitution from these vandals. This vandalism cost the City approximately \$5,000 and Chalreston suffered losses too.

DPW Supervisor Wilson said that the DEQ told him last week that it could be considered a homeland security violation too.

Sgt. Heppler said that he appreciates the community's input. They have been very supportive. The prank that was pulled caused damage to 3 adjoining communities water systems which makes the charges a lot worse because if there had been a fire that night and one city could not get their water to work they would have called a neighboring community for help, but in this case that community would not have gotten their water to work either. These are serious offenses.

Councilmember Kissinger thanked Councilmembers Jackson and Allen for being at the last Parks Board meeting. They have been exploring the possibility of having the engineering firm write the Parks Master Plan for them which will cost the City \$7,000.00. They will have to do some fund raisers to get this money for the parks.

City Clerk Miner encouraged them not to use the engineering firm to write the master plan. She offered her assistance in writing the plan to avoid additional cost. The application, she said, looks daunting, but it can be handled without seeking outside help.

Mayor Allen reported that Councilmember Nicolow has a scheduling conflict with the Library Board meetings in April, May and June. He cannot be at those meetings. He (Allen) has agreed to appoint Councilmember Garrett as a temporary substitute.

#### **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion approved unanimously.

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:10 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Miner, CMC  
City Clerk, CFO