

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
GALESBURG CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 15, 2009; 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
GALESBURG CITY HALL
200 E. MICHIGAN AVE.
GALESBURG, MI**

GALESBURG

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I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular meeting of the Galesburg City Council was called to order by Mayor Allen at 5:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Jackson.

Motion by Councilmember Kissinger and supported by Councilmember Nicolow to excuse Councilmember Jackson from tonight's proceedings.

Motion approved unanimously.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Allen.

III. COMMUNITY COMMENT

Ann Nieuwenhuis, Kalamazoo County Commissioner in the 15th District congratulated the Parks Committee on getting an award from the Kellogg Foundation for Ike Payne Park. She reported attending the last Parks Committee meeting. Ken Brockowicz was in attendance too and brought the committee information about formulation of a 5 year parks and recreation master plan. Western Michigan University has a student program that will help write the master plan. She reported having spoken with MDOT representatives who have assured her that they do not have any problems with the military sign.

Marian Doxey asked the Council for permission to hold a wake in the Community Room this coming Thursday between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. An application has been submitted to the Clerk and will be presented to the Council later in tonight's meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Nicolow and supported by Councilmember Garrett to approve the request for the use of the Community Room.

Motion approved unanimously.

Donna Kowalewski, Galesburg Memorial Librarian announced that the Library's summer programs have begun. The "Science Alive" program is first on the list and will take place next week.

Linda Carlton, President of the Downtown Development Association announced that the 18th, 19th, and 20th are "Greater Galesburg Days". The Carnival will begin on Thursday, the 18th, and there will be music and dancing in the Fire House. Most of the activities will take place on Saturday. The Parade will take place at 11:00 a.m., Kids Games and a Craft Fair will be in the Parking lot next to Grants, Chicken Dinners and Pulled Pork on Mill St. In Community Park behind City Hall there will be a petting zoo, pony rides, a dunk tank and the Boy Scouts will be selling hot dogs and bratwurst. Of course the Ice Cream Social will be going on at the Fire Station with cake and ice cream and fire truck rides.

Keith Diller spoke regarding his rental of Community Park on June 7th and has not received his deposit back yet. He spoke with the City Clerk about the refund and she told him that it would be included in the accounts payable report at tonight's meeting. His complaint is this. That deposit money belongs to him. The return of it should not have to be approved by City Council. The Council needs to empower the Clerk to write these checks without them going through the accounts payable process.

Motion by Councilmember Nicolow and supported by Councilmember Yingling that the City Clerk be authorized to pay the monthly bills in advance of submission of the list of accounts paid at the City Council meetings.

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

IV. READING AND APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Motion by Councilmember Nicolow and supported by Councilmember Kissinger to approve the minutes of June 1, 2009 as submitted.

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Jackson

Motion carried unanimously.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Notice from the State of Michigan Public Service Commission of a public hearing for the customers of Consumers Energy Company Case #U15986 to be held on June 24, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

2. Letter from the Kalamazoo Valley Community College submitting their tax levy request and L4029 Millage Request Report.

REFERRED TO THE CITY TREASURER

3. Application for use of the Guthrie Community Room for the purposes of a Wake for Carol Wheat on Thursday, June 18, 2009 submitted by Marian Doxey.

SEE PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE MOTION AND VOTE TO APPROVE THIS REQUEST

4. Letter from the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency submitting their tax levy request and L4029 Millage Request Report.

REFERRED TO THE CITY TREASURER

5. Letter from Michael Bippley, P.E. Traffic and Safety Engineer for the State of Michigan Department of Transportation regarding their recommendations for pedestrian crossings in downtown Galesburg associated with the Downtown Improvement Infrastructure Grant.

REFERRED TO THE CITY CLERK

6. Activity Report submitted by the Downtown Development Authority detailing their actions since formation in May 2007.

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. In consideration of the City of Galesburg Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2009/2010.

There were no speakers for this public hearing.

2. City Clerk Miner advised Council that because of the rules governing the collection of taxes and the budgeting process the Council is required to adopt the levy rate (including the increased tax rate) prior to exercising the following public hearing. If adopted the proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes 1.49% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing. If the proposed additional millage rate is not approved, the operating revenue will increase by 0.21% over the preceding year's operating revenue. The hearing in consideration of the City of Galesburg Millage Rate of 8.8118 together with extra voted public safety millage rate of .9738 for a total millage rate of 9.7856 for property within the City of Galesburg for Fiscal Year 2009/2010 will be held directly following the adoption of the levy rate.

RESOLUTION #061509-01 CITY OF GALESBURG LEVY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Galesburg City Council has developed a budget for the 2009/2010 Fiscal Year that will adequately fund the General Operating Fund and Public Safety; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is required by law to determine the total taxes required by the 2009-2010 fiscal year and to certify the approved tax rate to be levied and the amount of taxes to be raised by the City Treasurer of the City of Galesburg within the time provided by law; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

A total of 8.8118 mills shall be levied in 2009 on all property within the City of Galesburg for general operating purposes.

A total of 0.9738 mills shall be levied in 2008 on all property within the City of Galesburg for extra voted public safety purposes.

The City Clerk of the City of Galesburg, or her designee, is authorized and directed to certify the tax rate to be levied and the amount of taxes to be raised to the City Treasurer of the City of Galesburg in the manner and time provided by law.

It is hereby certified pursuant to Act 35, 1979 Michigan Public Acts, as amended that the requested millage has

been reduced, if necessary, in compliance with Section 31, Article 9 of the State Constitution as amended.

Motion by Councilmember Nicolow and supported by Councilmember VanNess to place an affirmative roll call vote on the resolution.

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Jackson,

There were no other speakers for this public hearing.

3. In consideration of Application for a CDBG Infrastructure Grant for the Galesburg Downtown Improvement Project.

Clerk Miner said that his public hearing is a requirement of the grant application process. The City is required to make full disclosure and encourage public participation regarding the activities that the grant seeks to accomplish, the amount of funding requested and where it will come from, the amount of money required for local matching funds and where it will come from, and how the proposed activities will benefit city residents, especially low income individuals. She stated that the full application is available for review in City offices. Anyone who is interested in the grant application is welcome to view the application at any time and to offer their input now.

Mayor Allen said that a lot of work by many people has gone into this grant application. He and the DPW Staff have walked the City measuring sidewalks and roadways to be replaced, the City's engineering firm has performed the environmental review and a committee of people have worked together to identify the needs of the community and to select specific improvements.

Councilmember Garrett stated that she wants to make sure that the public knows that the DDA was instrumental in getting this grant going by introducing the infrastructure guy to the City.

Robert Wilson, Supervisor of the Department of Public Works said that the entire project may not be finished in this calendar year. It may have to be done in phases, part this year and part next spring.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

**RESOLUTION #061509-02
CITY OF GALESBURG
FY 2009/2010 BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the Galesburg City Council has developed a budget for the 2009/2010 Fiscal Year that will adequately fund the General Operating Fund and Public Safety; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is required by law to adopt a balanced budget not later than it's last meeting in June; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: A total of 8.8118 mills shall be levied in 2009 on all property within the City of Galesburg for general operating purposes.

A total of 0.9738 mills shall be levied in 2008 on all property within the City of Galesburg for extra voted public safety purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: the Galesburg City Council hereby adopts its FY 2009/2010 budget as follows:

Estimated Revenues	General Fund Sources	All	\$567,169.
Appropriations Dept 101	Governing Body		10,450.
Dept 191	Elections		1,000.
Dept 200	Other Activities		35,341.
Dept 209	Assessor		9,757.
Dept 215	Clerk		10,565.
Dept 253	Treasurer		22,358.
Dept 265	City Hall		24,175.
Dept 276	Cemetery		10,070.
Dept 301	Police		215,197.
Dept 336	Fire Department (See Pub Safety Fund 207 for \$8,250 in Capital Outlay Equip.)		55,031.
Dept 371	Inspection		4,209.
Dept 400	Planning		1,000.
Dept 410	Zoning		0.
Dept 441	Dept of Public Works		51,536.
Dept 721	Admin Zoning Standards		500.
Dept 751	Parks		5,029.
Dept 790	Library		77,138.
Dept 804	Museum		3,008.
Total GF Appropriations			\$544,794.

Estimated Revenues	Major Street Sources	All	\$206,200.
Appropriations Dept 000	Civic Betterment		
Dept 200	Other Activities		8,898.
Dept 203	Local Street		20,487.
Dept 452	Construction		125,000.
Dept 463	Routine Maintenance		16,294.
Dept 474			2,486.
Dept 478	Snow Removal		13,789.
Dept 482	Admin Expenses		19,076.
Total Appropriation Maj Sts			\$205,882.

Estimated Revenues	Local Streets Sources	All	\$74,748.
Appropriations Dept 463	Routine Maint		46,128.
Dept 474			842.
Dept 478	Snow Removal		16,357.
Total Appropriations	Local Streets		\$63,327.

Estimated Revenues	Public Safety All Sources	\$29,000
Appropriations Dept. 000	Capital Outlay	28,250
Total Appropriations		\$28,250

Estimated Revenues	Library Memorial Fund	\$4,700
Appropriations Dept 272	Supplies	4,700
Total Appropriations		\$4,700

Estimated Revenues	Perpetual Care Fund	\$150
Appropriations Dept 000	Transfer	150
Total Appropriations		\$150

Estimated Revenues	Sewer Fund All Sources	\$172,527
Appropriations Dept 203		1,343
Dept 540	Principal	156,996
Dept 540		13,413
Total Appropriations		\$171,797

Estimated Revenues	Water Fund All Sources	\$416,185
Appropriations Dept 540	Principal	347,983
Dept 560		32,225
Total Appropriations		\$380,208

Estimated Revenues	Fire Station All Sources	\$1,800
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Estimated Revenues	Motor Pool All Sources	\$60,875
Appropriations Dept 000		50,783
Total Appropriations		\$60,122

Estimated Revenues	Burgess Drive Improvement	\$1,549
Appropriations Dept 000		11,800
Total Appropriations		\$11,800

Estimated Revenues	Water Special Assessment	\$2,703
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This represents a total in all funds of \$1,537,921.00 in estimated revenues and a total of \$1,463,390.00 in appropriations with a net for all funds of \$74,531.00.

Motion by Councilmember Nicolow and supported by Councilmember Yingling to approve the budget as stated above.

Councilmember Garrett said, before this budget is adopted she wants to suggest that the Police Secretary position be cut down to 15 hours per week tops. This position does not need to work 30 hours per week. Similarly, the Utility Clerk hours should be reduced. She wants this to be done before the budget is approved. She made specific allegations about the employees who serve in these positions and the manner in which they fulfill the responsibilities of their jobs. She stated that she believes the calls that come in to the Police Office could be routed to the City Hall business office and the Clerk could answer them and the Police Officers could prepare their own reports.

Chief Mau responded that the Police Secretary prepares police reports, issues subpoenas and answers the phone.

Clerk Miner asked Councilmembers if they were interested in her input on this subject. Mayor Allen

directed the Clerk to share her thoughts with the Council. Clerk Miner said that she has never witnessed the allegations of improper activity referenced by Councilmember Garrett. She was asked when she first came to the City to assess the need for these two positions, and did so at that time. Now the question has arisen again. She told Councilmembers that she is not able to perform the duties of these two positions. She does not physically have enough time to complete these job assignments in addition to the many and various jobs she already performs for the City. She does not have the knowledge or background in police procedures and protocol necessary to handle the police secretary's job. The Police Secretary is the first line of contact that anyone experiences who needs police assistance between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. It is the Clerk's opinion, that if there is any change in the Police Secretary's hours, it should be an increase not a decrease. Additionally, she cautioned Councilmembers who have any concerns about employee job performance, to take those concerns to the Personnel Committee. These are issues that should be taken up in closed session by the Personnel Committee when the employee is present to respond to allegations; not in open session at a City Council meeting.

The motion by Councilmembers Nicolow and Yingling to approve the budget was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: Councilmember Garrett

ABSENT: Councilmember Jackson,

VIII. REPORTS OF OFFICERS & BOARDS

a. Accounts payable

Motion by Councilmember Nicolow and supported by Councilmember Garrett to approve the report of accounts payable in the amount of \$19,268.92.

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Jackson

c. Treasurer's Report

Motion by Councilmember VanNess and supported by Councilmember Nicolow to approve the Treasurer's Report showing a balance in all funds totaling \$1,509,195.40.

Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Jackson

b. Department of Public Works

Supervisor Wilson stated that he has nothing to report. Nothing has gone wrong. Everything is running smoothly.

Mayor Allen reported that they are making temporary repairs to Battle Creek St. to get us through until our repaving project can get underway.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Downtown Development Authority address re:
Military Personnel Sign

Linda Carlton, President of the Downtown Development Authority said that a lot of talk has gone around about the Military sign that was taken down and then put back up in downtown. She stated that in May 2008 the DDA first proposed moving this sign. They approached City Council who told them the City did not have jurisdiction over the sign and that they should talk to the people who put the sign up. On May 16, 2008 She (Carlton) along with Marian Doxey talked to Jack McDaniels who erected the sign. Mr. McDaniels said that he did not care if the sign was moved, and that Dave Upson was the one who put the names on the sign and he is the person they would need to talk to when they wanted to update the names on it.

Subsequently they talked to the Galesburg Historical Museum about where to put the sign. In the spring of 2009 the DDA decided to go ahead and move the sign. The Museum had staked out the new place for the sign to be placed.

It was their intent to improve the sign. They were to take it down, move it over to the Museum and make it a permanent memorial with lights, flowers and a flag.

After they had the sign taken down and moved over to the Museum, City Hall called them about the condition the sign was left in, i.e. lying on the ground. She (Carlton) called the workers who moved the sign down to the Museum and they went and rearranged the sign so that it was propped up against the wall of the museum. They took all of the names off of the sign so that they could be placed on the new background that was required to be built by the rot in the old frame.

The Saturday of Memorial Day weekend there was a report on the news of vandalism to the sign by person or

persons unknown. The following Tuesday she visited City Hall and inquired of the Police Department as to how many complaints were filed or how many calls of complaint had been received about the sign. She was told there were none. She asked City Hall about calls of complaint and was told there were none.

There definitely was a misconception about who has authority over the sign and what should be done about it. The timing was definitely bad, but there was no vandalism to the sign. This sign means just as much to the DDA as it does to anyone else in the City. She has not spoken to Mr. Upson personally, but there have been a lot of reports of vandalism by the news media and articles in the newspaper. Everyone in the DDA appreciates the service of our wonderful men and women from Galesburg and the surrounding area. The Police have talked to the DDA Board Members and they have been told that there is a push to prosecute the parties guilty of the vandalism. But, there was not any vandalism. The DDA Board has taken further votes about the condition of the sign and has decided at this time to do nothing further with regard to the sign or its surroundings.

Dave Upson, no address given, said that he is part owner of this sign. It is a shame what happened to it. He asked where the DDA got the authority to move the sign.

Councilmember Nicolow stated that his inquiries have revealed that the City Council did not give authority to anyone with regard to the sign. Neither for its placement, nor for its move to the museum.

Mr. Upson asked the DDA who gave them permission to take down a sign that is personal property. The damage to the sign was done by metal parts.

Clerk Miner read the following letter presented to her by Councilmember Jackson regarding the military sign.

"This would be my input on a subject we should not even be wasting time on, the removal of the veterans sign. The person that will not let this issue rest and knows what happened hasn't had the courage to come to the meeting. The veterans sign memorial was going to be the center piece of the Park entrance with a new flag, decorative stones, flowers and frequent updating. This sign is on City Property and is illegal as it was never approved by the City or the Planning Committee. This should be a moot subject as the City has the right to move or remove it. The Parks Committee was going to take care of the sign. There is nothing to prosecute, because nothing was done illegally. The person raising all of this heck does not even live in the City. He knows who moved the sign, but has no interest in quieting the things down about this issue. It should be dropped, as the DDA dropped it.

Thank you,

Jim Jackson"

Kathleen Fett, DDA member and owner and proprietor of Images in Downtown Galesburg, said that the intent of the sign was to honor the people in active service in the armed forces, is that correct? David Upson answered, yes. Ms. Fett continued, the names on this sign are not current. Many of these people are no longer serving.

Clara Srackangast, member of the DDA, said that Mr. Upson, or Mr. McDaniels should have attended the DDA meetings to which they were invited. David Upson said he was never invited to a DDA meeting.

Linda Carlton asked Mr. Upson if he talked to anyone at the City about who took the sign down before he went to the press.

Marian Doxey, DDA member, said she talked to Jack McDaniels and invited both he and Mr. Upson to the DDA meetings. David Upson said that he is not here to discuss Jack McDaniels.

Kathleen Fett said the DDA has been working really hard to improve the town and the relationships in town. They still want to move the sign, put it in a better place and improve the condition of the sign itself. They have worked very hard to get people working on this town and having the police investigate them for doing something that the Council knew about is disturbing. David Upson said that he has put a lot of time in maintenance of that sign. Seeing it ripped up and materially damaged was painful to him. He has not made any accusations about who did this. He was careful not to do so. Ms. Fett asked Mr. Upson if he would be willing to meet with the DDA regarding the future of the sign. Mr. Upson answered yes.

Writon Graham, DDA Member and Galesburg Business Owner said that there was no intent on the part of the DDA to take the sign down without permission. They assumed that since the sign was on City property, their plans to move it down to Community Park and place it in a permanent spot beside the museum and create a new memorial area out of it would be met with acceptance and approval by the community. They tried to get the two people who did the original sign to join their meetings and take part in planning so that they could have input in the location and plans for creation of the new memorial. The DDA, in trying to make improvements to Downtown did not intentionally deface the sign.

Councilmember Nicolow said that he would like to see the charges dropped. He asked Mr. Upson for a commitment to drop the charges. David Upson responded that he has not filed any charges.

Chief Mau stated that the Officer in charge of the investigation has completed it. It will be up to Mr. Upson to say whether it should be dropped or not.

Mr. Upson said that he has not asked for any charges to be filed. It seems to him that this is all just an unfortunate misunderstanding brought about by circumstances. It looks as if prosecution of the issue is inappropriate and should not go forward. He is willing to meet with the DDA to make plans to go forward.

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. Fire Department Stimulus Grant Application

Galesburg Charleston Fire Department Chief, Garry Henson said that in March there was a joint meeting between the City of Galesburg and Charleston Township in which a grant application for Stimulus Funding administered through FEMA for construction of a new fire station was approved. Since that meeting a committee has been set up to pursue the grant application. They have met with builders and architects and have gone through the building process and developed plans and prices and looked at properties for the site of a new fire station. They have narrowed the list down to two potential properties. One of the properties is in Galesburg, the other is across the street in Charleston. The FEMA grant process does not discuss acquisition of property. The original plan was to include the price of the acquisition of property in the grant. The guidelines for the grant application are now available and they exclude property acquisition from allowable expenses of the grant. The application window for this grant is now open and will be until July 10th. Because of the strict guidelines for these grants, a lot of applicants have dropped out. FEMA wants the stimulus money to go towards energy efficient buildings. The building they propose to build has a 98% efficient boiler in their plans. They are considering the addition of windmills and solar panels that could be used in the building to increase efficiency also. The grant guidelines require women's and men's sleeping quarters and bathrooms. The building is also required to have a 50 year life span. At the previously held joint meeting it was discussed that there would be zero cost to the City and Township for the construction of a new fire station. Now, because of the exclusion of property acquisition in the grant application guidelines, they are looking at the cost of acquiring the property. They will pick one of the two properties he has discussed and make an offer on it that is contingent to the grant application being approved. One of the properties is on the NW corner of Michigan Ave. and McCollum. It comprises 1 acre at a cost of \$60,000. The other property is across the street at the NE corner of Michigan and McCollum and comprises 2 acres at a cost of \$90,000. They have the building plans for a building that will go on either property.

He has a concern with the property on the NW corner, which is located on the City side of McCollum. This property will not give them enough room for an adequate amount of parking spaces for firemen when they are responding to a call.

Councilmember Garrett asked Chief Henson if he has met with Charleston Township regarding this request for appropriation of funds. Chief Henson answered no. He has talked to them, but not met with them yet. There is some interest in getting a meeting going.

Councilmember Nicolow said he thought the Council had given permission for him to apply for the grant at the joint meeting in March. He asked at that time if the City would have to authorize the purchase of property prior to the grant application being submitted and he was told no. Chief Henson said that is why he is here tonight. At that meeting he told Council that the grant application would not require the use of money from the City.

Clerk Miner read the following letter from Councilmember Jackson into the record of this meeting:

"It would be nice to have a new fire station, but do we really need one? No! When we agreed to okay the grant application it was on the condition of no cost to Galesburg or Charleston. We knew we had no land, but it was going to be added to the grant. No way! If we really needed a new station it would be different, but we do not need one at this cost to Galesburg and Charleston.

Actually, we already said no if there were to be a cost. My vote and input would be NO! I have thought a lot about this. The City needs any money it has to update our offices and buildings.

Thank you

*Jim Jackson,
Chairman of the Galesburg Augusta Joint Fire Board"*

Councilmember Yingling asked what about putting the new fire station on the current property. Chief Henson said the Fire Department does not own this building. They have a month to month rental agreement with the City of Galesburg.

Mayor Allen said it is a municipally owned building. It should qualify to apply for this stimulus money.

Chief Henson said that he did not look at adding on to the current station. It is the fire department that has to apply. The City is not eligible to apply.

Councilmember Nicolow asked Chief Henson if he has spoken with Charleston Township Supervisor Bell on this topic. What does Mr. Bell want to do? Chief Henson said that he spoke with Mr. Bell and there is support in the township to go forward on this project. Does the City need a new fire station, no. Does the City need a new DPW building, yes and the current fire station would make a good one.

Mayor Allen said that he, too, has spoken with Mr. Bell. They must be getting diverging answers.

City Clerk Miner requested that Council not take action on this request at tonight's meeting. She asked that they delay taking action on this request until such time as research can be done to identify where this type of funding could be found.

Chief Henson said that the grant application deadline is July 10th. They do not have time to wait, as the next City Council meeting will not be held until July 6th.

Clerk Miner suggested that a special meeting could be called for the purpose of identifying funding potential and approving the request.

Councilmember Garrett stated that the Council just spent two meetings making cuts in the budget and a special meeting would cost money. Where is that money to come from and why is it that the City has the money for acquisition of property for the downtown improvement grant application, but not the stimulus grant application. Clerk Miner responded that is exactly her point. The downtown improvement grant project was brought to the Council in writing and the funding had already been identified before council was asked to approve it.

Motion by Councilmember Nicolow and supported by Councilmember Garrett that the City Council authorize the expenditure of up to \$45,000 for the acquisition of property for construction of a new fire station.

Motion approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Councilmembers Garrett, Kissinger, Nicolow, VanNess

NAYS: Councilmembers Yingling, Allen

ABSENT: Councilmember Jackson

XI. COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilmember Kissinger announced that the Fire Board has been awarded a Polaris 6 wheel all terrain vehicle for search and rescue missions. This valuable piece of equipment cost the City and the Township nothing. The Fire Department will take delivery of the vehicle in August.

Councilmember Nicolow stated a point of clarification for the record. Regarding the personnel issues and staffing issues discussed during consideration of the budget resolution; The Clerk referenced having been asked to assess the need for the Police Clerk when she was hired. His concern was not whether or not that person is working, his concern at the time is that a couple of years ago when she was working only part time at 25 hours per week, Council was asked to approve adding 5 hours to her work week because the Police Department

needed her more. They were not told that by increasing her hours to 30 per week they would effectively be making her a full time employee, eligible for full benefits from the City. Being that she is now considered a full time employee with full benefits, it will not cost the City a great deal of money if we need to increase her hours.

Councilmember Garrett asked that a letter be sent to Comstock Township regarding the storage building, or whatever it is that is being built just inside township boundaries. She would like the letter to request that the township take steps to get this property cleaned up.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Debbie Miner, CMC
Galesburg City Clerk, CFO

DRAFT