

**CITY OF GALESBURG
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 7, 2021**

In accordance with COVID-19 restrictions this meeting was broadcast on the City's YouTube Channel, and Facebook which provided the public the opportunity to make comment. This meeting was held via ZOOM due to the increase in COVID Exposures.

Mayor West called the meeting to order. She gave specific instructions for those who would like to make public comment.

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present and stated the location from which they were attending the meeting:

Lori West – City of Galesburg
Rebecca Harmon – City of Galesburg
Dale Harmon – City of Galesburg
Judy Lemon – City of Galesburg
Linda Marble – City of Galesburg
Angelina Rodriguez – City of Galesburg
Carol Wortinger – City of Galesburg

Also present: Roxanne Seeber, City Attorney; Sarah Joshi, City Manager; Anna Goodsell, Clerk and Josh Raney, DPW Supervisor

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

West stated she would like to add to the agenda a proclamation supporting the “Talking is Teaching” program promoted by Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency. A motion was made by Rodriguez and seconded by Lemon to approve the agenda with the previously mentioned addition. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

West asked if there was any public comment. West gave specific instructions as how to comment using a phone, YouTube and Zoom. She allowed several minutes for public comment. She once again asked for public comment. It was reported there were no message left in the google voicemail box, or no one in live chat. The individual in the waiting room was asked if they wanted to make public comment, and they did not. There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was comprised of the following items:

- Minutes of the May 10, 2021 Regular Meeting
- Minutes of the May 25, 2021 Special Meeting
- Paid Invoices - \$8,023.56
- Invoice Needing Approval - \$54,584.95
- Granting Authorization for Sarah Joshi, City Manager, to sign the letter requesting to change the Health Insurance Plan Year to be the same as the calendar year
- Approval to purchase computer equipment for the Department of Public Works - \$1,121

Marble asked if Associated Government Services had provided a monthly report. Joshi reported one had not been received. Marble suggested the invoice not be paid until a report is received. There was brief discussion.

Marble made a motion to approve the consent agenda, with the payment to Associated Government Service being held until a monthly report is received. Rodriguez support the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Sarah Joshi, City Manager, proceeded to give her report. There was general discussion regarding the report.

23 EAST BATTLE CREEK STREET UPDATE

The council then received an update about 23 East Battle Creek Street ordinance enforcement from City Attorney, Roxanne Seeber. In the report Seeber gave an overview of the last year’s of events with this property, including orders issued by the court. In the most recent order the property was deemed to be unsafe and unrepairable, and the owner was told to raze the building. The City was ordered to secure the building from casual entry.

There was lengthy discussion. The concern was if the City were to raze the building would the City be able to recoup the costs and by what means. Seeber indicated there could a discovery hearing done that would identify all the of the owners’ assets. She said based on information gained in the hearing it may be possible to garnish wages, and/or place liens against other properties they own.

A motion was made by Lemon and supported by Rodriguez to authorize Seeber to pursue a discovery hearing and take the steps necessary to adjust the fines being charged against the property owners. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

A motion was made by Marble and seconded by Lemon to open the public hearing to consider the 21/22 FY budget. A roll call vote was taken, and the Council voted unanimously to open the public hearing. West asked if there was any public comment,

giving specific instructions and ample time for comment. There was no public comment. Upon motion of Lemon, seconded by Rodriguez, the Council voted unanimously by roll call to close the public hearing.

CONSIDERATION – RESOLUTION NUMBER 20210607A ADOPTING 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

The Council then considered the Resolution adopting the 21/22 FY Budget. Marble made a motion to adopt the resolution, which was seconded by Lemon. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION – 2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

The Council proceeded to consider the proposed adjustments to the 20/21 FY Budget. There was brief discussion. A motion was made by Marble and seconded by Lemon to approve the budget adjustments. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

CONSIDERATION – RESOLUTION NUMBER 20210607B OPTING OUT OF PA 152

A motion was made by Marble to adopt the resolution Opting Out of PA 152. Lemon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

CONSIDERATION – OPENING BATHROOMS IN GALESBURG COMMUNITY PARK

Joshi explained there had been interest in opening the bathrooms for in the park for those using the park and the Kalamazoo Valley River Trail. West explained there are no public restrooms on the trail between Comstock and Galesburg. Joshi stated the DPW staff would stager their schedules to open and close the bathrooms each day. Lemon made a motion to open the Community Park restrooms. R. Harmon supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION – GRANTING AUTHORITY FOR CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE GULL LAKE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY (GLWSA) CONTRACT

The Council then considered the contract from GLWSA for operation of the water system. Joshi indicated there was a 1% increase in the contact. Marble made a motion granting the authority for Joshi to sign the GLWSA contract. The motion was supported by Rodriguez. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

TALKING IS TEACHING DECLARATION

Lemon read the following declaration and West declared it adopted.

Whereas: Talking is Teaching is a nationally renowned, evidence-based early literacy campaign through Too Small To Fail, which works to transform the early

literacy development of young children by encouraging parents and caregivers to talk, read and sing with children, ages 0-5; and

Whereas: The greatest brain development growth for a human being occurs between birth and five years of age, a time in a child's life in which parents or caregivers provide the most direct care; and

Whereas: The Michigan Department of Education has declared Michigan to be the first state to implement *Talking Is Teaching* across counties, establishing the initiative within Kalamazoo's Great Start Collaborative at Kalamazoo RESA; and

Whereas: Approximately 55% of Kalamazoo County children are not reading at proficiency levels by third grade and the global pandemic is expected to further impact children's social-emotional wellbeing and early brain and literacy development; and

Whereas: Kalamazoo RESA's *Talking is Teaching* is committed to improving children's early literacy development by empowering parents and caregivers with the simple message: your everyday actions can make a real difference in the brain development of your young child, by tuning in, talking more and taking turns; and

Whereas: These critical interactions can occur during simple, everyday activities, such as during bath time, bedtime, while doing the laundry, or going for a walk, talking, reading, and singing can make all the difference in a child's developing brain; and

Whereas: A correlation exists between the number of loving, back-and-forth conversations with parents and a child's exposure to words by age three, with eventual school performance and achievement; and

Whereas: The City of Galesburg supports *Talking is Teaching* through a literacy walk in the Community Park June 5-19 and a special story time for children and their caregivers June 12 to help change the trajectory of early literacy in our community,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Lori West, do hereby proclaim the City of Galesburg to be a *Talking is Teaching* community as of June 7, 2021, and do commend this observance to all of our citizens.

CONSIDERATION – UPDATES TO COVID POLICY

Joshi reviewed the proposed updates to the COVID Policy. To comply with the recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Agency and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services she had policy for both staff and contractors and all others visiting City

facilities. There was general discussion. A motion was made by Lemon and seconded by Marble to adopt the updates to the COVID Policy. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Josh Ranes, DPW Supervisor gave his report. He addressed questions of the Council. There was lengthy discussion about purchase of a XMark Lawn mower, costing \$10,399.95. Lemon made a motion to purchase the XMark Lawn mower from the 20/21 FY budget if the funds are available. If they are not available the purchase can be made after July 1, 2021, taking the funds from the 21/22 FY budget. Rodriguez seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Lemon stated she was excited to be able to hold meetings in person,

Marble stated she enjoyed the increased interaction between council members at tonight's meeting. She stated she was proud of how groups worked together to get through the challenges of the past year. She wished more people would see how the community came together to get things done. She expressed concern about the negative talk going around town about the city, staff and council, she is asking everyone to put grudges in the past and move forward to improving the city.

ADJOURNMENT

Being duly motioned and supported the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lori West, Mayor

Anna Goodsell, City Clerk