

**CITY OF GALESBURG  
CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 2, 2021\***

Mayor West called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Lori West, Mayor; Linda Marble, Vice-Mayor; Judy Lemon, Dale Hamon, Angelina Rodriguez, Rebecca Harmon and Carol Wortinger.

Also present: Sarah Joshi, City Manager; Theresa Paddock, Recording Secretary; Josh Ranes, DPW Supervisor; Kalamazoo County Sherriff's Deputy Tim Randall and Captain Jeff Christiansen; Attorney Seth Koches; and Matt Schuster of the Public Media Network (PMN).

There were approximately 8 interested persons in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Council proceeded to consider the agenda. A motion made by Lemon, and seconded by Rodriquez to approve the agenda as presented. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

West reviewed the procedures for offering public comments to council. No public comment was offered. At this time; West called to recess for 15 minutes asking the public and council to join DPW Supervisor Ranes in a tour of the facility. She stressed the importance of asking questions and understanding what current and future needs were for the department.

At 6:18 West reconvened the meeting to order.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda was comprised of the following items:

- Minutes of the July 12, 2021 Regular Meeting
- Paid Invoice – \$11,386.43
- Invoices Needing Approval - \$18, 577.49
- June Sheriff's Report

Marble asked to have the minutes corrected on page 2 under closed session that she had recused herself and the motion amended to show she had abstained from voting.

Upon motion by D Harmon, seconded by Rodriguez. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **CITY MANAGERS REPORT**

Sarah Joshi, City Manager, proceeded to give her report and then introduced Kalamazoo County Sheriff Deputy Tim Randall. Officer Randall then addressed the council updating them in regard to open ordinance enforcement cases, homeless camps within the city, speeding, and reported break-ins. Officer Randall has been working with residents to educate them on the speed limits within the city and has made several traffic stops.

Kalamazoo County Sheriff Captain Jeff Christiansen addressed the council regarding reports for stats; the qualifications of Deputy Randall, and homeless impacts on the city. He iterated residents should contact the Central Dispatch non-emergency number with concerns they may have (especially regarding homelessness) and a Deputy will be dispatched on a priority basis.

Joshi redirected council members to her report regarding the Water Rate Study asking council members to meet with the representatives to review the procedures and recommendations.

Joshi also advised that a refund had been received from the County Sherriff Department due to COVID relief funds.

## **CONSIDERATION - CONTRACT WITH SAFEBuilt**

City Manager Joshi introduced Paul Featherstone with SAFEBuilt. Mr. Featherstone presented procedures for performing Ordinance Enforcement and referred council members to the proposal given previously. Discussion ensued on appreciation for the procedures presented, working with residents, and availability to council, residents and staff.

Motion by Marble, supported by B. Harmon, to enter into agreement with SAFEBuilt. Roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously. City Manager Joshi is to work with AGS to cancel current agreement and advise SAFEBuilt of starting date.

SAFEBuilt was in agreement to be able to start as soon as possible and would to make the transition as smooth as possible.

## **CONSIDERATION- FUNDING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPITAL PURCHASES**

Chief Roomsburg presented the council with a Capital Equipment Replacement Time Frame. Discussion followed regarding the use of each truck, grants available, grant writing specialist and long-term financial preparedness.

Attorney Koches addressed the council regarding options available for funding such as millage requests or special assessment districts. The Council reviewed pros and cons for each scenario.

City Manager Joshi advised the deadline for placing a millage on the November ballot was today. Discussion ensued over placing a millage request on another election, as

council members felt it may be prudent to take extra time in exploring the benefits of a millage over a special assessment district.

Upon motion by D. Harmon, seconded by Rodriquez to approve resolution # 20210802 to place a millage question on the November 2021 ballot. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

## **CONSIDERATION - AMENDMENTS 2 TO THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Motion by Marble, supported by B. Harmon, approving Solid Waste Resolution #20210802B. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

## **CONSIDERATION - 5-WAY INTERSECTION UPGRADES BY M-DOT.**

Motion by Marble seconded by Wortinger, approving 5-Way Mast Arms pending estimated costs not to exceed \$60,000. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. The project is expected to be completed by 2023.

## **DPW REPORT**

DPW Director Josh Raney offered his report and answered questions from council regarding failed water meters, street patching and sidewalk replacement.

## **SUB-COMMITTEE / LIAISON REPORTS**

- Fire Board -D. Harmon advised the Fire Chief had reviewed everything in his presentation.
- Planning Commission – Marble introduced the Chair of the Planning Commission, ~~Don Cochran~~ **Denis Homan**. Mr. ~~Cochran~~ **Homan** advised the PC has adopted by-laws, elected officers, and set their first public hearing for ordinance amendment. He requested council consider a Zoning Board of Appeals. Attorney Koches will research the requirements for membership to fit the city population.
- Downtown Development Authority (DDA) – West introduced Writton Graham who advised the DDA held their first meeting. The group has no previous information to work with so they are essentially starting from scratch. The group is putting together a list of work that needs to be done to be presented to council at a later date for consideration.
- Personnel – Marble advised the next personnel meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m. to be held at city hall.
- Playgrounds – Rodriquez advised she continues to glean information for the playgrounds. It was suggested to consider disc golf as they would be a great use for all age groups and are very popular.
- Ice Cream Social – West apprised success with great turnout for the 1<sup>st</sup> Ice Cream Social. She is working to acquire sponsorship from business' and asking families to host a table. The 2<sup>nd</sup> one is schedule for August 10<sup>th</sup> on Sherman Street.

West is presenting residents with a 3-question survey to glean information on what the community feels are the current needs and why. She encouraged council members to review the survey and complete.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

There were no council comments

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being duly motioned and supported the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lori West, Mayor

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Theresa L Paddock, MiPCMC, CMC  
Recording Secretary on behalf of  
Anna Goodsell, Clerk