

**CITY OF GALESBURG
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 15, 2022
9 AM**

Mayor West called the meeting to order at 9:10 am

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present Lori West, Mayor; Linda Marble, Vice Mayor; Dale Harmon, and Rebecca Harmon. Carol Wortinger and Judy Lemon were absent. A motion was made by R. Harmon and seconded by Marble to excuse the absence of Lemon. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Also present: Sarah Joshi, City Manager; Josh Ranes, DPW Supervisor; and City Attorney; Seth Koches.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Council proceeded to consider the agenda. Joshi asked that an addition be made to the agenda to discuss Parks Grant Funding Approval Timeline. By consensus the agenda was approved with the previously mentioned addition.

CITIZEN COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONSIDERATION – PROPOSAL TO REPAIR PARK RESTROOMS

The Council then considered proposals from W. Soule and RW LaPine for repairs to the park restroom. A motion was made by Marble and seconded by R. Harmon to accept the proposal from RW LaPine. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION – FILLING VACANCY ON THE CITY COUNCIL

The next matter for the Council consideration was to make an appointment to fill the vacancy on the City Council. There was lengthy discussion. A motion was made by R. Harmon and seconded by D. Harmon to appoint Denis Homan to the City Council. A roll call vote was taken, Marble, D. Harmon, and R. Harmon voted in favor of the motion, West was in opposition to the motion. Section 4.9, Item D of the Charter States “The affirmative vote of a majority of members in office shall be necessary to adopt any ordinance or resolution or take any other action allowed by law or this charter unless otherwise required by law.” This motion was not passed by a majority of the members, therefore; it failed.

CONSIDERATION – PARKS GRANT FUNDING APPROVAL TIMELINE

Joshi indicated a MEDC Open Spaces Grant is available to improvements to Ike Payne Park and Community Park. She indicated the engineers wondered whether the Council would be ready to approve the grant application at the meeting at the April 4, 2022, meeting, or if

scheduling a special meeting would be necessary. This grant is a 10%/90% match. By consensus the Council affirmed that April 4, 2022, would be acceptable to consider the grant application.

CONSIDERATION – PERSONNEL MATTER

The Council then considered a personnel matter. Joshi informed the Council that there was disciplinary action taken regarding DPW Technician Gerald Harris. She stated that Mr. Harris was given a written notice of this meeting and his option to attend the meeting and to conduct this business in closed session. Mr. Harris was not in attendance at the meeting. Joshi and Raney reviewed with the Council the documented policy violation which formed the basis of their recommended action to terminate Mr. Harris' employment. There was discussion, and questions of the Council were answered. A motion was made by Marble and supported by R. Harmon to direct City Manager Joshi to terminate the employment of Gerald Harris, effective March 15, 2022. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was then made by Marble, seconded by R. Harmon to grant the authority to the City Manager to terminate employees. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.


COUNCIL COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:41 pm

Respectfully submitted,


Lori West, Mayor


Sarah Joshi, MPA
City Manager