

**CITY OF GALESBURG
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 6, 2022
6 PM**

Mayor West called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

Boy Scout Troop #265 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Lori West, Mayor; Linda Marble, Deputy Mayor; Dale Harmon, Rebecca Harmon, Ryan Harnden, Judy Lemon and Carol Wortinger.

Also present: Sarah Joshi, City Manager; Josh Ranes, DPW Supervisor; Ann Howard; Treasurer and approximately 10 citizens.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No discussion was made. D. Harmon made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by B. Harmon

The following voted "Nay": None

Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Captain Christensen said we were all set for Galesburg Days. Judy Lemon thanked him for removing the three pit bulls on Washington Street.

CONSENT AGENDA

H. Harmon moved, seconded by Lemon to approve the consent agenda as presented:

- a. Invoices needing approval for payment - \$40,431.89
- b. Paid invoices - \$109,754.38
- c. City Council Meeting Minutes
 1. May 9, 2022 Meeting
- d. Council acknowledges receipt of:
 1. Fire Board – Minutes of the March 16, 2022 meeting
 2. Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes – May 23, 2022
 3. DDA Meeting Minutes – no meeting held
 4. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes – Minutes of the April 11, 2022 meeting
 5. Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Report – April 2022 Reports

On a roll call vote, the following voted "Aye": D. Harmon, Harnden, Lemon, Wortinger, Marble, B. Harmon, West

The following voted “Nay”: None

Motion carried unanimously.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Joshi reviewed her report with Council. She highlighted the State’s request wanting us to update the Mechanical, Plumbing and Electrical ordinances. Budget has been staff’s focus since the last meeting. The two new employees, Lisa McNees and Dan Ellis, are doing well. The court-ordered demolition at 30 Beckwith was done. She explained the model she provided in the packet called Approaches to Conflict.

Wortinger asked about the pay scale for Dan Ellis, Lisa McNees and Tim Snow.

PROCLAMATION: Boy Scout’s 100-year Anniversary

Mayor West read the Proclamation

CONSIDERATION: Boy Scouts use of Galesburg Community Park

Scoutmaster Kevin Linders requested use of Galesburg Community Park overnight on July 23 for a Scouting event. He proposed that the Boy Scouts would use one side of the park and only park in the designated areas. He also said they would keep the bathrooms locked and that they would assign the key when needed in order to address vandalism concerns. All trash would be picked up and the park would be cleaner than when they came.

Motion was made by Wortinger to approve Boy Scouts overnight use of the Galesburg Community Park on July 23, seconded by Harnden.

On a roll call vote, the following voted “Aye”: D. Harmon, Harnden, Lemon, Wortinger, Marble, B. Harmon, West

The following voted “Nay”: None

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION: Approval to hire Abonmarche to consult on Master Plan

Planning Commission Chair Denis Homan gave an overview of the two firms, McKenna and Abonmarche, that presented to the Planning Commission. Although Abonmarche appeared to be more expensive, Planning Commission members agreed they were a better fit for our city. Marble stated we are deficient in our master plan and out of compliance and that the Planning Commission members agreed that Abonmarche was the best choice.

Mike Huber and Derek Sever were present from Abonmarche. They discussed the importance of community engagement. They are excited to get started with the City of Galesburg.

There was general discussion regarding the proposal and its timelines.

Motion was made by Marble to approve Abonmarche to consult on the master plan, seconded by Lemon.

On a roll call vote, the following voted "Aye": D. Harmon, Harnden, Lemon, Wortinger, Marble, B. Harmon, West

The following voted "Nay": None

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION: Municipal Employee Retirement System

Tara Tyler from Municipal Employee Retirement System gave an overview of the MERS non-profit retirement system. They offer a 401a tax-free investment for employee contributions and a 457 account for employer contributions. An employee may withdraw funds from the 401a account at age 59 ½ years to retire, the 457 has no age requirement. An employee can take their MERS accounts with them if a subsequent employer offers a MERS plan.

Marble noted that the MERS plan removes some of the City's fiduciary responsibilities. Also, the fees are less than with the current Nationwide plan, and the returns are higher. A three-year vesting plan was proposed, and the City will continue to offer a retirement contribution match up to 4%.

D. Harmon asked the four employees who were present what their opinion was regarding the change to MERS, and all indicated approval.

Motion was made by Marble to approve a change to the new MERS 401a and 457 accounts for employee and employer contributions with a three-year vesting timeline, retroactive to each employee's date of hire, seconded by B. Harmon.

On a roll call vote, the following voted "Aye": D. Harmon, Harnden, Lemon, Wortinger, Marble, B. Harmon, West

The following voted "Nay": None

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION: Rental Housing Inspection Ordinance

Wortinger expressed concern about charging landlords a registration and inspection fee.

B. Harmon spoke in support of the proposed ordinance, explaining what happens to the renters with irresponsible landlords. Some renters are afraid to speak up for fear of eviction.

Safebuilt account manager Kellie Lindsey explained that under the new ordinance renters won't have to be afraid to report substandard living conditions. If passed, communication and registrations will begin over the summer. Inspections are slated to begin in September.

After discussion, Lemon made a motion to approve the Rental Housing Inspection Ordinance #286, seconded by Marble.

On a roll call vote, the following voted "Aye": West, B. Harmon, Marble, Harnden, Lemon

The following voted "Nay": D. Harmon, Wortinger

Motion carried 5 – 2.

CONSIDERATION: Rental Housing Inspection Rate Resolution

The registration and inspection fee matrix was presented. It was moved by Marble, seconded by Harnden to accept the rates, with the exception of the first year's timeline; for the first year, the late registration fee would be applied only after September 30.

On a roll call vote, the following voted "Aye": Marble, B. Harmon, D. Harmon, Harnden, Lemon, West

The following voted "Nay": Wortinger

Motion carried 6-1.

CONSIDERATION – 2022-23 budget resolution

Monika Fontaine from Plante Moran was present to discuss proposed budget and said that we have a General Fund increase of approximately 15.5 % in revenue. Appropriations increased by approximately 15.5 % as well.

Marble moved to adopt 2022-23 budget resolution, seconded by Lemon.

On a roll call vote, the following voted "Aye": D. Harmon, Harnden, Lemon, Wortinger, Marble, B. Harmon, West

The following voted "Nay": None

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION: 4th Quarter Budget Amendments

Monika Fontaine from Plante Moran presented the 4th quarter budget adjustments.

Marble made a motion to adopt the 4th quarter budget amendments, seconded by Lemon.

On a roll call vote, the following voted "Aye": D. Harmon, Harnden, Lemon, Wortinger, Marble, B. Harmon, West

The following voted "Nay": None

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION: Approval to award Washington & Division Project Contract to Balkema Excavating

Joshi explained that Prein & Newhof engineer Mike Schwartz and four bidders were present at City Hall to open sealed bids on May 27. Balkema Excavating was found to have the lowest bid.

Lemon made a motion to award the Washington & Division street project to Balkema Excavating, subject to MDOT approval, seconded by Harnden.

On a roll call vote, the following voted “Aye”: Marble, B. Harmon, D. Harmon, Lemon, Wortinger, West, Harnden

The following voted “Nay”: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment to Zoning Board of Appeals – Judy Lemon

Mayor West appointed Judy Lemon to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Council supported unanimously.

CONSIDERATION: Amendment to ordinance 279, 280, 281

Discussion of the State-requested changes to these ordinances was tabled until the June 27th meeting.

CONSIDERATION: Proposal for Woodhill Group Accounting & Training Support

After working with Plante Moran it was determined that they couldn’t provide the extent of the services we need for training. Woodhill Group does training, for us to eventually do it on our own. Plante Moran’s model is to continue to support the City’s work instead of training the treasurer to be more independent.

On a roll call vote, the following voted “Aye”: Marble, B. Harmon, D. Harmon, Lemon, Wortinger, West, Harnden

The following voted “Nay”: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION: Joint Fire Board Draft Agreement

D. Harmon stated that Charleston Township objects to the aspect of the current Joint Fire Board agreement that calls for the tenant to pay for building maintenance costs. He stated that no routine maintenance should be required of the tenant in the new contract.

Marble stated that the issue would be part of a larger discussion, including rent increase.

Lemon asked what kind of advertising the Joint Fire Board and Chief is doing for recruiting Fire Department personnel. Raney stated advertisement has been done on the JFB website, Facebook, bulletin board, and in the coffee shop.

After discussion, it was determined that the Joint Fire Board draft agreement discussion be tabled until the June 27th meeting.

DPW REPORT

Director Raney reviewed his written report with the Council. No questions were received.

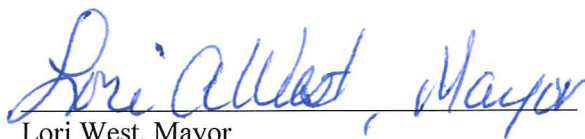
COUNCIL COMMENTS:

D. Harmon announced that effective midnight tonight he and B. Harmon would be resigning their seats.

There being no further business, Mayor West adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.



Lisa McNeese
City Clerk



Lori West, Mayor