

**CITY OF GALESBURG  
CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 9, 2023  
6 PM**

Mayor Marble called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Oath of Office was given to Harnden and Wortinger.

Roll was taken, and the following members were present: Linda Marble, Mayor, Judy Lemon, Roger Frazee, Glen Hawes, Ryan Harnden and Carol Wortinger.

Absent: Stanley Chovanec

Also present: Sarah Joshi, City Manager; Josh Ranes, DPW Supervisor, and Tim Randall, County Deputy Sheriff and approximately nine citizens.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

No discussion was made.

Lemon moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Frazee.

On a voice vote motion passed unanimously.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Ann Nieuwenhuis of Charleston Township reported she is now the Secretary to the Galesburg/Charleston Fire Board and Scott Balkema is the Treasurer.

Linda Carlton with GABCA stated Winter Wonderland was a huge success. She said they handed out over 300 hot dogs, 250 beanie babies and there was a line for Santa all night long. She also welcomed the Mayor and new council members to their new roles and hoped that they could all collaborate together in the New Year. GABCA meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 a.m. at the Coffee Klutch.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

No discussion was made.

Frazee moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Harnden.

On a voice vote motion passed unanimously.

## **SHERIFF'S REPORT**

Deputy Randall spoke about the larceny in motor vehicles at the trailer park the suspects have been apprehended. There was a home invasion on Thomas Street. It was never reported to the police, but it was put on social media. Deputy Randall did emphasize to citizens the need to lock their doors, pay attention, and call the police. Active hooter training has been rescheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall. The Sheriff's Department will teach us on how to respond to different scenarios in case of an active shooter.

## **FIRE BOARD REPORT**

Fire Department representative Bruce Turner reviewed the December run report. Galesburg had 19 calls, Charleston had 32 calls with five mutual aid calls for a total of 56. In 2022 there were 217 Galesburg calls and 224 Charleston calls with 29 mutual aid calls for a total of 470 calls, which is down from 502 in 2021. They are averaging a call a day in 2023. There were no serious phone calls with that last winter storm.

Lemon stated in reading last month's minutes the Fire Department was turned down for a grant for a fire truck, and asked whether the fire department would try again. Representative Turner said they are seeking other avenues to try again.

## **DPW REPORT**

DPW Supervisor Raney reviewed his report and responded to questions from Council.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Joshi reviewed her report and responded to questions from Council.

## **PRESENTATION: COMMUNITY ACTION WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

David King stated the Communication Weatherization Assistance Program has been around since the 1970's. It is 100% grant funded from the Department of Energy to help low-income residents. It is for residents who are 200% below the poverty line. They service five counties, including Kalamazoo, Barry, Branch, Calhoun and St. Joseph. Once qualified they come into the home and look for carbon monoxide as well as look at the furnaces, insulation, water heaters, etc. On average they spend around \$9,000 per home. He left flyers for residents to pick up at City Hall.

## **CONSIDERATION: RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Marble presented the proposed rules of procedure and explained that the rules are required by charter. Especially with new council members it is important to have this in place.

Frazer moved to approve the Rules of Procedure, seconded by Lemon.

On a voice vote motion passed unanimously.

## **MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Marble nominated Judy Lemon as Planning Commission Liaison. Frazee moved to have Councilwoman Lemon as Planning Commission Liaison, seconded by Harnden.

On a voice vote motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Marble nominated Ryan Harnden as School Board Liaison. Lemon moved to have Councilman Harnden as School Board Liaison, seconded by Frazee.

Mayor Marble nominated Stanley Chovanec a one-year term and Glen Hawes a two-year term on the Personnel Committee. Frazee moved to have Councilman Chovanec and Councilman Hawes as Personnel Committee Liaison, seconded by Harnden.

On a voice vote motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Marble nominated Carol Wortinger, Ryan Harnden and Roger Frazee as a task force to discuss the draft Joint Fire Board agreement with Charleston Township representatives. No vote was necessary.

Mayor Marble nominated Judy Lemon as Vice Mayor. Frazee moved to have Councilwoman Lemon as Vice Mayor, seconded by Harnden.

On a voice vote motion passed unanimously.

Marble stated beginning with the February council meeting at the end of the meeting when it is time for council comments is when the Liaison for each board will present information from their meetings.

## **CONSIDERATION: ENGINEERING SERVICES LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT**

Joshi presented Prein & Newhof's annual letter of engagement which is required to be signed annually. Marble asked about the Professionals Services Agreement that is dated December 5, 2022, is that this agreement or some other agreement. Joshi states it is just the date they sent it over.

Frazee moved to approve Prein and Newhof as our Engineering Service, seconded by Lemon.

On a voice vote motion passed unanimously.

## **CONSIDERATION: ELECTRICAL NEEDS**

Deputy Randall reported he reached out to four companies about electrical upgrades. Two companies responded Roc Electric and CT Electric. Both companies offer five-year warranties on parts and one year on labor. There is a difference between the two companies of \$862. Deputy Randall said he had a difficult time getting Roc Electric to answer his calls, however he had the opposite problem with CT Electric. His recommendation to council is CT Electric, they have done work for us in the past and have outstanding customer service.

Fraze moved to have CT Electric do our upgrades, seconded by Harnden.

On a roll call vote, the following voted "Aye": Wortinger, Fraze, Hawes, Harnden, Lemon and Marble.

The following voted "Nay": None

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **CONSIDERATION: METAL DETECTOR QUOTE**

Supervisor Raney explained the metal detector they currently have is out of date and not working properly. The quote is inline with other metal detectors that many other municipalities use.

Harnden moved to accept the metal detector quote, seconded by Lemon.

On a roll call vote, the following voted "Aye": Lemon, Harnden, Hawes, Wortinger, Fraze and Marble.

The following voted "Nay": None

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **CONSIDERATION: 2023 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**

Marble stated the January 21, 2022, meeting is for Council training, not just new council but all council. Michigan Municipal League is doing the training and council members will attend the virtual training together at City Hall. Most of the meeting schedule is on the first Monday, except those months where an election or holiday falls.

Lemon moved to accept the 2023 Council meeting schedule, seconded by Fraze.

On a voice vote motion passed unanimously.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Lemon invited the city residents to the next Planning Commission meeting, and mentioned an article in the Planner regarding the use of empty city lots.

Harnden asked the new election laws and the cost. Joshi stated we are waiting on direction from the Bureau of Elections to direct us.

There being no further business, Mayor Marble adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

---

Linda Marble, Mayor

---

Lisa McNees, City Clerk