

CITY OF GALVA)
COUNTY OF HENRY) SS
STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The City Council of the City of Galva met in regular session Monday, January 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with Debbie VanWassenhove serving as City Clerk. Mayor Rich Volkert presided with the following Aldermen in attendance: James Hartman, Jayme Hopping, Jackie Clucas, Doug Anderson, & Rick Otterstrom. Alderman Olson was noted as being absent.

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Alderman Anderson made a motion and was seconded to approve the December 19, 2022 council meeting minutes. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

Alderman Otterstrom moved and was seconded that the bills and claims be approved as presented and the City Clerk is instructed to issue orders on the Treasurer’s account for the several amounts. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Volkert reported that the City had received: December Cannabis tax \$313.49, November Telecommunications tax \$1,920.42, November State Use tax \$8,877.86, December Income tax \$36,760.97, December Video Gaming tax \$3,139.10, November Sales tax \$32,902.81, December MFT \$9,640.51, and December Personal Property Replacement tax \$22,591.90. David Dyer stated that we are \$14,316 up from last years’ record! Alderman Anderson asked about the state MFT funds changing because of electric cars and David replied that that will be coming, and that they have talked about a possible mileage tax but they would have to check odometers and not sure how they would police that. They have also talked about imposing a fee of \$100/year to have an electric car.

First on the agenda was a presentation on economic development by Hometown Consultants. Cole McDaniel gave the presentation. He started by passing out papers showing what they do as a company and outlining what they could possibly do for Galva. He stated that he has been talking with David, Jackie, and Doug about what they can do for the economic development in Galva. He then went over his background. He stated that the first step would be to get a plan in place by talking with the city and business owners to better understand what our individual community needs would be. The next step would be to get a building inventory with needs and uses for each. Then would come a business analysis to put a plan together for properties and buildings that have been demolished to evaluate what a project on those properties would look like and what policies and restrictions need to be put into place. Alderman Clucas asked him to explain how TIF would play a part in all of this. Mr. McDaniel explained that they would look to see how to utilize it for our needs and that there are a lot of costs to offset for these

projects so TIF funds would be an important tool if utilized correctly to be able to get some city owned properties back on the tax base. Alderman Anderson asked if it would be wise to get everything under a code in the downtown area. Mr. McDaniel stated yes we would need code enforcement. Alderman Anderson then asked if it would be wise to have a downtown revitalization map for areas that need help. Mr. McDaniel replied absolutely, having a strategy is very important and that with a plan in place everyone can be on the same page and it will be a big help for the future. Mayor Volkert asked how much emphasis would be on working with our local financial institutions. Mr. McDaniel replied that we would work with them as much as possible and they are very big on keeping things local and that these relationships are important. Mr. McDaniel stated that the things that David Dyer has already done alone for our economic development are huge but putting a new program in place is not easy and he needs help. David has been a wealth of knowledge and will be a vital part of this along with community organizations and the Chamber of Commerce, consistent communication is very important. Alderman Anderson then asked what the next step to move this forward would be. Mr. McDaniel stated that the next step would be for his company to put together a contract and he and his partner Matt can come to the meeting in February to go over it.

Next on the agenda was an update on the Blue Star program. Mayor Volkert stated that our city attorney has looked over the proposed application and everything looked good. Matt Marchand then spoke to the council. He stated that since he proposed this project in September progress has been made, he has had meetings with David, Mayor Volkert, Chief Townsend, and school superintendent Joe Becker. Chief Townsend will be doing the background checks and Mr. Becker will talk to the students and parents. He is hoping to get everything going by spring and if approved he will have applications available on the city website, at City Hall, and at the schools. He showed everyone an example of what the blue stars will look like. Alderman Anderson asked what the closest town that has a program like this would be and Mr. Marchand replied that there are no towns around here that have a program like this. Alderman Anderson asked what the age limit for the kids would be and Mr. Marchand replied that it would be open for any minor. Alderman Anderson then made a motion and was seconded to approve the Blue Star program. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays. Alderman Clucas then suggested talking to John H Best about the possibility of them making metal stars.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of the fence ordinance. David stated that we had an unusual circumstance come up that our ordinance did not address. There is a resident that has a unique property line, it is an L shaped lot that surrounds 2 sides of another property that sits on the corner. They put up a privacy fence that goes all the way to the front of the other properties house which upset the owner of the property. Our ordinance addresses backyards but this properties backyard extends to the west and faces another road and our ordinance does not address that. No one wants a fence extending past their house that isn't theirs. He suggested that we amend the fence ordinance (1360), Section 2 letter R to say that No fence shall extend past the mainframe of Any home. That language should fix the main issue. Old fences would be grandfathered in but new fences would have to comply. Alderman Clucas asked if we would still be allowing front yard fences (currently under the ordinance we allow a front yard fence with a height restriction of

3'6" and 50% visibility), this language would eliminate that. Alderman Anderson suggested that we delete that section (E) so that it is not so convoluted. Elisa stated that she will delete E and modify B to only include side and rear yards. Alderman Anderson also asked to have language included that stated if an existing front yard fence is in ill repair they can repair it but not tear down and replace it. Mayor Volkert stated that we will bring this ordinance back to the council next month after these changes have been made to put it to a vote. Elisa then brought up that subsection S has language about pools having to be behind a fence as well, there was discussion about how the city had been going by the state guidelines on this and she replied that if it is in our ordinance we have to abide by that.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carson Halsall stated that on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce they would definitely like to be a part of the economic development program.

Next on the agenda were the department head reports. Mayor Volkert reported for Kraig Townsend that we have been having a problem with people getting our \$2.00 city pet tags. It is very important to have these so that if your pet gets out the officers know who to return them to. Alderman Clucas suggested that we put in a FAQ on our website, Mayor Volkert also suggested to have it added as a note on the water bills. Mayor Volkert then stated for Richard Plummer a reminder about not parking on the street when it snows more than 2". He also stated that there are some people who are putting their garbage cans out by the curb and then parking right next to them and with the new trucks Eagle is not able to pick up the cans because of this. Greg Thompson stated that the new motor for well 5 will cost \$34,000 and if we were to try to rebuild the motor they have (which has already been rebuilt 3 times) it would still cost \$15,000-20,000. He will be ordering the new motor. He then thanked Debbie and Melissa for their help on getting information on the EPA survey. There has been a lot of compliance so far and the new vac truck has helped a lot in gathering information. He also talked about selling the old vacor trailer and sewer jetter trailer. He believes that they can possibly get \$30,000 for the vacor trailer and possibly \$3,000-\$5,000 for the jetter.

Next on the agenda were the Aldermen's Reports. Alderman Hartman stated that the manholes need to be fixed and raised in the spring. He then asked about road work on SW 4th St. Greg stated that they have the sewer work done and he will talk to Richard about having that section on the MFT plan for this year. Alderman Anderson stated that the house that had recently had a fire by the library has a bunch of garbage out front with no dumpster or garbage cans outside and this needs to be taken care of. He also stated that he knows of a couple of places in town that they are bringing basketball hoops out to the street to play and we need to put a stop to it, it is dangerous.

City Administrator's Report

David Dyer stated that the initial budget for well 5 was \$165,000 and we have expended \$20,000 and he will bring an ordinance to the next meeting to finance the motor. He then stated that there is a 2002 truck on the edge of town for sale for \$2,700 and he would like to offer \$2,500 for it to replace John's truck, no one had a problem with that. Lastly he said that Black Hawk College is having an event for women in manufacturing and they would like us to be a sponsor. Alderman Anderson stated that he would be okay with a \$100 sponsorship this year and if it goes well we could do \$700 next year. David said that we would take that out of the benevolence fund. Everyone was okay with that. Mayor Volkert then said that they have had issues with people ignoring the blue lights on our firemen's vehicles and that people need to be aware of them.

Alderman Hopping moved and was seconded to move to executive session. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

SEE ATTACHED

Alderman Hartman made a motion and was seconded to come out of executive session. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

After no further discussion Alderman Otterstrom made a motion and was seconded to adjourn. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

MAYOR _____

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk.