

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

The City Council of the City of Galva met in regular session Monday March 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. with Debbie VanWassenhove serving as City Clerk. Mayor Rich Volkert presided with the following Aldermen in attendance: Jim Hartman, Jayme Hopping, Jackie Clucas, Jeff Olson, Doug Anderson, and Rick Otterstrom.

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Alderman Anderson made a motion and was seconded to approve the February 26, 2024 council meeting minutes. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

Alderman Olson 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 6 yeas and no nays.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Volkert reported that the City had received: State of IL: February Video Gaming tax \$3,141.64, February Cannabis Use tax \$348.66, January Telecommunications tax \$1,942.94, February Income tax \$24,228.25, January State Use tax \$10,241.40, January/February Personal Property Replacement tax \$7,823.20, January Sales tax \$24,939.00, and February MFT \$8,783.66

First on the agenda was a presentation by Hometown Consultants. Cole McDaniel gave the presentation. Cole gave everyone a copy of the annual economic development report. Cole went over the first-year projects and data they have collected, including building inventory reports, revenues/trends, and where attention needs to be focused. He stated that the second year they will focus more on the industrial areas, getting analysis for individual businesses to see where customers are coming from and going to, reaching out to businesses to see what their barriers are and how to address them, creating an action plan and putting it into place. They are continuing to work on a GIS system to help track all of this as well. He mentioned that they are also working with Crescent City Tap to have a competition to win a free lease for 1 year in the office where BNSF was located in their building. He spoke about the Galva Economic Development committee and was excited about that group. Alderman Anderson thanked him for all of the hard work they have put into building a foundation for us. Alderman Clucas asked Cole to expand on the GIS system and how it will help. Cole replied that it will give us a better understanding of where customers are coming from and going to next, identifies gaps in the market; what do they leave town to shop for, and what needs do we have for Galva. They are talking with Back Road Music Festival as well to test the system out there this year which will help in gathering this information. They are still learning everything it can be utilized for. Alderman Clucas then asked him to speak about Smart Start. Cole stated that they are a group out of the Peoria/Morton area that helps to give entrepreneurs steps on how to open

a business, gives them tools for grants, and helps with a business plan. Mayor Volkert thanked him and stated that Cole is a great resource for anyone with a business in town.

Next on the agenda was a Presentation by Dustin Williams. Dustin stated that he was there to discuss the parking ordinance that was just passed last month. He passed out a copy of some edits/suggestions he would like to see considered to the council. His first issue was in the definition of an abandoned vehicle. He stated that it is unrealistic the way it is written since there are people who go on vacation for longer than 7 days. He also had an issue with the definition of a derelict vehicle since there are people who have project cars that they like to work on so he wanted to see the wording on that changed as well. His next issue was with section 3 stating that no more than 1 tractor at 85hp or less is also unrealistic in a farming community. He is suggesting that they allow for 2. The next issue was with section 3 letter G, he believes that they should allow for 6 items in this category instead of 2 and if they are taken care of and mowed/weeded around it shouldn't be an issue. He also suggested adding a letter H to that section allowing for residents that own a landscaping or construction business that is licensed and insured be allowed to store their equipment in public view on their property as long as it is maintained. His next issue was that recreational vehicles not be allowed to be parked on any terrace at all, he suggested that it be allowed to park on the terrace if it is a hard surface and kept maintained (no tall grass or weeds growing around it). He was also concerned with the wording on staying in a camper for more than 48 hours, but what is the reset? He suggested 7 days. He then brought up that he understands that we do not want people using their campers for storage and suggested that the wording on that be changed to not allow the storage of miscellaneous items or property instead of household items or property. He also suggested some different language for the section on fines. He then stated that not all individuals have the luxury of a garage and they need to take the whole community into consideration. Mayor Volkert replied that they are taking all of this into consideration and want to work with everyone on this. Josh Smith was in the audience and asked about the playground equipment in Wiley Park, stated that it is in very bad shape and wanted to know if the council had any plans for this. Mayor Volkert replied that they are already looking into this and have 3 quotes right now to either fix the existing equipment, replace with the same style, or replace with something different and that they are weighing options and pricing. John Wirth then mentioned that in Washington Park they have seen foul language on the equipment and needles on the ground around it. Mr. Smith then asked about the bricks from the building that was taken down, he was very upset when he learned that they are still there because of asbestos. Mr. Williams then stated that the company hired to demolish it should have covered the bricks if it was because of that. David Trigg stated that he believed someone went onto his private property to determine his camper plates were expired and Chief Townsend stated that they did not go onto his property, they called it in and found that they were expired. Sean O'Brien was upset that he received a notice about his Kayak referencing Ordinance 1588, but under the new ordinance it would be okay so why is he getting a notice. Jimmy Byrd stated that he hoped the council would take all of this seriously and thanked them for listening. Mr. Smith also brought up that he thought there should be a better place to look online for these things as well, more transparency is needed. Alderman Anderson stated that he wished everyone would have shown up in January before it passed but they would take

all of this into consideration and bring up any changes at the April or May meeting. Alderman Olson thanked them all for coming, for putting their suggestions in writing, hoped that everyone would start coming more regularly and to stay involved.

Next on the agenda was a Presentation by Jim Anderson. He stated that he owns a sport flooring company and wanted the council to consider using this product at the basketball court in Wiley Park and to make a pickleball court at Washington Park. He explained that it is basically a long-lasting plastic material that would last 20-25 years with no maintenance. He passed out a sample of the flooring for the council to see. He also gave them all a proposed template of what he is wanting to do and stated that it could be in any color scheme and suggested Galva colors with a Wildcat logo in the center. Prophetstown and Cambridge both have these in place already if we want to check them out sometime as an example. He stated that a big benefit to this is that they get used, it builds interest and becomes an asset to the community. The total cost with install for both parks would be about \$30,000 and he is willing to put in \$5,000 of his own money to help. Alderman Hopping asked if the current blacktops would need crack repairs done before they could install and Mr. Anderson replied that they might need some, but it shouldn't be much. The cracks would need filled and a little bit of leveling but it wouldn't need to be perfect. Alderman Anderson asked how long it would take to install if it was approved. Mr. Anderson replied about 3-4 weeks. From the audience Diana Whitney asked if the court would be able to be used for anything other than pickleball as well and Mr. Anderson replied that it could be used for other purposes as well but the net would be permanent and would be hard to take down. Alderman Anderson then asked if the net would have to be taken down in the winter and Mr. Anderson replied that we wouldn't have to but could if we wanted.

Next on the agenda was the Bid Opening: Commercial Street Property. We received one bid on this which Mayor Volkert opened. The bid was from Barb Felt in the amount of \$1,047.00. Alderman Anderson made a motion to accept the bid and was seconded. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays.

Next on the agenda was Bid Opening: Park District Project. David Dyer stated that there were 4 bids. Laverdiere for \$42,400; Miller for \$49,510; Brandt for \$50,500; and Porter Bros. for \$69,531. David recommended the council go with the low bid, Laverdiere. Alderman Anderson made a motion to accept Laverdiere's bid and was seconded. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays.

Next on the agenda was the MFT Presentation by Richard Plummer. Richard passed out maps to the council of the proposed work for 2024 and explained what they would like to get done. Most of the work this year would be south of 34 and if we do everything suggested it would be a total of \$462,139.10 but we wouldn't have any more areas in need of a double seal after that. David stated that IDOT requires an appropriation of funds for this, but we do not have to spend all of what we appropriate, so he suggested appropriating the full amount just in case we were able to come up with funding for all of it. Alderman Anderson made a motion and was seconded to appropriate \$477, 253.27. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays.

Next on the agenda was the Junior Achievement Proclamation. Mayor Volkert read the proclamation and declared April 4, 2024 as Junior Achievement Day.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Wirth stated that he has dates set for the Cruise In's that he discussed at a previous meeting. They will be on Friday nights at 5p.m. on May 10, July 12, and September 13. There will be free food and Kewish Concrete and Galva Iron & Metal will be the sponsors. He also stated that the County wide cruise is set for July 14(rain date will be July 21) and there is the potential for 100's of people coming through Galva that day. They will have 2 stops, 1 in Annawan and 1 in Galva at Kewish's property, so they may need to close the road for about an hour that day.

Next on the agenda were the Department Head Reports. Richard Plummer had nothing at this time. Kraig Townsend asked that residents do not blow their grass into the roadways on any street, not just the curb and gutter streets. Greg Thompson stated that he is still waiting to hear from Peerless on well 4.

Next on the agenda were the Aldermen's Reports. Alderman Hartman asked about a property by the old Lily Tulip building and Mayor Volkert stated that a guy from Cambridge is working on getting everything out of there. Alderman Olson thanked everyone for coming tonight. Alderman Clucas thanked everyone as well and stated that we all live here and these ordinances effect everyone, she appreciated them taking the time to make their suggestions on proposed changes and she hopes that we can come back with something that we all can be proud of. Alderman Anderson concurred with Aldermen Olson and Clucas, and stated that he would like to see this kind of turn out at every meeting. He then made a motion to give the Mayor permission to sign the Hometown Consultants contract for year 2 and was seconded. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays.

City Administrator's Report

David Dyer had nothing at this time.

Alderman Olson moved and was seconded to move to executive session. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays.

SEE ATTACHED

Alderman Olson made a motion and was seconded to come out of executive session. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays.

After no further discussion Alderman Anderson made a motion and was seconded to adjourn. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays.

MAYOR _____

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk.