

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

The City Council of the City of Galva met in regular session Monday August 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with Debbie VanWassenhove serving as City Clerk. Mayor Rich Volkert presided with the following Aldermen in attendance: Jayme Hopping, Jackie Clucas, Jeff Olson and Rick Otterstrom. Aldermen Anderson and Hartman were noted as being absent.

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Alderman Hopping made a motion and was seconded to approve the July 24, 2023 council meeting minutes. The vote was 4 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 4 yeas and no nays.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Volkert reported that the City had received: State of IL: July MFT \$8,814.76, July Personal Property Replacement tax \$3,760.16, July Video Gaming tax \$3,114.77, June State Use tax \$7,474.60, July Income tax \$24,396.01, June Telecommunications tax \$1,893.35, July Cannabis tax \$333.81, and June Sales tax \$27,417.26 David Dyer noted that we were down in MFT, Video Gaming tax, and Cannabis tax from last year but overall, still up by \$4,902. Mayor Volkert stated that since we have started putting the video gaming tax into a fire truck savings, we now have almost \$160,000 to go towards a new truck.

First on the agenda was Galva Citizens United Presentation: Parking Restriction Ordinance. Mayor Volkert stated that this ordinance is still in progress, they have already made some changes and anticipate more changes to come. John Wirth represented the group and stated that they have a petition signed by many citizens against the ordinance. His first concern was the section about having to park recreational vehicles on a hard surface, this is a small community and not everyone has the money to pay for concrete or gravel. He then brought up that he thought a \$750 fine if not in compliance was ridiculous. He showed the council the petition and stated that we should be looking out for the good of the entire community. He added that although J Mac Metals property looks great coming into town, the property across the street from them looks terrible and if the council is going to go after citizens they should be going after businesses too. Jennifer Stumphy was present and asked why this ordinance was even brought up in the first place. Mayor Volkert stated that he has been Mayor for 5 years now and has heard many neighbor complaints and complaints from people driving through town about properties. David Stumphy stated that he can understand the junk vehicles that are not

licensed by why are we going after campers, etc. and not worrying about illegal fireworks? Kendra O'Brien commented that we already have a junk vehicle ordinance in place, why not just amend that instead of creating a whole new ordinance. Mayor Volkert replied that the council is listening to everyone's concerns, they had already taken out the section about parking on hard surfaces, and that this is basically stating that you cannot park a recreational vehicle on the terrace and that you have to keep it maintained and mow/weed eat around the vehicle. John Wirth then brought up the \$750 fine again and asked for the reasoning behind that. Chief Townsend explained that as stated in the proposed ordinance, it would not be an automatic \$750 fine; first the person in violation would get a warning and have two weeks to be in compliance, if they fail to do so they would receive a \$50.00 administrative warning ticket and would have another two weeks to be in compliance, if they still fail to do so they would receive another \$50.00 AWT and then could have the potential to be fined additional \$50 AWT's each day after that. The fines cannot exceed \$750.00 total. In regards to how we came up with this ordinance in the first place Mayor Volkert stated that we found one online and reconstructed it to work for us. Alderman Olson stated that this is a work in progress, they have already taken out the hard surface portion and made a few other suggested changes today, including taking the flatbed trailers out of the farm/construction area and moving it to the RV section. He stated that he owns a boat and camper himself, this affects everyone, he just doesn't want to see unusable mowers etc. sitting in people's yards. Sean O'Brien stated that the current vehicle ordinance established in 1991 has language in it for non-residential areas as well and some of the trailers that a business owns haven't moved for over 5 years. Why is there no concern with that? He has been told that the property downtown was zoned industrial but, on the county website, it is zoned residential and he thinks this should be included. He also stated that the old Bob Evans is zoned as residential on the county website. There was also concern over the safety of these empty trailers sitting around, could be dangerous and has heard rumors of people sleeping in them. He wants to see fairness. John Wirth added that no one should be above anyone else. Mayor Volkert stated that these properties are under discussion. Alderman Clucas thanked everyone for coming and that it shows they care. She then stated that this is not "us vs. you", we all have neighbors here and the main goal is to clean up this town and they want to make this work for the majority. They have all been working very hard on this, making notes and changes. The concern is not with having these things on your property, just where they are parked and maintaining around them. Joe Sallee asked about having the citizens vote on this and not the council. Alderman Clucas stated that that's what your aldermen are for, to be your voice. The agenda is always posted the Thursday before a council meeting, check it out and if you have concerns voice them to your aldermen. You can always come to the council or David Dyer with any concerns or questions. Kurt Hasselbacker stated that while he would already be in compliance, he doesn't think it is right to pick on people, maybe we shouldn't give much weight to "squeaky wheels". Driveways, fences, etc. are expensive and not everyone can afford those things. David Stumphy was concerned about the amount the city spent on land and thought that the people should have been informed first. He was told that he is welcome to come to council meetings to stay informed on these matters. Mayor Volkert reiterated that this is not to punish anyone, just to clean up the town and make it look nice for everyone. Mike Martin stated that they are used to dealing with properties in the Quad

Cities and they have a lot of ordinances like this. John McArthur was concerned about the language for Public Views, as written now there is potential for problems, one example being if a resident has a 1-story house and the neighbor has a 2-story house what they can see from their second story would be “in public view”. Alderman Clucas agreed and stated that some of the language is too vague and will be going over all of the definitions so everyone is on the same page. Chief Townsend stated that they would be taking out the private property and adjacent wording. John McArthur was also concerned about the water/sewer connections. As it is written now, people can connect to the water but not sewer, he has seen other places that offer a dump site for a fee, he knows a lot would come with offering that but he would like the council to think about it. Mike Martin mentioned that they will probably be adding something like that out at the trailer court. Mayor Volkert stated that we are actually the most lenient town in the area, most places already have something similar if not stricter in place. We can't cover every situation and are not trying to be strict, just fair. After much more discussion the group was told that the council would keep John Wirth informed of any other changes, as the representative, and they will continue to work on this. David Stumphy stated that the inmates have been doing a great job and thanked the council for hiring them.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Bruce Palmer was present and stated that from a business owners' perspective the council is talking to and working with businesses too. He has been cleaning up his property and plans on continuing to do so. He brought in his business plan as well. He will be putting up a new fence in a few weeks and will be having the wells moved too. He encouraged anyone in the community with concerns about his business to stop by and talk to him. He agreed with Alderman Clucas that this is not an “us vs. them” situation but also agrees about not sticking noses in other people's business, this needs to be looked at as a whole and after attending the last meeting he realizes that the council really does want people to show up, talk to them, and work with them.

Next on the agenda were the Department Head Reports. Chief Townsend stated that the Taurus has been decommissioned and will be putting it out for bid and will be in the paper soon. He is still working on some ordinance violations. Mayor Volkert gave Richard Plummers report and stated that the County has been in oiling and chipping and should be done this week. He also mentioned the fall tree program, if any resident would like a tree to be planted on the terrace it is a 50/50 program and we would plant it. The order has to be in to us by September 15. Greg Thompson stated that they are replacing more hydrants and that the 1996 backhoe has been having some major issues and that Alderman Hartman has asked him to get some quotes on a new one, we have had the current one for 26 years.

Zack Thompson addressed the council about the seed shed for the crematorium he would like to bring to town. Mayor Volkert replied that he and David have been talking and they have a couple different options for him and asked that he come into the office sometime to talk to David about it.

Next on the agenda were the Aldermen's Reports. Alderman Clucas stated that they had done a lot of trimming while her son was home and wanted to thank Richard, Shane, and Mike publicly for cleaning up the brush piles so quickly and nicely. She also brought up that her and Alderman Anderson had been talking and would like to propose a spring and fall clean up week for residents instead of just one in June. David asked if she had dates in mind for this and she said possibly in April and October. John McArthur asked if this would be for pick ups or just a roll off and Jackie replied that she wasn't sure but was thinking about picking up from houses. John then said that there was a lot of abuse of the service this year and has reservations about it.

City Administrator's Report

David Dyer stated that Greg got 2 valves installed by the railroad near Veteran's Park. They had a main break on Friday. They will also be doing 3 valves on NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. David had Greg explain what the purpose of these valves are and he replied that it gives them the ability to work with water mains live and that they will be replacing 8 or 9 hydrants this year. He made mention that the water main system dates back to 1923.

Mayor Volkert stated that Don Collinson will be both the building and electrical inspector for now. He then stated that Bishop Hill has contracted Wyoming Monument to do their grave digging so we do not need to worry about that.

Carol Townsend asked about the demolition on Front Street. David replied that we are waiting on a bid from Hein Construction to put in a new wall separating the good building from the ones we are demolishing so that we don't take the good building down with it. Carol then asked about the Market Street demolition and Mayor Volkert replied that he talked to Ameren today and is hoping it can be started by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

After no further discussion Alderman Hopping made a motion and was seconded to adjourn. The vote was 4 yeas and no nays.

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

City Clerk.