

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

The City Council of the City of Galva met in regular session Monday September 25, 2023 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 Clucas stated that she had a couple of minor changes that she has already discussed with Clerk VanWassenhove. Alderman Hopping made a motion and was seconded to approve the August 28, 2023 council meeting minutes with the changes. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

Alderman Hartman 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: August Income tax \$22,143.24, July State Use tax \$5,611.01, August Cannabis tax \$293.82, July Telecommunications tax \$1,821.39, August Video Gaming tax \$2,556.87, July Sales tax \$26,099.15, August MFT \$9,176.45. Mayor Volkert stated that Vega’s has closed down and assumed that was why the video gaming tax was down.

First on the agenda was the Freedom Fest Presentation. Mayor Volkert started by thanking the committee for all that they do. Melissa Halsall gave the presentation for the committee. She stated that they are a small committee that work hard every year to raise the funds for the fireworks display and this year they were able to raise the full amount of \$22,500! She then presented a check to Mayor Volkert. Everyone in the audience applauded them.

Next on the agenda was the Bell Trucking Proclamation. Mayor Volkert read Resolution 342 honoring Bell Trucking for their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being in business. He then proclaimed September 30, 2023 as Bell Trucking Day in Galva.

Next on the agenda was a Presentation by Hometown Consulting. Matt and Cole handed out a copy of the comprehensive building inventory report to all members of the council. They explained some of the maps and details included in the report and stated that they would get David a digital copy as well. They will be referring to this report and updating it often. They asked everyone to read through the report and to reach out to them with any questions or changes that might need to be made.

Next on the agenda was a Presentation by the Galva Citizens United group. John Wirth spoke on behalf of the group. He thanked the council for listening to their concerns and making some changes on the proposed parking ordinance. He said they really only have a couple more concerns at this point, the first being the definition of Terrace. It currently states up to 40' but that isn't always accurate and he would like more clarification on that. Next, he was concerned about tractors being included. He stated that many people use tractors for different projects and many people also have antique tractors and they would like to see the council come up with some exemptions made for those including horsepower and size. His next concern was that there are many people who own empty lots and he would like to see language allowing for the storage of trailers etc. on the lots of registered owners. Alderman Clucas stated that she actually had a note about the definition of terrace herself and found that almost every street has a different size of right of way which effects how big the terrace is. She would like to make sure that the definitions of everything in the ordinance are worded correctly. Mayor Volkert stated that he is trying to come up with a compromise on the right wording to cover the antique tractors. Sean O'Brien mentioned that he had someone reach out to him suggesting that the city provide a parking spot for these items and Mayor Volkert stated that unfortunately we cannot do that. Alderman Anderson stated that in most cities if they have a parking area like that it would be a rental situation, but he knows a lot of places that do offer a facility to park campers etc., Oak Run was an example of a place that has this option.

Next on the agenda was a request for a Special Use Permit. David stated that this is for the Baptist Church located on Front St., they have a potential buyer who would like to put a consignment shop there and have first floor living which is against ordinance in that area, hence the application for the special use permit. The Planning commission met on this but did not have enough members show up for a quorum so it is now up to the council. Alderman Olson stated that he actually went to that planning commission meeting and although she seems very nice, he is afraid if we allow for that we are just opening a door for more people to request this and then where do we stop. Alderman Anderson made a motion to not allow for this and was seconded. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays. The permit was not granted.

Next on the agenda was a bid opening for the cash lease of farm ground. This is for the 44 acres next to the Park District that the City recently acquired. Mayor Volkert opened the sealed bids. The bids were as follows: Al and Brian Corkill \$400/acre, Jeffrey Knoblock \$351/acre, Kevin and Kraig Gale \$400/acre, Kraig Anderson \$400/acre, Clayton Nash \$275/acre, Cameron Meyer \$330/acre, Shawn Minnaert \$438/acre, and Adam Jaquet \$320/acre. Alderman Hopping made a motion and was seconded to accept the high bid of \$438/acre from Shawn Minnaert. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays.

Next on the agenda was the bid opening for the sale of a police interceptor. Mayor Volkert opened the sealed bids. The bids were as follows: Ringwood Motors \$680.00, Harry Confair \$2,100.00, Sean Bonner \$1,100.00, and Jeremy Sterling \$1,805.00.

Alderman Anderson made a motion and was seconded to accept the high bid from Harry Confair of \$2,100.00. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays.

Next on the agenda was the Planning Commission Recommendation for a zoning change. This is for a residential area located at 21 SE 2<sup>nd</sup> St (and adjoining lots) they were requesting a zoning change from R-1 Residential to Commercial. David stated that the Planning Commission met on this and unanimously voted no to this request. Alderman Anderson made a motion and was seconded to go with the Planning Commissions recommendation and not accept the zoning change request. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays. The zoning request was denied.

Next on the agenda was Planning Commission appointments. Mayor Volkert stated that we recently had a member leave the planning commission because of health issues and we also had one who had passed away a couple years back who had not been replaced yet so, with the council's approval, he wanted to appoint Tyler Glaser and Nolan Petty to the Planning Commission. Alderman Olson made a motion and was seconded to approve both appointments. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays.

Mayor Volkert moved the executive session to the end of the meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

A gentleman named David stated that he appreciated that the council voted no to the zoning request.

Next on the agenda were the Department Head Reports. Chief Townsend stated that last week was the start of cashless bail. This means that there is no longer a bond required for non-violent offenses. For a Class A or Felony offense the person needs to be processed before releasing them and he is wanting to be able to do this in town again, if they continue to process at the County, it can take over two hours vs. about 20 minutes if done in Galva. City Attorney Zac Lessard stated that this is statewide and is coming from the states attorney's office. This is new territory for everyone since Illinois is the first state to do this. If this is all taken care of in the states attorneys office everyone should be on the same page at least. Alderman Anderson asked for clarification on what kind of offenses this would include, such as offenses towards children, and Zac replied that the state attorney's office makes the determination of a violent offense but that the government finds every way they can to reprimand anything involving small children. He also mentioned that this will continue to change and evolve as they find out what works and what doesn't. Richard Plummer stated that cemetery clean up week will be October 16-20, all items must be removed from graves by October 15<sup>th</sup> and can be replaced on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Greg Thompson stated that they have had a hard month, the 1996 John Deere backhoe is having major issues and he is getting quotes on a new one, Jake and Jeremy will be presenting the quotes at the October council meeting. He then stated that about two weeks ago the motor in well 4 went out. Peerless was in today to pull the motor. This well pumps over 50% of our water so this has to be fixed. Because of this he doesn't want to pressure the system by flushing all of our hydrants so they are holding off

on that, but they have had some complaints in a few areas of an “egg” smell so he will just spot flush those areas as needed. They have one more hydrant to change out at this time and then they will be going back to using the Vactron to continue on the lead and copper report. They are over halfway done at this point and have gotten the worst section out of the way already.

Next on the agenda were the Aldermen’s Reports. Alderman Anderson stated that with the new proposed ordinance he is in favor of most of the suggestions but he also wants to do something to help citizens out by working with Richard Plummer for 2 clean up weeks per year instead of just the one we have been doing in June and picking up from residences instead of just having one large roll off for them to drop off items. Richard was very against this idea, would take too much time, man power, and money. There was some back-and-forth discussion on this. Mayor Volkert stated that he would like to come up with a better solution and has been talking to Paul and Adam Jaquet to try to come up with another solution. Alderman Olson made a comment that people also need to learn how to help themselves as well, Richard agreed and suggested fining people for junk in their yards instead of rewarding them. Richard also stated that they tried this when Mouse was in charge and it was a nightmare. After some more discussion Mayor Volkert stated that we will get together and have a meeting and work all this out.

City Administrator’s Report

David Dyer stated that they will be having a Trick or Treat Trail at Blackhawk College on October 25<sup>th</sup> from 5-7p.m.

Alderman Hopping 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.

Coming out of executive session Alderman Anderson made a motion and was seconded for the city to purchase the Appell properties in the downtown area for \$275,000. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays. David then stated that we have agreements in place with BOW Renewables for the 3 solar arrays located on the land we own near the Catholic cemetery, the old landfill, and the area across from the high school.

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

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk.

