

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

The City Council of the City of Galva met in regular session Monday October 7, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. with Debbie VanWassenhove serving as City Clerk. Mayor Rich Volkert presided with the following Aldermen in attendance: Jayme Hopping, Jeff Olson, Doug Anderson, and Rick Otterstrom. Alderman Hartman and Alderman Clucas were noted as being absent.

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Alderman Anderson made a motion and was seconded to approve the August 26, 2024 council meeting minutes. The vote was 4 yeas and no nays.

Alderman Clucas came in at this time.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

Alderman Hopping 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: State of IL: August Income tax \$21,618.03, July State Use tax \$6,930.29, August Cannabis tax \$304.11, July Telecommunications tax \$1,582.44, August Video Gaming tax \$3,218.69, July Sales tax \$27,609.83, and August MFT \$9,971.68

First on the agenda was the Dixline Proclamation. Mayor Volkert stated that he looks forward to meetings like this, we had one business earlier in the year celebrating 90 years and now we are celebrating Dixline's 100<sup>th</sup> year in business! He then read the proclamation and presented a framed copy to Will and Kevin Thomson along with a key to the city.

Next on the agenda was a Freedom Fest presentation. The committee members were not able to attend so this has been tabled until next meeting.

Next on the agenda was **Ordinance 1658: Adoption of the 2023 National Electric Code**. David stated that we are out of date on our electric code and need to update to the latest version. Alderman Hopping made a motion and was seconded to pass the ordinance. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

Next on the agenda was a discussion on amending the water fees. Clerk VanWassenhove stated that this is a continuation of last meetings discussion on whether or not we should

add a fee for placing door tags on delinquent accounts. She briefly went over what was discussed at the last meeting and also mentioned that they spoke with the City of Kewanee and they were charging \$15 to place door tags but have recently decided to get rid of their door tags all together and make their second notices true second notices and if not paid by the date on them that is when they get shut off. Clerk VanWassenhove stated that her only concern if we decided to go in that direction would be that we have a small crew and there would probably be a lot more shut offs for the water department to deal with in the first few months, but believes that it would get better after that. Dustin Williams suggested having a \$25 fee added for the first door tag and go up by \$25 for every one after that. John Wirth suggested putting on the second notices that you can make payment arrangements. Alderman Clucas asked city attorney Zac Lessard (also the attorney for the City of Kewanee) why they decided to do away with the door tags in Kewanee? Zac replied that it was for basically the same reasons we were discussing a change, a lot of repeat offenders and staffing issues with the number of tags that were going out, it hit a point of critical mass. John Wirth then suggested a possibility of making repeat offenders pre pay for their water service. Alderman Anderson stated that he was leaning towards us just getting rid of the door tags altogether as well but he would like the council to think on it some more and discuss again at the next meeting.

Next on the agenda was a discussion on amending the cemetery rates. David stated that he met with the cemetery board and they are wanting to increase cemetery fees by 20%. They have not raised the prices of plots since 2008 and we are currently losing \$31,760 on average per year on the cemetery. He recommended that we go with the cemetery boards recommendation. Mayor Volkert stated that if the council decides to raise the rates it would not go into effect until May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Alderman Anderson suggested raising the rate and also adding it to the CPI in May. Alderman Olson was afraid that if we are losing that much each year that a 20% increase is not enough. David mentioned that we can always reassess a few years down the road as well. Alderman Anderson made a motion and was seconded to raise the cemetery rates by 25% and tie it to the CPI in May. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

Next on the agenda was a bid opening for a tract of city owned property. David stated that this is for the property that is next to what we call our "seed shed", it is where the cement pad is located. Mayor Volkert stated that we had received one bid for this and then opened the sealed bid. The bid was from Zack Thompson for the amount of \$1,001.00 to be able to build a crematorium there. Alderman Anderson made a motion and was seconded to approve the bid with a contingency that he has to start construction within one year. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Diana Whitney asked Zack Thompson if there would be a problem with pollution with a crematorium. He stated that there would not be, he is working with a company to ensure this. It will mostly just be emitting heat and he will be able to monitor all emissions with an app on his phone. He then stated that even if he walks away for a moment there will

also be a company that will be monitoring it at all times as well. Diana then asked if it would be for pets as well and Zack replied that it would only be for human remains at this time.

Next on the agenda were the Department Head Reports. Mayor Volkert stated that Richard Plummer was not able to be here tonight but he wanted to let the council know he had 6 dumpsters filled from the second clean up week. He is assessing the cost and will get figures to the council when he has them. Chief Townsend wanted to remind everyone that you can not burn leaves or yard waste in the roadway and that burn days are Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from dawn till dusk. He then announced that he recently applied for a grant and was approved to get 5 new tasers with accessories for the department worth around \$13,000! Greg Thompson stated that the washouts on both towers are done and they will be flushing hydrants from October 28 through the first week of November. He will start on the SE quadrant, then NE, then SW, and finally NW. This will shake up some rust in the system so let your water run for a bit after this, until it runs clear, before doing laundry to avoid staining clothes.

Diana Whitney made a comment that the most common complaint she hears is that there is not enough news from the city and suggested that the city get a digital sign for announcements. Zac Lessard stated that the City of Kewanee got one for about \$23,000-\$25,000.

Next on the agenda were the Aldermen's Reports. Alderman Anderson wanted to commend Mike and Jane Martin for their hard work on renovating the trailer park, he stated that it is really starting to come along and is looking a lot better. Greg Thompson then stated that they are working on the new water main at the trailer park now too and are about 1/3 of the way through.

#### City Administrator's Report

David Dyer stated that they are making progress with the solar array but it is slow going. They were clearing a path with the engineering firm today. Dustin Williams asked if this company has done arrays in other places as well and David replied yes, they are a huge company. Mr. Williams then asked how many acres we were going to be using for ours. David replied 23 at the landfill, 15 north of the landfill, 28 by the Catholic Cemetery, and 20 by the High School. Mr. Williams then asked if the landfill fee could be removed from the water bills and David replied not yet but very soon. There was then a brief discussion on the benefits and incentives of solar.

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

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

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

