

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

The City Council of the City of Galva met in regular session Monday December 18, 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 Hopping made a motion and was seconded to approve the November 27, 2023 council meeting minutes. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

Alderman Clucas 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: October Sales Tax \$28,851.54, October and November Personal Property Replacement Tax \$5,999.34, and November MFT \$10,243.34. David stated that since this is an early meeting, we do not have all of the data in yet but the cannabis tax is down from last year and the state use tax has been declining since 2011, but IML is working on that, in 1969 we would get 10% and now we are down to 6.47%. Alderman Clucas asked about the MFT amount and David replied that it has been trending down but we will have a better idea on that in the next couple of months. Mayor Volkert asked if we had gotten money from the railroad yet for the crossing closure and David replied that we have not but we did get a final agreement from them and we have the barricades and signs already.

First on the agenda was **Ordinance 1653: Annual Tax Levy**. David stated that we are asking for 7% more than last year but we will be lowering our tax rate by 6 cents since our EAV was raised. The overall amount will be determined by whether the other taxing bodies will raise or lower their rates though. Alderman Hopping made a motion and was seconded to pass the ordinance. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays.

Next on the agenda was **Ordinance 1654: Paid Leave Ordinance**. David stated that the state is implementing a paid leave for all workers act, the way he read it is that municipalities should be exempt from this but IML came up with some scenarios that made it make sense to pass this ordinance to cover ourselves. It just states that we already have paid leave in place. After some discussion Alderman Olson made a motion and was seconded to pass the ordinance. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bridgette Owens thanked the council for the stop signs that were put up by Washington Park, and stated that while it will take time for everyone to get used to them being there, she has already noticed a big difference. Mayor Volkert stated that they will be looking into speed limit signs on SE 6th St, by the Park District, next.

Next on the agenda were the Department Head Reports. Greg Thompson stated that well 4 should be all done in January and the other well is completed already. He also stated that they have had a lot of locates recently for Ameren poles and fiber being put in. Chief Townsend wanted to remind everyone not to let their garbage sit out for too long before pick up, he has had a lot of complaints recently of garbage piling up in front yards and blowing into neighbors' yards. Mayor Volkert added not to put cans in the street either. Diana Whitney was present in the audience and asked what can be done about furniture being put out by the road. Mayor Volkert explained the large item pick up process and then stated that he is still waiting on a meeting with the Jaquet's for a better solution to this. Chief Townsend then stated that the water pump has gone out on the black Explorer and is being repaired but should be back in a few days. Richard Plummer had nothing at this time.

Next on the agenda were the Aldermen's Reports. Jim Hartman asked whether the sewer on N Center Ave had been fixed yet, Greg replied that it has been fixed. Alderman Clucas and Alderman Anderson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

City Administrator's Report

David Dyer stated that we've gotten appraisals back on 2 lots that we had demolitions on. One on 315 SE 4th St appraised at \$7,000 so we can accept a minimum bid of \$5,600 on that one when it goes out for bid. The other one is located at 14 SE 1st St and appraised at \$1,160 so minimum bid on that one will be \$928. He will have those published in January and open bids at the January meeting. Mayor Volkert asked what happened to the lot by Alderman Hartman's house and David replied that no one expressed any interest in it. David then stated that the Life Skills Re-Entry Center in Kewanee has gotten permission to provide labor to put new fence up in Bishop Hill around the park. There will be a fundraising effort to help with the cost of this, would the council like to donate to help with this cause? If so, we can take it out of the tourism fund. The state has refused to maintain this themselves and also has refused to let anyone outside of DNR help with anything in the past so it has taken a lot of effort just to get to this point. After some discussion Alderman Olson suggested waiting a couple of months to make a decision on this so that we can see if Bishop Hill decides to contribute as well, they should have some stake in this too. Everyone else agreed with that.

Mayor Volkert announced that we will discuss the parking ordinance again in January and vote on it in February. He then wished everyone a merry and safe Christmas!

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 Otterstrom made a motion and was seconded to adjourn. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays.

MAYOR _____

ATTEST: _____

City Clerk.