

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

The City Council of the City of Galva met in regular session Monday April 6, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. with Debbie VanWassenhove serving as City Clerk. Mayor Rich Volkert presided with the following Aldermen in attendance: John Wirth, Jeff Olson, Jayme Hopping, Jackie Clucas, 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 March 2, 2026 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: January Sales tax \$35,088.35, January/February Personal Property Replacement tax \$3,233.39, February Cannabis tax \$285.58, January Telecommunications tax, \$1,470.53, January State Use tax \$2,305.16, February Income tax \$25,095.02, February Video Gaming tax \$2,189.64, February MFT \$9,441.06

First on the agenda was an IGA Agreement with Cambridge, Woodhull, and Orion. David Dyer introduced Steve Brown, Cambridge City Manager. Mr. Brown talked about the issues Cambridge has had with enforcing ordinance violations and stated that they passed an ordinance last year to help with the process for them and they have now decided to see if they can work together with other municipalities on this as well. They have talked to the county and asked for an addendum on an IGA for use of the courthouse. The cost for each community would be \$125 per month and that would allow anyone wanting to appeal an ordinance violation to do so at a hearing and the judgement there would be final. They would provide the attorney and we would prepare the docket. The \$125/month would cover all costs. We will have to let the court know a week in advance of needing to use the space. Alderman Anderson asked if we are able to end the agreement if we decide we want to and Mr. Brown stated that there is a 60-day clause to pull out of the agreement if we wish to do so. After some more discussion on this Alderman Olson made a motion and was seconded to approve the agreement. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays.

Next on the agenda was a presentation by Hometown Consulting. Cole McDaniel gave the presentation. He recapped what they have been working on for the last couple of

years and stated that passing the comprehensive plan has given us a lot more grant opportunities as well. He also stated that he is excited to see that we have already been implementing some of the things in the comprehensive plan. He talked about 2 larger grant applications that they are working on for us as well. He also spoke about continuing to work with the businesses in town and getting a listing sheet together for businesses for sale to get the work out better. They are also working on codifying and digitalizing our ordinances for the website and to make them searchable. He then talked about what's to come: grants, work on the Opera House, business growth, GIS data and readiness tools, an industrial gap analysis, business outreach and business retention. Alderman Clucas, who is also on the economic development board, spoke highly of Hometown Consulting and all they have done so far for us and all that they will continue to do including finding Astrid Haryati for us who has opened Allenia Space in Galva and who has embraced our town and has been doing great things here. She then read a statement from Shawn Kendall, who is also on the economic development board, and he recommended renewing the contract with Hometown Consulting as well. After some more discussion Alderman Anderson made a motion and was seconded to renew the contract. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays.

Next on the agenda was an update on the old Lord's Chevy building RFP. David Dyer stated that he made some changes to the public notice on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph. There was then a discussion on how much time should be given to put together proposals, they want them to be able to get quotes for materials etc. too. It was decided to give 60 days with the possibility of an extension (maximum of 30 days) if needed and approved by the Mayor.

Next on the agenda was a resolution for America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mayor Volkert read the resolution and Alderman Anderson made a motion and was seconded to pass the resolution. The vote was 6 yeas and no nays.

Next on the agenda was the Arbor Day proclamation. Mayor Volkert read the proclamation and declared April 24, 2026 as Arbor Day in the City of Galva. David then talked about the grant we have been awarded for our tree inventory, which will start in August, and that will give us an idea of how many will have to come down. He stated that for the trees we are purchasing with the grant, most will go in Washington Park between the railroad tracks and the park. All of the trees purchased with this grant must go on municipal property.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Grant was present and stated that she thought there was going to be a discussion on the Lapis Carbon project at Big River Resources. David Dyer replied that they will be having a community meeting and presentation on April 14<sup>th</sup> and she can ask them her questions at that time and gave her a flier for that. Joyce Blumenshine was also present and stated that her group, Central IL Healthy Community Alliance, will be having a program about carbon capture on April 23 at 6pm at the American Legion as well for

community members with concerns. She stated that her group has been active for ten years. Sandra Brock asked if anyone had attended the IL EPA meetings last month about carbon capture. David stated that he was not aware of those meetings. Sandra then asked when we will be having meetings to voice concerns to the EPA and Alderman Anderson replied that you can object at hearings through the EPA process, and that we are not involved in this. The EPA will have hearings and publish the information. Mayor Volkert stated that we are looking at all of the information from both sides on this but ultimately it is not our decision to make.

Next on the agenda were the Department Head Reports. Jake McClintic stated that they are working on flushing hydrants now and they will be starting the sludge project. Chief Townsend stated that the cameras in Wiley Park are working again, they only had to replace the antennas and not the actual cameras. He then talked about the spring ordinance violation list; there were 73 letters that went out to start with and they are down to about 39 left that still have things that need taken care of and of those 39 about 10 of them have at least fixed parts of the issues. Richard Plummer was not present so Mayor Volkert stated for him that the new IDOC crew started today and he was able to meet them.

Next on the agenda were the Aldermen's Reports. Alderman Wirth stated that he has been in talks with the Ready to Grow group about the property awards and they have decided to just continue to do it the way they have been. He still wants to do something to give back to the community and said that he is open to suggestions. He then stated that the car cruise-ins will be starting up again in May at Aaron Kewish's building again. Alderman Olson stated that he has had a couple of resident complaints of people piling garbage up by there cans and asked that residents make sure their garbage is picked up and in the proper bins. Alderman Clucas stated that she has noticed some business signs that have been put in residences terraces without homeowner permission and asked what the policy is on that, Clerk VanWassenhove replied that no signs should be placed on the terrace at all and any signs in yards need homeowner permission. Alderman Clucas then stated that she will be starting to do economic development reports during our meetings as well. Alderman Otterstrom had concerns about some of the manholes that have sunk down.

#### City Administrator's Report

David Dyer stated that due to a generous grant from Trees Forever, the City will be planning a city-wide tree planting event soon. David then spoke about the budget the Governor is trying to pass which includes taking even more funding from us and he asked that everyone contact Travis Weaver or Neil Anderson to oppose this. David then stated that we will be having 2 lots coming up for bid, 315 SE 4<sup>th</sup> St and 403 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> St. He also talked about having meetings with the American Job Center and Illinois Department of Corrections to be able to continue the program we have with them.

Mayor Volkert announced that Freedom Fest is hosting a murder mystery dinner fundraiser on April 26 and encouraged people to get their tickets for that. He also

announced that the Freedom Fest committee has secured a donation from the Berkshire Hathaway Foundation for our fireworks this year in the amount of \$12,500 and commended the committee for all that they do.

At this point a gentleman in the audience stated that he missed his opportunity to speak during public comment and asked if he could get three minutes at this time. Mayor Volkert gave him permission. He introduced himself as Jessie with Spartan Energy and they are working with the Illinois Shine program letting people know about utility relief. He then spoke about power bills increasing and they were wanting to go door to door to speak with residents about their program but they have had issues receiving the solicitor's permit. Mayor Volkert explained the issues and complaints that we received about this company, including going door to door before obtaining a permit and continuing to do so after it was explained to them that they needed one. The other gentleman with the company introduced himself as Chris and stated that they want to do things correctly and be able to get the word out to residents about this, and Alderman Wirth suggested doing ads instead of going door to door. Chris argued that he did not think that would work for them and Chief Townsend then spoke up about the complaints that he had received about the ones that were going door to door, and Clerk VanWassenhove then stated that they had several complaints at City Hall about them going door to door without a permit and about them being very pushy as well. It was decided that no permit was to be granted to them and they are not welcome to go door to door in Galva.

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

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

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