

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

The City Council of the City of Galva met in regular session Monday July 07, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. with Debbie VanWassenhove serving as City Clerk. Mayor Rich Volkert was absent from the meeting so Senior Alderman Jayme Hopping presided with the following Aldermen in attendance: John Wirth, Jackie Clucas, Doug Anderson, and Rick Otterstrom. Alderman Olson was noted as being absent.

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### MINUTES

Alderman Anderson made a motion and was seconded to approve the June 2, 2025 council meeting minutes. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

#### BILLS AND CLAIMS

Alderman Otterstrom 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 Pro-Tem Jayme Hopping reported that the City had received: State of IL May Video Gaming tax \$2,677.73, April Telecommunications tax \$1,549.70, May Cannabis tax \$362.14, May Income tax \$26,805.71, April State Use tax \$1,604.98, April Sales tax \$25,951.51, and May MFT \$8,978.69

First on the agenda was the Ordinance 1661: 2025-2026 Appropriations Ordinance. David went over the figures with everyone and stated that the total appropriations for the city for this fiscal year will be \$4,429,182. Alderman Anderson made a motion to pass the ordinance and was seconded. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays. Clerk VanWassenhove will file the ordinance with the county before the end of July.

Next on the agenda was a bid opening for the old Windish Mill lot. There was 1 sealed bid received. Alderman Hopping opened the bid and stated it was from Jeff Campbell with Trash Bandits in the amount of \$2,010.00 for public parking and possibly expanding the building in the future. Alderman Otterstrom made a motion and was seconded to approve the bid. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

Next on the agenda was a discussion on building on empty lots. Alderman Wirth stated that he has brought this up before he was an alderman as well, he knows a lot of people who are interested in being able to build structures on empty lots and they are too intimidated to go through the variance process. He thinks that this would be great for the

community and would also generate more tax revenue for the city as well, but he also stated that he knows certain stipulations would have to be put in place. Alderman Otterstrom had concerns of people taking advantage of this and that we would start seeing a lot more junk being accumulated on these empty lots. Alderman Clucas reiterated that she still thinks that the variance process is the best way to go for this since neighbors get notified that way. She also had concerns about what will happen in the future, she doesn't want to see 100 storage units on empty lots around town. After some discussion attorney Zac Lessard stated that changing this would mean changing the zoning ordinance and could open up a can of worms that we don't want and put us under a microscope. After much more discussion they decided to think more on this before making any decisions.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Dustin Williams stated that he thought it would be a good idea to allow for buildings to be built on empty lots and was curious how many variances have been applied for and how many approved. He then asked about the new Tyvek put on the building downtown, David replied that the contractor is not available until August to build the wall there so we had to replace that in the meantime. Dustin then asked about the work being done on the building on exchange street and David replied that we have a contract with IDOC and the American Job Center and it is being remodeled with the inmates help as part of a grant program. If it is successful we will try to get the grant again next year, hopefully for a different building at that time. Dustin then asked about the old Appell building that the city owns on Market St and David replied that we are still waiting on the process before it goes out for bid. Lastly Dustin asked about the sludge beds. David replied that we are waiting on EPA approval for that.

Next on the agenda were the Department Head Reports. Kraig Townsend reminded everyone about the swimming pool regulations and said that if anyone has questions about their pool to call City Hall. Richard Plummer reminded everyone that brush pickup is for brush only and not to have construction materials mixed in with it. Greg Thompson reminded everyone that there are no more door tags being placed. Diana Whitney asked about the new website and Alderman Clucas said to stay tuned for the August meeting.

Next on the agenda were the Aldermen's Reports. Alderman Wirth stated that they have another car cruise in this Friday and they are switching the menu up this time. He then brought up electric bikes and stated that he has seen them blowing through stop signs and is afraid it will be a problem. Chief Townsend stated that they are working on something for that. Alderman Clucas stated that it was a fantastic 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration and thanked Melissa Halsall and the rest of the Freedom Fest committee for all of their work. She also thanked David for arranging for the new basketball hoops and stated that they look great! Alderman Anderson also stated that Freedom Fest did a great job!

City Administrator's Report

David Dyer congratulated the Freedom Fest committee as well.

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.