

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

The City Council of the City of Galva met in regular session Monday July 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, Jayme Hopping, Jackie Clucas, Rick Otterstrom, and Doug Anderson. Alderman Olson was noted as being absent.

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Alderman Clucas made a motion and was seconded to approve the June 1, 2026 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 Volkert reported that the City had received: State of IL: May Cannabis tax \$324.92, April Telecommunications tax \$1,437.71, May Video Gaming tax \$2,571.61, April State Use tax \$1,966.33, May Income tax \$26,852.42, May MFT \$9,415.35, April Grocery tax \$2,080.09, and April Sales tax \$30,827.94.

First on the agenda was a Resolution Supporting Temporary Moratorium on CCS Projects. David Dyer stated that they discussed this last meeting, this resolution is in support of the County Moratorium that was passed. David went over the resolution and highlighted the statement of shared concerns and stated that if this is passed tonight it will be filed with the county to show our support. Mayor Volkert then read the resolution in its entirety. After some discussion Alderman Anderson made a motion and was seconded to pass the resolution. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

Next on the agenda was a presentation by Mike and Jane Martin. Mr. Martin introduced himself and his wife and spoke about Galva's beginnings and how much has changed over the years. He stated that he is excited about many things happening in town and how we are now known mostly for music, the top three search results for Galva are the Levitt concerts, Backroad Music Festival, and the Freedom Fest Car Show. In the economic development plan that the city passed there is a section on re-branding so in keeping with that they would like to propose a new slogan and tag line for Galva. The slogan they are proposing is "Galva, Where Music Lives" with a tag line of "Small Town, Big Sound". Diana Whitney pointed out that with the rebrand the signs would have to be re-done too

and Jane suggested selling merchandise to help pay for new signs. The Martins asked the council to think on this and have a vote in August.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cole McDaniel, with Hometown Consulting, was present to give an economic development update. He thanked Mike and Jane Martin and stated that he loves the slogan they came up with. He then passed out papers to the council regarding community branding/identity and also gave a survey to the council to complete. He also highlighted a concept for the Galva Rail viewing plaza. He stated that he is trying to get a grant for this. Alderman Clucas added that they are still working on the crosswalk painting as well and that when the new tag line is voted on it will be added to the design as well. Dustin Williams was also present in the audience and thanked the council for voting to support the county moratorium. He also pointed out that he received a copy of the contract for the independent geologist and that the date was wrong and asked again why the city administrator is able to sign contracts and stated that the council should have more oversight. Samantha Cornwall stood and read a paper that Lance Smith had prepared but was unable to read due to being called away. He wrote about the emergency service coverage, how he believes there is no oversight of Stark County Ambulance, went over their arrival times, brought up the old owner of the ambulance and his charges and ended with the statement that the money we spend on the ambulance service should be spent on a city ambulance not a contracted service. David Dyer stated that he would invite Lance in to talk with him about this and that they are working on a new contract with the new owners of the ambulance, Team Triage. Sue Torbert asked who has been painting the buildings downtown and with what funds. David replied that Astrid with Allenia Space has been in charge of that and it is coming out of TIF funds. Sue then brought up houses in town in need of attention and Mayor Volkert stated that they have a list and are working on it. Chief Townsend then went over the process for ordinance violations.

Next on the agenda were the Department Head Reports. Kraig Townsend stated that two of the police vehicles are at the end of their life. The 2017 and 2019 Explorers. He went over some of the issues and stated that the 2017 is actually in better shape than the 2019 because that was the K9 unit so if they are only able to replace one of them, he would rather it be the 2019. He is looking at different options but does not want a hybrid, he doesn't know as much about them and the hybrid batteries are not good with idling. Richard Plummer stated that the street sweeper is down again. Alderman Clucas asked how many roll offs they had for clean up week this time and Richard replied 9. Jake McClintic stated that we currently have a bi-monthly billing process for most water bills and now that they have mostly radio read meters installed, he would like to go to a monthly bill for all residents. He went over the pros of doing this, and stated that the con to this would be higher postage costs, but that more and more are going to paperless billing and that would help offset that cost. He also mentioned billing to the exact cubic foot instead of rounding down to the nearest 100cf. He is hoping to implement this in May of 2027 with the council's approval and asked for a possible vote next month. He

then gave the council quotes on lining a couple of areas of city sewer. He would like to have an answer from the council on this by September if possible.

Next on the agenda were the Aldermen's Reports. Alderman Otterstrom thanked the workers for a great job on July 4th! Alderman Anderson thanked Mike and Jane Martin and stated that Courtyard is having an open house on Wednesday from 2-4p.m. Alderman Clucas thanked Richard Plummer for his work on clean up week. She then addressed Dustin Williams and stated that she had questions about the city administrator signing contracts as well so she talked with the city attorney about it and the answer was precedent, the way we have done things in the past sets how we do things in the future and David was told that it was a part of his position when he was hired. She also stated that if this is something that concerns people then it may need to be changed and it is something they will talk about. She also stated that with the ambulance we were not able to have a fully staffed city ambulance so David found the best that he could in the area for what we could afford that is a 24/7 service. The next closest in price was \$500,000 with no guarantee that they could even come if paged. Yes, the current service could be better but she does not want to see them continuously getting bashed when it does work, it just needs improved upon. Alderman Wirth agreed with Alderman Clucas, he does not want to lose our service completely but they do need to step it up. He then talked about possible locations for the railroad viewing plaza and ended with stating that he has been fixing up bikes as a hobby to give away to kids in need and to let him know if anyone has some that they would like to donate.

City Administrator's Report

David Dyer thanked all of the volunteers for their hard work on the 4th of July and that they did a great job! He also stated that the city can afford to purchase one police vehicle for now without getting a loan and the council was fine with buying one.

Alderman Otterstrom made a motion and was seconded to go into executive session. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

SEE ATTACHED

Alderman Otterstrom made a motion and was seconded to come back from executive session. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

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

MAYOR _____

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk.

