

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

The City Council of the City of Galva met in regular session Monday July 22, 2024 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, Jeff Olson, Jackie Clucas, and Rick Otterstrom. Alderman Anderson was noted as being absent.

Before the meeting started the council held a public hearing for Consideration of the 2024 Amendment to Galva Comprehensive Plan and heard public comments on it at this time.
See attached

The regular session meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Alderman Hopping made a motion and was seconded to approve the June 24, 2024 council meeting minutes. The vote was 5 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 5 yeas and no nays.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Volkert reported that the City had received: State of IL: June Video Gaming tax \$2,731.33, May Telecommunications tax \$1,552.67, June Cannabis tax \$328.90, May State Use tax \$7,443.65, June Income tax \$41,213.56, May Sales tax \$26,002.24, June MFT \$9,479.63, May/June Personal Property Replacement tax \$15,094.16

First on the agenda was a Recommendation of the Planning commission Re: Amendment to Comprehensive Plan. David stated that this is for the consideration of the 2024 Amendment to Galva Comprehensive Plan that was discussed and heard public comments from at the public hearing held prior to the start of the regular session meeting tonight. He then stated that the Planning Commission voted unanimously in support of the amendment at their meeting held on July 10, 2024 and so he recommended to have the council adopt this amendment. Alderman Hopping made the motion and was seconded. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

Next on the agenda was **Ordinance 1656: Appropriations Ordinance**. David Dyer stated that this sets the maximum amount that can be spent through the fiscal year without having to come back to the council to ask for more. This year the general fund appropriations will be \$3,710,012.00 which is up \$481,833 from last year, and \$3,012,736.00 for the water/sewer fund which is up \$574,439.00 from last year. He stated that the reason he upped those amounts by that much is because we are now eligible for

more grants so he included room for those, just in case it was needed. Alderman Otterstrom made a motion and was seconded to pass the ordinance. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rod White thanked the city crew for their hard work on the brush pick up after last weeks storm, he stated that they have been out working hard and they are doing a great job! John Wirth agreed with Rod and stated that they have been doing great! Mayor Volkert stated that he has already sent out letters to everyone involved thanking them for all of their hard work, he then stated that they are saving Washington Park for last since it was hit so hard and they wanted to make sure to get to the residents first. He then thanked the citizens for their patience as well. Sandy White asked if the fountain in Veteran's Park was broken and Debbie VanWassenhove replied that the guys are waiting on a part to be able to get it back up and running. Dustin Williams stated that he has been hearing complaints about a second wave of violation letters being sent out, one was for a building with no permit. Chief Townsend stated that he is unsure of the size of the building since he did not go onto the persons property to measure, but it was noticed that a new building was put up and it was confirmed that no permit was issued for it. Dustin asked about a resident who received a letter about a utility trailer but the trailer was licensed and registered. Chief Townsend replied that one was sent by mistake and there is no issue with that one, the resident was informed of this. Dustin then asked about the "tornado" slide that still had not been repaired or replaced. He stated that they have been asking about this for the last four meetings in a row now and if the citizens have to keep up their properties the city should have to as well. David Dyer replied that he is waiting to find out about a grant that he has applied for to be able to replace all of the playground equipment there and he did not want to spend the money on fixing one thing on it if we were able to get all of it replaced. He should hear about the grant by the end of the month and if we do not end up getting the grant then the slide will be replaced at that time. Dustin then suggested taking the slide from the smaller equipment and making that work on the bigger equipment in the meantime. John Wirth asked about being able to build on empty lots, he was unable to attend last meeting so he was unsure if it was discussed but he would like to revisit that conversation. He stated that it would help with people staying in compliance with the new ordinance and would generate more income for the city with property taxes as well. He believes that with the right set of rules and regulations on this (size limitations, set backs to allow room for a future house to be built, etc.) it could be very beneficial to both the city and its citizens. Dustin Williams brought up that the city was able to build a building for GYSA on an empty lot owned by the city so why can't citizens? He also mentioned that it could raise the value of the city. Mayor Volkert stated that he is not opposed to opening up the conversation but he would like to wait on this, there are some other things that need to be done first and we just spent eleven months working on the other ordinance and he is not ready to take this on at this time. He is willing to look at it at a later date though. There was then some discussion on the variance process. Alderman Olson stated that he is not opposed to looking at this at some

point as well, but we would have to worry about aesthetics too and making sure that whatever is built would be nice to look at also if it would be the only building on a lot. John Wirth replied that would have to be discussed with this and that he did not expect an answer tonight. Carol Townsend then asked if the city employees received a raise this year. David replied that everyone got a 5% raise across the board.

Next on the agenda were the Department Head Reports. Chief Townsend stated that they received the body cams etc. from Geneseo that he had talked about last month, they are very appreciative and stated that he is working on a thank you letter to them. Mayor Volkert then stated that any of our old equipment that we replaced with these will be given to another department that needs them if possible. Mayor Volkert then stated that Greg Thompson was unable to be here tonight but they do have well 4 back up and running. He also stated that we lost one of our full-time employees on the water department (Dane Anderson), who left for another opportunity, and we are looking to hire a replacement by the end of the month. Mayor Volkert then commended the city employees again for all of their hard work on the storm clean up.

Next on the agenda were the Aldermen's Reports. Alderman Hartman stated that he has been complaining for seven years about a big dip in the road where a storm sewer is on N Center Ave, it floods and kids hit it on bicycles as well. Alderman Olson thanked the city crew for their clean up efforts.

City Administrator's Report

David Dyer stated that when the tornado siren goes off the guys all meet at the fire department and Fire Chief Nate Byers directs everyone where to go from there. He went over the police blotter with an extensive list of calls for trees and lines down around town. He then stated that our guys are doing a wonderful job!

Mayor Volkert gave kudos to John Wirth for his cruise ins, he has been unable to attend one yet but has heard they have been a great success! He also stated that BNSF has been in to look at the crossings that are in need of repair.

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

MAYOR _____

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk.