

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

The City Council of the City of Galva met in regular session Monday December 02, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. with Debbie VanWassenhove serving as City Clerk. Mayor Rich Volkert presided with the following Aldermen in attendance: Jayme Hopping, Jeff Olson, Doug Anderson, and Rick Otterstrom. Alderman Hartman and Alderman Clucas were noted as being absent.

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Alderman Hopping made a motion and was seconded to approve the November 04, 2024 council meeting minutes. The vote was 4 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 4 yeas and no nays.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Volkert reported that the City had received: State of IL: October Cannabis tax \$303.61, September Telecommunications tax \$1,533.69, October Video Gaming tax \$2,361.39, September State Use tax \$6,917.51, October Income tax \$27,711.52, September Sales tax \$27,652.06, October MFT \$9,482.48

First on the agenda was a discussion on the purchase of a new fire truck. Fire Chief Nate Byers stated that a few years back the city started putting money into a fund to be able to purchase a new truck for the fire department. They put a lot of that into a CD with a 4.9% interest rate. They have been looking at some new trucks and the price is getting more and more expensive and it would take 3 years to get. He has found a great deal on a “Demo” truck, it would come with almost everything that they need on it, would just have to add some shelving and a few things to meet their needs. It is a 2024 International. Right now, it has 0 miles on it, however, they will use it as a demonstration truck so it will have some miles on it by the time it is in our possession but they will also put our logo on it so that we get some advertising while it is on the road as well. He stated that they have half of what they would need in the account now so we would have to get a loan for the remainder. The total cost for the truck would be \$425,000 and we would have to have a down payment of \$42,500 to secure it. This is about \$166,000 cheaper than what we could get from Alexis. He has met with the dealer and everything looks good and it also has the ladders stored on the inside of the truck instead of the outside, so it will help them stay in better shape as well. Alderman Olson asked how much it would cost if

they decided to wait until next year. Chief Byers replied at least 10% more. David then went over the figures for the loan and stated that the money would be repaid through the fire department fund, not the general fund. It would be a ten-year loan for \$362,500.00, that is factoring in the down payment and hopefully selling the old truck for \$30,000. The payments would be \$45,503.26 per year. Alderman Anderson asked if they would be able to keep the CD if we did it this way and David replied that they would. Alderman Olson stated that at a 10% increase per year we should go for it. The other aldermen were in agreement. Alderman Anderson made a motion and was seconded to approve the purchase under the terms stated. The vote was 4 yeas and no nays.

Next on the agenda was **Ordinance 1659: Annual Tax Levy Ordinance**. The council all had a copy of the proposed ordinance. David went over some of the figures and stated that we are shooting for a 4-5 cent decrease in the tax rate. Alderman Anderson made a motion and was seconded to pass the ordinance. The vote was 4 yeas and no nays.

Next on the agenda was a discussion on the fee for non-payment of water bills. Clerk VanWassenhove went over the current process for billing, penalties, and door tags again. Mayor Volkert stated that he is suggesting we get rid of the door tags all together. That would mean the shut off date on the second notices would be a true shut off date, no more 5-day extensions. John Wirth was concerned about the wear and tear on valves if more people were getting shut off. John McArthur explained that the valves need to work and be exercised no matter what. Clerk VanWassenhove then stated that a shut off can be avoided even if you can not pay in time, as long as you call City Hall and make a reasonable payment arrangement. She also stated that they have ordered safety yellow paper for the second notices to make them stand out more. After more discussion on the process and possible penalty amounts, Alderman Olson made a motion and was seconded to change the process to reflect keeping the four percent late payment penalty if not paid by the original due date, no longer placing door tags after the second notice, so if no arrangements are made by the shut off date on the second notice you will be shut off on the next business day, and a flat \$100.00 reconnect fee will have to be paid to be turned back on. The vote was 4 yeas and no nays.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dustin Williams stated that he has noticed an uptick in the blotter for suspended registrations and no insurance and he was concerned that this was due to the city approving Flock cameras. He has no problem with the Flock cameras being used to stop “true” crimes such as child abductions and things like that, but he has heard a lot of complaints about them being used for things like no insurance, expired registrations, etc. and he is against that. He was also concerned about the possibility of people’s information going to cell phones. Chief Townsend replied that the city has ordered 2 of these cameras but they are not in use yet. The County has some in place around our area though. They have settings that you can set the perimeters on what to be notified for and where you would receive the information. Each department would have their own liaison and would decide who gets the information. David Dyer asked if that information was encrypted and City Attorney Zac Lessard stated that yes Flock is encrypted. Dustin again

brought up his concern about these being used for things like no insurance versus “true” crime. Chief Townsend stated that the biggest benefit will be for abductions and missing persons, but no insurance and things of that nature are also against the law and they can not pick and choose between what laws they enforce. They are police officers, they must uphold all laws, and this can be a great tool for law enforcement. John Wirth then brought up a concern about people blowing stop signs, particularly at the intersection of SW 4th St and SW 2nd Ave. He stated that is a 3-way stop and he has almost been T-boned there. Chief Townsend stated that he would keep an eye on that intersection.

Next on the agenda were the Department Head Reports. Kraig Townsend stated that he has had 3 part-timers in school since February and they are getting ready to take the state test on Saturday so hopefully they will be certified soon. Richard Plummer had nothing at this time. John McArthur reported for the water department that they are done with hydrant flushing. Mike Martin then praised the water department for doing a great job on the trailer park water project!

Next on the agenda were the Aldermen’s Reports. Aldermen Olson and Anderson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

City Administrator’s Report

David Dyer stated that he has received a lot of compliments on the cannons after they were painted and thanked Dustin Williams for doing a great job! He then wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Volkert stated that they did a wonderful job on the Bishop Hill fence project! A big thank you to Jeff Olson and the many volunteers that worked very hard on that project, it looks great!

After no further discussion Alderman Olson made a motion and was seconded to adjourn. The vote was 4 yeas and no nays.

MAYOR _____

ATTEST: _____

City Clerk.