

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

The City Council of the City of Galva met in regular session Monday February 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. with Debbie VanWassenhove serving as City Clerk. Mayor Rich Volkert presided with the following Aldermen in attendance: Jackie Clucas, Jeff Olson, and Doug Anderson. Alderman Hartman, Alderman Hopping, and Alderman Otterstrom were noted as being absent.

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Alderman Olson made a motion and was seconded to approve the January 22, 2024 council meeting minutes. The vote was 4 yeas (including the Mayor) and no nays.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

Alderman Anderson 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 (including the Mayor) and no nays.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Volkert reported that the City had received: State of IL: January MFT \$8,233.91, December Sales tax \$28,009.30, January Video Gaming tax \$2,872.75, December State Use tax \$8,823.42, January Income tax \$37,276.39, January Cannabis tax \$346.44, and December Telecommunications tax \$1,831.45.

First on the agenda was a presentation by the Ready to Grow Group. Shirley Crisco and Pat Raley were representing the group and presented Mayor Volkert with a check for \$4,000 to go towards a wheelchair swing for Wiley Park. The total cost for the swing is around \$25,000. Mayor Volkert stated that he appreciates all that the group does and thanked them for the donation.

Next on the agenda was a presentation by Grace Clucas. Grace introduced herself and gave a little background saying that she is serving as an AmeriCorps Fellow with the University of Illinois. She stated she has a project that she is hoping the city will help with which she is calling “Bringing Good News to Galva”. Her idea is to, affordably, bring a newspaper back to Galva and she is asking the City and the School District to help fund this. She has a group of 8 girls at the school who are wanting to help her with this project, they would start with a monthly printing but if all goes well it could become bi-weekly. She also discussed having a website, and social media sites for the paper. She is calling it the Galva Report for now but is flexible on the name. The paper would highlight news from Galva, a community calendar, have articles about current and former Galva residents, etc. The cost for printing the booklets would be about \$.40 per booklet and they would start with around 350 copies. The website would be \$27/month or \$325/year. She also mentioned that she would love to be able to pay the student

volunteers some as well, possibly \$100/year, if they put in the effort and meet certain requirements to qualify. She also mentioned possibly buying a camera for the paper in the future. She stated that in the future they could talk to businesses to pay for ads in the paper as well and possibly have home delivery. She wants this paper to sustain for years to come! Alderman Anderson asked when she would need an answer and she replied that is up to the council, she is ready to go anytime. Alderman Anderson then asked her what the breakdown of cost between the school and city would be and Grace stated that the school talked about a grant but she is not sure how much that would be yet. She mentioned that March 10th is AmeriCorps week and asked the council about doing a proclamation for that. She then mentioned another project of setting up a “nesting site” which is basically a co-working office space with a desk, computer, etc. for people who do not have an office but would like to rent a space. The mayor asked if the library would work for that and Grace replied that it would not since some would use it for a meeting space as well.

Next on the agenda was a presentation by the Bi-State Regional Commission. Sarah Bambas represented Bi-State, she is our new Bi-State liaison. She stated that she joined in June of 2023 and wanted to come introduce herself. She helps as an in between with the government. She helps with grant writing, zoning ordinances, conservation activities, public official’s directory, etc. Alderman Anderson asked how much it would cost for the grant writing and she replied that it would cost nothing extra, it’s already included with the fees that we pay. Mayor Volkert thanked her for coming in.

Next on the agenda was **Ordinance 1653: Parking in Residential Districts.** (Alderman Hartman came in and joined the meeting at this time) Mayor Volkert stated that this is the ordinance we have been talking about for some time now and will go into effect as of April 1st if passed tonight. He then asked if anyone had any more comments or concerns before they vote. Alderman Anderson stated that it is much better and that a lot of hard work has gone into this. Alderman Olson made a motion and was seconded to pass the ordinance. The vote was 4 yeas and no nays.

Next on the agenda was the Sale of 706 SW 4th St. Mayor Volkert opened up the 1 bid that was turned in, from Tom Wilson for \$425. Alderman Anderson made a motion to accept the bid and was seconded. The vote was 3 yeas and 1 nay.

Next on the agenda was a Discussion: Amend Liquor Ordinance. Mayor Volkert stated that we had an incident over the summer that having cameras in the bars would have helped to bring the individual to justice. This ordinance would make sure that all of the bars would have to have cameras in certain areas. We would work with them to help set the cameras up as well. Chief Townsend stated that they would want the cameras in common areas such as the front and back doors, in the bar area, etc. City attorney Zac Lessard stated that he thinks it is a good idea and will allow us to gather more evidence if anything arises, could also curtail retail theft. There was some discussion on the different classes of liquor licenses at this point. Alderman Olson asked if we pass this will restaurants and grocery stores etc. need to get them too? Chief Townsend stated that they

will have to be in code to renew their liquor license. Mayor Volkert asked everyone to look over the proposed ordinance and let him know of any concerns or questions.

Next on the agenda was the Spring Tree Program. Mayor Volkert stated that the due date for tree orders will be March 22. If you are wanting a tree for your terrace, it will only be ½ price and we will plant it, any other part of the yard is full price. Richard Plummer will help to coordinate where they can be planted on the terrace.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sean O'Brien was present and thanked the council for working with his group and listening to them regarding the parking ordinance.

Next on the agenda were the Department Head Reports. Richard Plummer stated that cemetery clean up week will be March 24-28th and all flowers need to be removed before then. Mayor Volkert thanked Richard again for all the hard work his crew did with keeping the streets clear over the winter. Chief Townsend stated that over the weekend there were a few altercations with officers and citizens that were very avoidable. Greg Thompson stated that he is still waiting on answers, well 4 went in a couple of weeks ago but the shaft stopped pumping. He is waiting to hear back from Peerless and he would like to get them in to talk to the council because this was on them. He also stated that Melissa has been working hard on the stopped meter list and we will be replacing meters hard next month. He has 60 more meters coming in, they are hard to get right now.

Next on the agenda were the Aldermen's Reports. Alderman Anderson stated that with the passing of the new ordinance tonight residents should take advantage of the month of March to fix issues, citations will be given in April. Mayor Volkert stated not to put garbage cans in the street if at all possible.

City Administrator's Report

David Dyer had nothing at this time.

Alderman Olson moved and was seconded to move to executive session. The vote was 4 yeas and no nays.

SEE ATTACHED

Alderman Anderson made a motion and was seconded to come out of executive session. The vote was 4 yeas and no nays.

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

MAYOR _____

ATTEST: _____

City Clerk.