

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

The City Council of the City of Galva met in regular session Monday November 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with Debbie VanWassenhove serving as City Clerk. Mayor Rich Volkert presided with the following Aldermen in attendance: Jayme Hopping, Jackie Clucas, Jeff Olson, Doug Anderson, and Rick Otterstrom. Alderman Hartman 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 October 23, 2023 council meeting minutes. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

Alderman Hopping 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: September State Use tax \$7,500.01, October Income tax \$28,831.72, October Cannabis tax \$307.78, September Telecommunications tax \$1,732.83, October Video Gaming tax \$3,064.06, October MFT \$8,725.25, September Sales tax \$29,127.84. David noted that overall, we had a net gain of \$7,149 from last month’s tax revenue.

First on the agenda was the Henry County Tourism Board Presentation. Erin Knockstedt, Kelly Wolf, and Jim Kelly gave the presentation. They gave an overview on what they have been working on including talking to mayors and city managers, grant work, trying to get a cooperative tourism board together, trying to get a full-time county tourism position which would help with revamping the website, etc. Right now, they are talking to communities to try and get more participation. They have re-branded from Visit Henry County to Explore Henry County and are working on getting more information out for travel itineraries and getting on state and national websites for all participating communities to bring more travelers from outside the area to visit. They would also be working on getting more information out on social media sites, restaurant guides, retail guides, and recreational guides. They would also give money directly to the Back Road Music Festival and Levitt Amp groups to help them with marketing. They are asking for \$5,000 for Galva to be a participant, they have a 3-year plan and would come back after that period to show the progress made and would also come regularly to give updates and data information. Alderman Anderson asked when they would need to know by, and they stated that the end of December is the deadline for a lot of grant opportunities.

Next on the agenda was the Levitt Amp Presentation. Jason Bates gave the presentation. He stated that he is involved with both Levitt Amp and Heartland Connections (a nonprofit LLC with a board that he and John Taylor own). Levitt is currently run with the Levitt grant for the next few years, but he is not sure how long that will last, but their goal is to continue on even without the grant. He mentioned that he has had issues with the Visit Henry County website, it is very outdated and there are many things not listed, so that would be a great help if the tourism board is able to get that back up to date. He thinks that a partnership with Henry County Tourism could really help expand their reach as well, we have 3 of the biggest events in Henry County with Backroad, Levitt, and our fireworks show, they do everything they can with limited resources and this partnership could help all of them grow. Music is a huge draw to our community and streaming services could really help us. He was very much in favor of us partnering with Henry County Tourism for these reasons. Alderman Olson stated that \$5,000 and a 3-year contract is cheap and we should do it, Alderman Anderson agreed. Alderman Anderson then made a motion and was seconded to partner with Henry County Tourism for the \$5,000/3-year contract. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays. The Mayor then mentioned that speaking of the fireworks, they will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July again this year.

Next on the agenda was **Ordinance 1650: Stop Sign Ordinance for SW 3<sup>rd</sup> St and SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.** David stated that these are the stop signs that were discussed at the last meeting, by Washington Park and the Lutheran Church. Alderman Anderson asked how soon they could be put up after the ordinance is passed and Richard Plummer replied 48 hours after he calls the JULIE in. Alderman Anderson then made a motion and was seconded to pass the ordinance. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

Next on the agenda was **Ordinance 1651: Ordinance to Adopt the 2021 IPMC.** David stated that this is the IL property maintenance code that we talked about a couple months ago. We will be able to use this to help with dilapidated properties in court. After some discussion Alderman Anderson made a motion and was seconded to pass the ordinance. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

John Wirth stated that he started a car club a few years back, they have done a “cruise in” in Kewanee the last few years and it is becoming popular in other communities as well and he would like to do something like it in Galva. David told him it sounds great and he should do it! He could work with the tourism group too. Alderman Olson suggested that he could also work with Jason Bates and John Taylor to possibly end with a concert at the band shelter. Mayor Volkert thought that it sounded like a great idea as well.

Next on the agenda were the Department Head Reports. Greg Thompson was not present so David stated for him that they are still working on the well 4 rehab and should be up and running by the end of the year. Chief Townsend stated that with winter here when it snows all vehicles need to be moved from roadways for the snow plows, and this is for all roads, not just curb and gutter streets. He also asked that everyone take a few extra minutes to clear their car windows and windshields, a small circle to see out of is not

safe. Richard Plummer asked that residents do not put their garbage cans on the street either, they will get hit by a plow. Mayor Volkert then stated that the lights in Veteran's Park look great!

Next on the agenda were the Aldermen's Reports. No one had anything at this time.

City Administrator's Report

David Dyer stated that he has been getting requests for bricks at the old Creamery building and asked if Richard could put 20-25 bricks outside of the fence. Richard replied that he would. David then stated that he had a citizen give him an idea, they brought him in pictures of other Veteran Parks that have banners with pictures of Veterans on them & he thought that was a great idea and would be very nice. Richard stated that the old banners are getting really bad and he could get these to replace them with. He also suggested getting fiber glass poles to hang them from. Alderman Anderson asked how many poles we have and Richard replied about 10 total. David suggested that we could put them in a rotation. David then stated that they are tired of waiting on Richards new truck, they are now saying it will be another year, so we are going to get a Ford from Gustafson in Kewanee. They have one available now and are holding it for us.

Mayor Volkert announced that on Veteran's Day they had a gentleman speak from the Arsenal that did a fantastic job and spoke of how we got our cemetery in Galva because it was gifted to a veteran, and he really liked that.

Alderman Olson moved and was seconded to move to executive session. The vote was 5 yeas and no nays.

SEE ATTACHED

Alderman Otterstrom made a motion and was seconded to come out of 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.