

CITY OF GALESVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

July 10, 2025

Mayor Tom Thatcher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council attending: Rob Grover, Randy Larson, Jean Seely, Jesse Swing, Ryker Todd

Council Absent: Dave Carlson

Others in attendance: Attorney-Bruce Hart, Public Works Director- Todd Peterson, Library Director- Laura Oanes, Police Chief- Paul Evenson, Trempealeau County Times-Zach Rastall, Jim Wojciechowski, Donna Wojciechowski, Osmani Cruz, Alice Baldini, Kai Runde, and Jim Maloney From Davy Engineering.

Mayor Thatcher led the Pledge of Allegiance

Open meeting laws have been met by posting the agenda on the community board at City Hall, Galesville Public Library, website and distributed to all news media requesting notification in accordance with the open meeting laws on or before 5:00 p.m. on the day before the meeting.

Announcement of closed session under Section 19.85 (1)(C) Wis. Stats. Considering employment of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, specifically to discuss consideration of employment and compensation for a police officer candidate. Governing Body members, the municipal attorney, police chief and municipal clerk may attend the closed session.

Motion by Randy Larson to approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes from June 12, 2025; seconded by Rob Grover. Ayes -4, Nays -0, Motion carried. Jean Seely abstained

Motion by Jean Seely to approve the June 2025 Treasurer's Report and Cash Accounts Balance Reports; seconded by Ryker Todd. Ayes -5, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Osmani Cruz spoke about the flooding in Campus Court and appreciates the city taking up the issue with seriousness. This has been an ongoing issue for over 3 years and affects the enjoyment of their properties.

Paul Evenson, Police Chief, had no additional comments to the monthly report that was submitted.

Laura Oanes, Library Director, had no additional comments to the monthly report that was submitted.

Motion by Jean Seely to suspend the rules to consider item "a" Review audit for December 31, 2024; seconded by Ryker Todd. Ayes -5, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Kim Hollermann from Johnson Block & Company reviewed the audit. The Governmental Funds experienced a \$484,487 increase in fund balance for 2024. The city's overall fund balance is more than its annual expenditures. The general rule is to have 2 months of expenditures in the fund balance and the city has a full year. The total general obligation debt may not exceed 5% of the equalized value of taxable property within the city's jurisdiction. General obligation debt limitation totaled \$7,129,830 at the end of the year, with \$1,430,000 general obligation debt outstanding. The city has 80% of its debt capacity remaining.

Motion by Ryker Todd to suspend the rules to consider item "b" Add replacement of 5<sup>th</sup> street between Ridge Avenue and Clark Avenue to the West Side Water, Sewer and Street project; seconded by Jean Seely. Ayes -5, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Jim Maloney, Project Engineer, explained that 5<sup>th</sup> street adjoins the planned West Side project area and has significant drainage problems on the West side. The water doesn't drain from the area and it

wouldn't solve the issue by milling or overlaying the current street. The water mains are already at 6" and the sanitary sewer has a slight sag but doesn't require replacement. After taking a closer look, it is recommended that a storm sewer extension be added, curb and gutter replaced and pave the street.

The current project was budgeted with a \$247,000 contingency which can be used to fund the additional of 5<sup>th</sup> street. Davy is in completing the plans and will submit a change order for final approval. The estimated cost of the project is \$153,300.00.

Motion by Jean Seely to add replacement of 5<sup>th</sup> street between Ridge Avenue and Clark Avenue to the West Side Water, Sewer and Street project using the \$247,00.00 contingency fund; seconded by Randy Larson. Vote: Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Jean Seely to suspend the rules to consider item "c" Review and approve financing for Storm Water Management on Campus Court; seconded by Ryker Todd. Ayes -5, Nays -0, Motion carried.

The development of Campus Court, a public street, included a public watermain, sanitary sewer and storm water drainage facilities. The project required a DNR Stormwater Permit and the developer submitted a plan that included a Maintenance Agreement signed by the developer. The covenants for the project were not recorded with the County.

The recommendation from Davy Engineering is to extend the storm sewer outlet from the current location on North side of Hammer Drive and come South across Hammer, West to Campus Court and then South all the way down to the cul-de-sac. This would follow the alignment of where the culverts are currently. Elevations will need to be verified and design a storm sewer to provide drainage. The storm sewer would utilize the existing outlet area on the North side. Culverts will be installed under the driveways to assist with the heavy rain.

There was discussion with the attorney on options to recoup the cost from the developer. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Motion by Jesse Swing to approve Davy Engineering to design correction of the water issue in Campus Court and add \$200,000.00 to the GO bond for the West Side Water, Sewer and Street Project; seconded by Rob Grover. Vote: Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Thatcher reported that the Park Commission met on June 19<sup>th</sup> per the minutes submitted.

The committee reviewed and recommended changes to ordinance 12-1-6 Reservation of Park Space to remove some of the Park Commission requirements for approval and assigned it to the city clerk, allow exclusive use of the park facility or shelter and change the deposit and rental fee.

The changes in the ordinance require changes to the application for park rental as well. The reservation will entitle the park to be reserved for exclusive use. The resident and nonresident differential will be removed and it will be one fee for everyone regardless of residency. The notification of using amplified music was added. After discussion this will be referred back to the Park Commission for modifications.

In order to move forward with the creation of a Veteran's Memorial Park where Horse Shoe Park is now the city had to get an easement from J&S Sales of Chippewa Falls, LLC because they own land that would be affected by the use of the park.

Motion by Rob Grover to approve Recreational Easement Agreement with J&S Sales of Chippewa Falls, LLC for land adjacent to Horse Shoe Park; seconded by Jesse Swing. Vote: Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

Jean Seely, chairperson of the IT Committee, reported that they met and have no recommendation for the council.

Ryker Todd, chairperson of the Police, Fire & Personnel Committee, reported that they met and have no recommendation for the council.

Mayor Thatcher reported that the Plan Commission met on July 1<sup>st</sup> per the minutes submitted.

There was only 1 proposal submitted for the revision of the Comprehensive Plan from Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission. The 2025 budget has \$10,000.00 for this revision and the remainder will have to be allocated in the 2026 budget. MRRPC is willing to work with us on the invoicing of the project to meet those budgets.

Motion by Jean Seely to approve proposal from Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission for \$23,500.00; seconded by Rob Grover. Vote: Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

Jesse Swing, Chairperson of the Finance & Insurance Committee, reported the committee met per the minutes.

There is a storm drain at the intersection of S 11<sup>th</sup> street and Short Avenue that has broken and is causing the bank to erode with each storm that we have. The damage is very extensive and will require replacement to ASAP. The project was advertised for bids. Bids were received from Nelson Diesel & Dozing LLC for \$90,175.00 and Gerke Excavating for \$166,307.20.

Motion by Jesses Swing to award the project to Nelson Diesel & Dozing LLC not to exceed \$100,000.00 with the funds to come from the money market plus account; seconded by Rob Grover. Vote: Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

The firewall security contract with MCS Networks for Well #5 is expiring and will need to be updated. MCS Networks provided renewal costs from 1-5 years.

Motion by Jesse Swing to approve renewing Well #5 firewall contract with MCS for 3 years with funds from the Water Budget; seconded by Ryker Todd. Vote: Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

Trempealeau County is changing the software that is used to collect property taxes and pet licenses for 2026. The contract would be with Transcendent Technologies LLC with a cost of approximately \$900 per year and increase of around \$510.00 for 2026.

Motion by Jesse Swing to approve contract with Transcendent Technologies LLC for Ascent Municipality Tax & Pet Licensing software with the fund to come from the general fund Treasurer account; seconded by Jean Seely. Vote: Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

A final Community Room Rental Policy and User Agreement were presented by the Library Board. Most libraries have a collaborative space available for community use and it was recommended that the Community Room become that space. This contract sets the rules for what organizations can use the space, priority for use of the room, the reservation process and the use policy. A shared calendar will be generated for the library staff and city clerk to update and review for availability. Reservations for the use of the room will be handled by the library staff.

Motion by Rob Grover to approve the Galesville Public Library Community Room Policy and the User Agreement; seconded by Randy Larson. Ayes -5, Nays -0, Motion carried.

There was a vacancy created on the Library Board due to change of employment.

Mayor Thatcher recommends Emily Wagner to fill the vacancy and complete the term.

Motion by Ryker Todd to approve the appointment of Emily Wagner to the Library Board to finish the 1-year term that expires in 2026; seconded by Jean Seely. Ayes -5, Nays -0, Motion carried.

The ice and water dispenser went out at Marinuka Manor after they had submitted the request so the purchase and installation are already complete.

Motion by Jesse Swing to approve capital request from Marinuka Manor for ice & water dispenser for \$5,374.50; seconded by Rob Grover. Vote: Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Jean Seely to approve applications For License To Serve Fermented Malt Beverages and Intoxicating Liquors from Aaron Lebakken, Lisa Sacia and Sarah Cudney; seconded by Randy Larson. Ayes -5, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Motion by Rob Grover to approve Resolution 2025-0006 Adopting the Trempealeau County Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan 2024-2028; seconded by Jean Seely. Vote: Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Jesse Swing approve Accounts Payable and Manual Checks for General: \$69,290.30, Sewer: \$5,730.36, Water \$9,834.81, Capital Project Fund \$24,678.98, Library \$6,692.28; Total \$116,226.73; seconded Randy Larson. Vote: Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

Correspondence and other reports submitted included:  
June budget comparison detail for General, Sewer and Water funds  
Lake Marinuka Protection & Rehabilitation District minutes, February 25, 2025  
Galesville Area Chamber of Commerce minutes, May 14, 2025  
Davy Engineering Preconstruction Conference minutes, June 3, 2025  
Board of Review minutes, June 25, 2025

Motion by Jean Seely to go into closed session under Section 19.85 (1)(C) Wis. Stats. Considering employment of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, specifically to discuss consideration of employment and compensation for a police officer candidate. Governing Body members, the municipal attorney, police chief and municipal clerk may attend the closed session; seconded by Ryker Todd. Vote: Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Jesse Swing to reconvene into open session; seconded by Jean Seely. Ayes -5, Nays -0, Motion carried.

Motion by Ryker Todd to hire Andrew Dahl for \$29.00 per hour until after 90 days and bumping it up to \$29.50 with a one-year probationary period; seconded by Jean Seely. Vote: Grover-yes, Larson-yes, Seely-yes, Swing-yes, Todd-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Rob Grover to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Jean Seely. Ayes -5, Nays -0, Motion carried.

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