

**Minutes of Closed Council Meeting and the Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 8, 2013**

Mayor Mike Skenzich called the meeting of Council to order at 6:04 p.m. Councilors Tom Nemanick, Karri Schutte, Rob Kutsi and John Skalko were in attendance. Also in attendance were Attorney Jackie Corradi Simon and Clerk/Treasurer Susan Harper. Councilor Schutte made the motion to move into closed session, seconded by Councilor Kutsi. Motion carried unanimously. Council moved into closed session at 6:05 p.m.

Attorney Corradi Simon addressed the Council.

Councilor Schutte made the motion to arise from closed session and return to open session, seconded by Councilor Skalko. Motion carried unanimously and Council returned to open session.

Councilor Nemanick made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Schutte. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Skenzich called the regular Council meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. All Councilors were present. Also attending were City Attorney Brunfelt, City Engineer Jamnick, Police Chief Techar, Operations Supervisor Lautigar, Library Director Miller and Clerk/Treasurer Harper. Mayor Skenzich, Councilor Kutsi and Councilor Skalko recited the oath of office with Clerk Harper and were therefore sworn into office.

Mayor Skenzich led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Motion by Councilor Schutte to approve the minutes of the December 17th, 2012 Special Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Nemanick. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Councilor Schutte to approve the minutes of the December 27th, 2012 Special Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Nemanick. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Skenzich asked for public input. There was none.

Motion by Councilor Schutte to table the decision to return the USDA loan for Community Center tuck pointing, seconded by Councilor Kutsi. Motion carried unanimously. Sam Lautigar was asked to check on the tuck pointing to see how much is needed on the building. Clerk Harper will check past records for any quotes and ask the USDA about altering the scope of the project.

Motion to accept the IRRRB funds for the sewer/water/road improvements to Michigan & Minnesota Street and the Waste Water Treatment Plant by Councilor Schutte, seconded by Councilor Skalko. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the IRRRB funds for the replacement of culverts, new site drainage system and street construction on Circle Drive and the completion of the Alaska Avenue project by Councilor Schutte, seconded by Councilor Nemanick. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Skenzich asked for reports from Council and Staff.

Councilor Nemanick gave condolences to Police Chief Techar for the recent loss of both of his grandparents. Nemanick talked about the homestead tax credit and how it affects city budgets;

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the boundary adjustment that Gilbert residents have asked Gilbert to make; the tax status of muni-bond interest – it's exempt from federal taxes and from taxes from the state in which the bonds are issued – which makes it appealing to all kinds of investors and if changed, would increase the bond rates for cities. Nemanick stated that a replacement is needed on the Joint Recreation Board as his term is over. He also announced that Time to Wine, a new business in Gilbert has opened and he encouraged people to welcome them to Gilbert.

Councilor Kutsi stated that the Genoa Trail is now open to class one and two vehicles.

Councilor Schutte asked staff about the mechanic's hiring. The discussion was handled later in the meeting's agenda. Schutte brought up the previous Council's decision to table the rehiring of the Coldwell Banker real estate firm because a majority of that Council were leaving office and felt the decision should be made by the new Council. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilor Schutte to not rehire Coldwell Banker, seconded by Councilor Nemanick. Motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Brunfelt clarified for the new Council members that his retainer is \$450/mo. for attending meetings and answering any questions from the City. He reminded Council that the AFSCME mediation will be at 2:30 p.m. on January 23, 2013 in city hall and it is a closed meeting.

City Engineer Jamnick said that the screening and shrubbery on Alaska Avenue will be planted in the spring. The De Care parking lots lights will be on a timer and will be activated by January 14th. The Water Treatment Plant heating system is on with some glitches being fixed. The new header pipe will go in Wednesday afternoon. Jola and Sopp will be placing the sluice gate at the Waste Water Treatment Plant in the next week or two.

Police Chief Techar, with the Police Commission's approval, asked Council to remove Officer Joe Bradach from probation. Motion by Councilor Schutte, seconded by Councilor Nemanick to approve Techar's request to remove Officer Bradach from probation. Motion carried unanimously.

Operations Director Lautigar asked Council to approve a water pipe leak detection service from Water Conservation Services, Inc. because the City has gallons of water unaccounted for after it is metered at the Water Treatment Plant. Motion by Councilor Kutsi, seconded by Councilor Skalko to approve the service from WCS. Motion carried unanimously.

Lautigar reported that two new furnaces were installed at the Gilbert Recreation Center for a total of \$5,500 because they were both leaking gas and not heating the building.

Kohler has ordered parts and done needed overhauling of the Waste Water Treatment Plant's furnaces.

Lautigar will determine the price for the skidster blade and put it out for bids. Same with the sweeper; some parts may be saved, if possible, for use with the new sweeper. Lautigar has arranged for transport of the new sweeper from St. Louis Park for \$100 per hour and it may take 11-12 hours to get it to Gilbert.

Mayor Skenzich asked Lautigar to check on the handicapped parking spot in front of the post office, as residents have told him it is too hard to see it with the ice and snow. Skenzich asked if a sign could be posted there declaring the space a handicapped parking space. Lautigar will see if that can be done. Council discussed the mechanic's job applications with Lautigar and Clerk

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Harper who said that the field was narrowed to seven or eight candidates. Motion by Councilor Nemanick, seconded by Councilor Schutte to have Council interview those selected candidates. Motion carried unanimously.

Library Director Miller updated Council on the many programs happening at the library. The dates and times are published in the paper. Miller continues to need Library Foundation Board members and asked that any interested party contact her.

City Clerk Harper discussed the 2013 Gilbert Fee Schedule. Council appointed Mayor Skenzich, Councilor Skalko and Harper to meet as a committee to review the proposed fees and bring them back to Council.

Motion by Councilor Schutte, seconded by Councilor Kutsi to approve Jack Bradach, Water Treatment Plant operator's attendance at the MRWA Conference. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Mayor Skenzich, seconded by Councilor Skalko to renew Gilbert's membership in the Minnesota Association of Small Cities. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mayor Skenzich, seconded by Councilor Skalko to appoint Councilor Tom Nemanick as Mayor Pro Tem. Motion carried unanimously.

City Council appointments for 2013 are as follows:

Project/Construction meeting: Councilor Nemanick and Councilor Skalko.

Mesabi Community Television Advisory Committee: Councilor Skalko

Planning & Zoning: Mayor Skenzich

Cemetery Board: will remain with the current membership

Water & Light Advisory Board: Councilor Schutte

Joint Powers Recreation Board: Councilor Nemanick until a replacement is found

The Library Board and Police Commission have completed their appointments.

Laurentian Vision Partnership: Mayor Skenzich

Curling Club: Mayor Skenzich

Mayor Skenzich called for any resident interested in an Advisory Board or Commission Appointment to please call City Hall, the Mayor, or any City Councilor to volunteer.

Motion to reappoint Mitch Brunfelt as the City Attorney by Councilor Nemanick, seconded by Councilor Schutte. Motion carried unanimously. Council chose not to review other submissions for the city attorney position.

Motion by Councilor Schutte, seconded by Councilor Kutsi to approve the reappointment of John Jannick as the City Engineer. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Councilor Kutsi, seconded by Councilor Skalko to designate the Gilbert Herald as Gilbert's official newspaper and to publish the minutes again in the paper. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Councilor Schutte, seconded by Councilor Nemanick to designate the Gilbert Bank as the official depository for Gilbert City funds. Motion carried unanimously.

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Motion by Councilor Nemanick, seconded by Councilor Schutte to designate the 4 M Fund through the League of MN Cities, Morgan Stanley, Northland Securities and Ehlers as the official investment firms a/or financial advice firms for Gilbert. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Councilor Nemanick, seconded by Councilor Kutsi to approve Resolution 2013-01: Approval of Mayor Michael Skenzich and Clerk Susan M. Harper as the bank and investment signers for the City. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Councilor Nemanick, seconded by Councilor Schutte to approve the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) public-employee performance bond coverage. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Councilor Schutte, seconded by Councilor Kutsi to approve the payment of Bills and Payroll. Motion carried unanimously. Councilor Nemanick asked that Gilbert support the local, smaller vendors instead of buying supplies at Menards.

Mayor Skenzich acknowledge the meeting minutes of December 12, 2012 from the E.F.G.S.D. Joint Powers Recreation Board.

The request for contribution from RMHC was denied.

The invitation to the RAMS Annual Dinner and meeting, January 31, 2013 in Hibbing was accepted by Council, with Mayor Skenzich, Councilor Schutte and Councilor Kutsi planning to attend.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was offered by Councilor Nemanick, seconded by Councilor Schutte. Mayor Skenzich adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Approved January 22, 2013.

Mayor Michael Skenzich

ATTEST:

Susan M. Harper, City Clerk

The aforementioned is a summary of the action items from this meeting. To listen to the full transcript of this meeting, please contact City staff at 218.748.2232.