

**CITY OF GILBERT**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2011**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Mayor Bellerud called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Bellerud, Councilors Garrity, Gentile, Nemanick and Omersa.

Absent: None

Staff Present: Police Chief Skelton, Working Foreman Kuitunen, Fire Chief Omersa, City Clerk Darrow and Confidential Secretary Devich.

Mayor Bellerud led the audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor requested a moment of silence in memory of 9/11/11.

Motion by Garrity second by Omersa to approve the following addition to the agenda:

1. Authorize C&C Winger to repair hydrants, valve replacements, sinkhole on Court Street and other alley repairs for total cost not to exceed \$19,000.00.

All approved.

Motion by Gentile second by Nemanick to approve minutes of Regular and Special Council Meetings of August 23, 2011. All approved. Councilor Nemanick stated he wished he had voted “no” instead of abstaining on the motion to approve a \$50 increase to the monthly salary for the Mayor and Council.

Motion by Garrity second by Nemanick to approve minutes of Library Board Meeting of August 3, 2011. All approved.

Motion by Omersa second by Nemanick to approve minutes of Cemetery Board Meeting of August 31, 2011. All approved.

Keith Young, Eveleth-Gilbert School Board Director, discussed the proposed levy and operating referendum. Young explained the current levy has been in place for ten years, is \$335.95 per pupil and expires this year. Young further explained the November 8, 2011 ballot: question one will ask the voters to renew the current levy, question two will ask the voters to increase the current levy by \$364.05 per pupil. By answering “yes” to both question number one and two, the total levy will be \$700 per pupil. Young reiterated that both question number one and question number two have to be completed for a vote for number two to be counted. Passage of only question one will not provide adequate funding to support current academic and extra-curricular programs nor provide adequate funding to maintain current class sizes K-12. Young also noted if the referendum passes, they would not vote to close the school in Gilbert.

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Motion by Nemanick second by Gentile to authorize the City Clerk to do a resolution in support of the operating levy increase for the Eveleth-Gilbert School District for Council approval at the next Regular Meeting. All approved.

Councilor Omersa questioned the status of the Charter Commission. Confidential Secretary Devich responded the Commission will be submitting changes to the City Charter.

City Engineer Jannick updated the Council on the various projects.

Councilor Nemanick questioned if it has been past practice to clean up after the tree trimmers. Public Works Foreman Kuitunen replied the City only budgeted a certain amount to spend on tree trimming and there were more trees added to the list than originally quoted therefore the City Crew helped with clean up so the tree trimmers could spend more time on trimming the trees. Further discussion was held on what it would take City employees to become certified to trim trees. Clerk Darrow agreed to check with the League of Minnesota Cities.

Fire Chief Omersa reported the Fire Department will be flushing hydrants Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> and possibly Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Motion by Omersa second by Gentile to approve payment of bills and payroll subject to audit by Mayor and Clerk (check no. 10731-10800). All approved.

City Clerk Darrow explained Tom Hafdahl is seeking a reimbursement in the amount of \$15,000 for damages caused by a water main break in February of 2011. The League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust denied the claim on February 11, 2011 and again on August 30, 2011. City Attorney Lindsay stated after reviewing the opinion from the League he concurred "once the City has made a payment in one circumstance, it would be very difficult not to do so again for the next citizen who is in a similar circumstance." Councilor Omersa recommended Hafdahl go through the appeal process with the League and noted a Gilbert resident that had sewer damage did the same a couple years ago and received some compensation from the League in the end.

Motion by Nemanick second by Omersa to table action on reimbursement request from Tom Hafdahl. Council recommended Hafdahl go through the appeal process with the League of Minnesota Cities. All approved.

Motion by Gentile second by Garrity to approve serving alcohol at the Community Center for the LMC event on September 22, 2011 and to approve sending staff and Council members to the event. All approved.

Motion by Garrity second by Omersa to approve the Minnesota Power Master Service Contract. All approved.

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City Clerk Darrow stated the Council met on four separate occasions within the last month to review the 2012 City of Gilbert Budget and based upon discussion during the September 7, 2011 Council Meeting the City is proposing a levy of 12% for 2012. The reasons for the levy increase are due to the following:

1. Reduction on LGA by approximately \$118,000.00.
2. Reduction in Taconite Mining Funds by approximately \$40,000.00.
3. 2011 Law Change – A New Market Value Exclusion replace the Homestead Market Value Credit.
4. Increase in operating costs for 2012, uncertainty in labor negotiations and cost of equipment and repairs.

Motion by Gentile second by Omersa to establish a 12% preliminary levy and to set a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. to formally set and approve the 2012 budget. The Council furthermore, directs the City Clerk to file the necessary forms to St. Louis County by September 15, 2011. All approved.

Motion by Gentile second by Omersa to approve request from the Alibi Bar to allow drinks outside in adjacent lot to the bar on September 17, 2011 for a large anniversary party. All approved.

City Clerk Darrow reported the City of Gilbert was awarded \$20,000 in a grant through St. Louis County for completing the comprehensive plan and implementation plan section that includes land use, park planning, economic development, financial review and management and zoning. No City funds will be associated with administering this project.

Motion by Nemanick second by Gentile to utilize the \$20,000 in a grant by St. Louis County for the comprehensive plan and related implementation plans and support. All approved.

Motion by Gentile second by Omersa to approve Pay Estimate No. 4 for \$7,176.78 to Mesabi Bituminous for Summit Street/Sherwood Forest Drive Improvements project. All approved.

Motion by Garrity second by Omersa to approve Pay Estimate No. 4 for \$4,281.25 to Mesabi Bituminous for Lake Ore-Be-Gone Recreation Area Improvements. All approved.

Motion by Gentile second by Nemanick to reschedule Regular Council Meetings of Tuesday, September 27, 2011 and Tuesday, November 8, 2011 to Monday, September 26, 2011 and Wednesday, November 9, 2011. All approved.

Motion by Garrity second by Gentile to authorize the City Clerk to place an ad in the newspaper to invite the public to come by City Hall on Wednesday, November 28, 2011

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from 4:00-5:00 p.m. to celebrate Peace Officer James Licari's dedication to the City of Gilbert and Biwabik and wish him a happy retirement. All approved.

Brief discussion followed concerning a camera system at Lake Ore-Be-Gone Beach. Clerk Darrow noted Inland Mining Co. has agreed to pay for a portion of the system.

Motion by Nemanick second by Gentile to authorize C&C Winger to repair hydrants, valve replacements, sinkhole on Court Street and other alley repairs for total cost not to exceed \$19,000.00. All approved.

Motion by Omersa second by Garrity to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. All approved.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
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.