

CITY OF GILBERT
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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

Present: Mayor Kutsi, Councilors Skalko, Pontinen, Bol and Liimatta.

Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Attorney Michael Kearney, City Engineer Jamnick, Police Chief Techar, Public Works Operations Director Lautigar, Library Director Miller and City Clerk/Treasurer Sakrison.

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

Motion by Skalko second by Pontinen to approve the agenda. All approved.

Public Input

Resident Carey Peterson, 7348 Highway 97, recapped his family's history of living within the community of Gilbert since 2012. They have 2 acres of land fenced to keep their animals contained. They feel they are being harassed. The self-sustaining animals they have are for personal use. They were served a citation for a violation of zoning ordinance that they would like exonerated immediately. He ended by stated that their house will be on the market as of April 1, 2015, and they are moving to their new home outside the city of Gilbert.

Bol stated that he appreciated their attempt for a self-sustaining life style.

Mayor Kusti also supported what Bol stated and apologized to the Petersons.

Pontinen stated that he appreciated them considering their neighbors.

City Attorney Kearney stated that once the animals are all removed and the property is in compliance it will then be verified by Chief Techar that the property is in compliance and Kearney will file a 30-01 Dismissal to have the charge dismissed.

Donovan Goblirsch stated that he feels it was a slap in the face for former military, thought the Petersons were doing it right, not right to push a family out of town.

Motion by Liimatta second by Bol to approve the February 17, 2015 City Council Work Session meeting minutes, the February 24, 2015 Regular Council meeting minutes & the March 2, 2015 Special City Council meeting minutes. All Approved.

Motion by Mayor Kutsi second by Bol to approve selling the Gilbert Fire Department 1958 fire truck on Do-Bid. All approved.

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Motion by Pontinen second by Liimatta to adopt Resolution 2015-06 – A Resolution in Support of the Public Process to Designate Waters Subject to the MPCA Water Wild Rice Quality Standard. All approved.

Motion by Skalko second by Pontinen to adopt Resolution 2015-07 – A Resolution Supporting Dedicated State Funding for City Streets. All approved.

Motion by Skalko second by Pontinen to approve the \$20 registration fee for any employee interested in attending the 2015 Safety & Loss Control Workshop on April 23, 2015 at Sugar Lake Lodge in Cohasset. All approved.

Motion by Skalko second by Mayor Kutsi to set a date for April 28, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. for the Improvement Hearing for the 2015 Infrastructure Improvements. All approved.

Motion by Skalko second by Pontinen to approve issuing Request for Proposals for updating the City of Gilbert’s Comprehensive Plan to comply with grant requirements of the IRRRB. All approved.

Motion by Skalko second by Liimatta to proclaim the month of April 2015 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. All approved.

There is information available at City Hall regarding Sexual Assault Awareness.

Discussion was held regarding consideration of changing the §92.06 Barnyard Animals of the Code of Ordinances.

- Mayor Kutsi asked for this to be on the agenda. It has been requested by the public to have chickens. Duluth & Grand Rapids, and probably 95% of the metro area allow hens, no roosters, to be within the city limits.
- Skalko stated that he had 100 chickens and 100 rabbits in Sparta when he grew up, but times have changed. There are a lot of things to consider in this situation. Zoning, cleanliness, noise, smells, property values, size of lots, etc.
- Pontinen stated that years ago there were rats in town, who would monitor chickens, who is going to “police” this regarding neglect, etc.
- Mayor Kutsi stated that this would be a licensed activity.
- Motion by Mayor Kutsi to have Police Chief Techar to check into some other communities regarding potential problems. Techar stated that he will try to have some information for the next council meeting.

Motion by Bol second by Liimatta to acknowledge the Revenue & Expenditure Reports through February 28, 2015. All approved.

Councilor Pontinen would like to consider setting up a budget/levy committee, made up of residents.

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Mayor Kutsi stated that they are elected by the public to handle the City of Gilbert. All of the budget hearings are open to the public and rarely does the public attend. All the Department heads get together and try to cut costs within their department.

Bol and Liimatta agree that the meetings are open to the public and that is where the public would be involved.

City Attorney Kearney stated that the Mayor and Council are elected to manage fiscal affairs of the city and the budget was available ahead of time to the public and they could get a copy and take a look at it before a meeting and bring their questions up at that time. He also stated that most cities have very limited financial resources.

Mayor Kutsi noted in the six years he has been involved in the city there have never been any extras, they are always working to cut budgets.

Motion by Pontinen to send a memo in the next utility bill calling for interest to serve on a levy/tax committee. There was no second.

Councilor Skalko wanted to let everyone know that March is a matching month for donations to the Food Shelf. He welcomed Pfremmer Realty for opening a new office in Gilbert.

Mayor Kutsi recapped his and Councilor Bol's meetings with area legislators.

Councilor Bol mentioned that some residents are disappointed in how their Manney Shopper is being delivered, just being thrown in their yard. Police Chief Techar stated that he would call the Manney Shopper and make the request.

Motion by Liimatta second by Skalko to approve tree trimming off of the power lines up to \$20,000.00. All approved.

Motion by Skalko second by Bol to advertise for four (4) summer youth workers at \$10/hour, must be 18 and older for the Public Works Department. All approved.

Motion by Pontinen second by Liimatta to approve getting a Water & Waste Water Intern from the Vermilion Community College. The city's cost is 25% of the wages. All approved.

Public Works Operations Director Lautigar noted that the street sweeper has begun cleaning streets, and they fixed a leak at the high water tower.

Motion by Mayor Kutsi second by Bol to have alley clean up date set up by the Public Works Operations Director. All approved.

Librarian Nicole Miller reported on their events:

- Local libraries only have IRS tax forms, no booklets.

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- The Library has finished its Strategic Plan and it has been adopted by the Library Board.
- They are collecting donations of gently used, clean, formal & semi-formal dresses to be loaned out to girls with a library card.
- Legacy Programming:
 - Civil War Re-enactment Actor came and taught about the Civil War.
 - Celtic Music Group will be there March 20, 2015.
 - Movie night will be March 27, 2015.

Motion by Skalko second by Pontinen to approve bills and payroll subject to audit by Mayor and Clerk. All approved.

Motion by Bol second by Liimatta to acknowledge the Gilbert Library Board minutes of February 2, 2015, the Safety Committee minutes of February 3, 2015 and the EFGSD Joint Powers Recreation Board minutes of December 10, 2014 & February 11, 2015. All approved.

Motion by Skalko second by Mayor Kutsi to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Robert Kutsi, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra Sakrison, City Clerk