

CITY OF GILBERT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2015  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mayor Kutsi called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

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

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Attorney Kearney, City Engineer Jammick, 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 Liimatta to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Input:

Mike Peterson is requesting that the City do a curb cut and ramp at 310 N Broadway, which he is purchasing. He stated that he has been told that if the City completes it rather than him, then IRRRB will provide funding. Mayor Kutsi stated that a permit would need to be obtained from MNDOT to do the project. City Attorney Kearney stated that the item will need to be added to the next agenda for the council to take action on it.

Motion by Liimatta second by Skalko to approve the June 9, 2015 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes and the June 9, 2015 Special City Council Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Skalko second by Pontinen to approve Resolution 2015-10 IRRRB Innovation Grant Program Application. Motion carried.

Motion by Skalko second by Pontinen to approve Temporary On-Sale Liquor Licenses for Devco, Inc. DBA Devo's Sand Bar; Gilbert VFW Post 4456; Jim's Seldom Inn; Liimatta Pershern LLC, DBA The Dugout; The Alibi Bar; Yo'R Mudders Place; Whistling Bird; Nick's Bar; and Terri Gordon, DBA The Gladiator on July 3, 2015. Motion carried.

Chief Techar discussed the DNR ATV Grant and the purchase of a 2015 Polaris Sportsman 570 ATV for \$3299 with the trade-in of the 2008 Polaris Sportsman 500. He stated there will be no cost to the City. Motion by Bol second by Liimatta to approve the purchase of a 2015 Polaris Sportsman 570 ATV. Motion carried.

Motion by Bol second by Liimatta to approve the trade-in of the 2008 Polaris Sportsman 500. Motion carried.

Mayor Kutsi discussed meeting with staff of the City of Gilbert, the City of Eveleth, and Fayal Township on proposing a feasibility study on combining the three Fire Departments. The City of

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Eveleth has agreed to prepare a grant application to the IRRRB for the funding of the feasibility study. Motion by Skalko second by Bol to support making an application to the IRRRB for a grant to fund a feasibility study to explore the effects of combining the Fire Departments of the City of Gilbert, the City of Eveleth, and Fayal Township. Motion carried.

Mayor Kutsi discussed meeting with staff of the City of Gilbert and the City of Eveleth on proposing a study be conducted to determine if there is any possibility of the two communities working together regarding sanitary sewer. Motion by Liimatta second by Kutsi to support exploration of the feasibility of Gilbert and Eveleth working together regarding sanitary sewer. Kutsi discussed that he met with Nolan and Metsa regarding this, and they stated funding would be easier with multiple communities involved. Motion carried.

Councilor Pontinen discussed the claims from June 9, 2015. He feels the payment to Dan Lossing should have been voted on by full council. Skalko stated that the project started in 2014, prior to three new councilors. He stated the payment was for a neighbor providing water to Kevin Fahey, and that it saved the city a lot of money. Lautigar stated that there was a water break in February 2014. Dan Lossing provided water, saving Faheys from being without water for a couple weeks. He stated it should have been paid out of the water fund, not taxpayer money. (It was paid from the Water Fund.) Kutsi stated that there was a lot of discussion with Mr. Lossing. Pontinen stated that it appeared to him like it was being hidden from the public, like a payoff. Bol stated that it was in the bill packet. John Shega, Aspire Insurance Agency, stated that based on facts, there was no liability to the city. He will go on the record as supporting what the council did on this matter. Attorney Kearney stated that the payment was approved by the entire council because it was approved as part of the claims list. Bol stated that most claims aren't discussed individually. Skalko discussed that this has been an ongoing issue for a long time. Mayor Kutsi ended the discussion.

Councilor Bol discussed that there is still a pigeon issue. He would like to talk to building owners about it. Chief Techar stated that they have dispatched some pigeons recently, and they are coming up with a plan to address the issue.

Attorney Kearney requested an item to be placed on the next agenda to change the fund that the payment to Dan Lossing was paid from to the water fund. (No need as the payment was from Water Fund.)

Engineer Jammick discussed that the cleanup on the alley project on Ohio and New Jersey is coming along and is just about finished.

Engineer Jammick discussed that all of the easements for the East Industrial Park Road are signed and sealed. He will get the bid package out and get bids on the project.

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Chief Techar discussed that they are working on blight. They are currently focusing on grass. Abandoned and tax-forfeit properties are an issue that they are working on.

Public Works Operations Director Lautigar discussed that he received an email from Ron LaFond from StanTec on the WWTP project. The WWTP scored quite high with the MPCA, which is favorable for funding.

Public Works Operations Director Lautigar discussed that ServPro is about two-thirds done with the cleaning and painting project.

Library Director Miller stated that there is good attendance for the summer programs. The Northern Lights Music Festival will be on Tuesday, June 29th at 11:00 a.m. Pint Sized Polkas will be on Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

Motion by Liimatta second by Bol to approve payment of bills and payroll. Aye: Kutsi, Skalko, Bol, Liimatta; Nay: Pontinen. Motion carried 4-1.

Motion by Liimatta second by Skalko to approve the May 6, 2015 EFGSD Joint Powers Recreation Board Minutes and the June 9, 2015 Campground Committee Minutes.

Motion by Bol second by Skalko to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried.

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Debra Sakrison, Clerk/Treasurer

ATTEST

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Rob Kutsi, Mayor