

**CITY OF GILBERT**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2016**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

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

Absent: None.

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

Staff Absent: None.

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

Motion by Liimatta second by Skalko to approve the agenda with the addition of 8I – LMCIT Liability Coverage Waiver. Motion Carried Unanimously (MCU).

Motion by Bol second by Liimatta to approve the September 27, 2016 Meeting Minutes. MCU.

**Public Input:**

None.

**Staff Reports:**

- Chief Techar: Nothing to report.
- Public Works Operations Director Lautigar:
  - Working on campground electrical upgrade.
  - Cleaning up around town getting ready for fall.
  - Went to Cumberland, WI to look at a new MBR plant.
  - Councilor Pontinen wants job costing for City employees at campground.
- Library Director Miller:
  - 10/10/16 – Legacy Program – MN Opera Story Time
  - 10/13/16 – Kid’s craft program @ 4:30 (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month) – Pinterest projects
  - 10/17/16 – Cookbook Club – Sweet or Savory Muffins @ 5:30 p.m.
  - 10/18/16 – Harry Potter Crafts @ 5:00 p.m.
  - 10/19/16 – Teen Program – Zombie Virus
  - 10/20/16 & 10/21/16 – (MEA) Movie matinees
  - 10/24/16 – 10/28/16 – Lego Challenge 4:30 – 5:30 pm.
  - 18–21 club: Collaboration with school system, life/work skills for developmentally challenged young adults.
  - 12/3/16 – Library Foundation Fundraiser – Painting Program by Spencer Hahne – Hot Cocoa Bar

**Mayor, Council, Boards & Commissions Reports:**

- Mayor: Agenda
- Councilor Pontinen: Agenda

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- Councilor Skalko discussed meeting in Mt. Iron to speak with Representative Franken's staff. All area towns are facing the same issues. A special session could be in the future.
- Councilor Bol: Agenda
- Councilor Liimatta: Agenda
- City Attorney Kearney: Agenda
- City Engineer Jamnick: Councilor Pontinen asked if survey had been done yet. Jamnick noted that he crew just got back.

**Old Business:**

Emergency Operations Plan Update – Nothing new to report.

Nuisance Ordinance Update:

- Councilor Pontinen asked about the Nuisance Ordinance and the Blight List.
- Chief Techar stated that the Nuisance Ordinance Committee has met once and needs to schedule an additional meeting.
- Chief Techar gave an update regarding the blight list. Forty blight letters were sent out. There are a few pending court cases. There is a discussion of the blight issues being too aggressive. The nuisance ordinance committee needs to meet and go over the blight issues. He noted that the City of Biwabik has gone civil, taking it away from the police department. In Biwabik there has to be an actual complaint filed with the City, and the City then conducts blight investigation. Biwabik complaints have gone down, but compliance has gone up. Most agencies the police departments to not do blight. Planning & zoning officers handle blight in other communities. The City Council needs to make a decision if they want to keep the blight a criminal issue or have it go civil.
- The committee will have a meeting and report back at the next council meeting.

**New Business:**

Gilbert resident Joey Purkat voiced his concern about the Gilbert Post Office having a lip going into their building that people using walkers, canes and wheelchairs can't get over. He asked that it be removed or a skirt put on so that one could enter their facility. City Attorney Kearney said that is the responsibility of the post office, but the City could send a letter.

Motion by Bol second by Skalko to have City Clerk Sakrison send a letter to the Gilbert Post Office to have them address the accessibility issue, a copy will be sent to Mr. Purkat. MCU.

Public Works Operations Director Lautigar stated that the lip is too high to make ADA compliant and that the entire sidewalk would have to be raised approximately 4 – 5 inches and a push-button would need to be installed. This issue will be looked into further.

Gary Mackley discussed his post retirement insurance benefit. He feels that the transition to an individual plan is in violation of his contract because it is not a group plan. He asked why the City Council had not acted on the insurance change. He also feels that the supplemental plan is not equivalent. Councilor Bol asked what makes the plan not equivalent. Mackley stated that

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the drug coverage was not equivalent. A future retiree insurance meeting was to be set up. Mayor Kutsi gave an overview of the insurance benefit, in that when Mackley becomes eligible for coverage under Federal Medicare provisions Mackley shall be required to apply for such coverage and Mackley shall then be covered under the City's supplemental Blue Cross/Blue Shield or equivalent supplemental plan. Mackley currently is eligible for coverage under Federal Medicare, and would then also be covered under the City's supplemental insurance. The City of Gilbert's insurance representative would need to answer how comparable the insurance plans are. Mackley feels that the whole situation is being handled poorly. City Attorney Kearney's recommendation is to set up a meeting with the retirees, the insurance representative and City councilors.

Motion by Bol second by Pontinen to eliminate the deadline given to Mackley regarding the insurance. MCU.

A special meeting will be set once the insurance representative is contacted regarding his schedule. This will be added to an upcoming council meeting.

Mayor Kutsi did the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance 2016-02 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 130 of the City Code of the City of Gilbert which was adopted on September 27, 2016.

Motion by Liimatta second by Bol to appoint election judges, as listed below, for the General Election to be held Tuesday, November 8, 2016, and to have the authority to appoint alternative election judges if someone is unable to serve in the appointed capacity. MCU.

Election Judges:

Stephen Peterson – Head Election Judge

Laurel Roering

Diana Wallert

David Hirsch

Norman Chaffee

Richard Seburnia

Leon Schanlaub

Pete Greiner

Motion by Liimatta second by Skalko to upgrade the Rockwell software used at the water & wastewater plants for an approximately cost of \$2,800. MCU.

Motion by Liimatta second by Skalko to authorize advertising for (2) rink attendants at \$12/hour. MCU.

Motion by Skalko second by Liimatta to authorize advertising for an administrative assistant for the Police Department and supplement in the City Office. Councilor Pontinen concerned about adding an employee, wages & benefits. Chief Techar noted that the Gilbert PD is the 3<sup>rd</sup> busiest per officer in NE MN, electronic record keeping has increased work load. He also noted that the City of Gilbert PD and the Breitung Township PD are the only two departments in the state without and administrative assistant. Motion Carried 4 – 1.

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Motion by Skalko second by Liimatta to acknowledge the September 30, 2016 Financial Statements. MCU.

Motion by Liimatta second by Bol to not waive the monetary limits on municipal tor liability. MCU.

Motion by Bol second by Skalko to approve bills and payroll subject to audit by Mayor and Clerk. Pontinen – Nay; Skalko – Aye; Mayor Kutsi – Aye; Bol – Aye; Liimatta – Aye. Motion Carried.

Motion by Bol second by Liimatta to acknowledge the Gilbert Public Library Board Minutes of September 6, 2016. MCU.

Motion by Skalko second by Bol to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. MCU

  
Debra Sakrison, City Clerk

ATTEST:  
  
Robert Kutsi, Mayor