

**CITY OF GILBERT**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

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

Absent: Councilor Liimatta (w/Notice)

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

Staff Absent: Library Director Miller.

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

Motion by Bol second by Skalko to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried unanimously (MCU).

Motion by Skalko second by Bol to approve the 2016 Board of Appeal & Equalization minutes and May 10, 2016 Regular City Council Minutes. MCU.

**Public Input:**

Tammy Smith, resident of Gilbert, questioned the Korean pipe at Holiday not being removed. Her husband has been laid off for one year so she asked the council to help pay her bills and medical bills, and to help put the laid off workers back to work and have the pipe removed.

Steve Biondich, of Aurora, is a working steel worker and is disheartened about the pipe still being in the ground. The principal of the matter is more important than the pipe in the ground. If everyone keeps purchasing foreign made materials we are all a part of the problem. Council should follow through with their promise to have the pipe removed.

Roger Smith, resident of Gilbert, believes the pipe was supposed to be removed at no cost to the City.

**Staff Reports:**

- Chief Ty Techar – agenda
- Public Works Operations Director Lautigar – agenda. Mentioned alley clean-up will be next week.

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

- Councilor Pontinen reviewed the article from Mesabi Daily News of May 14, 2016. Shared emails with all Councilors, read several of the emails. Demanded an explanation from Mayor Kutsi.
  - Mayor Kutsi stated that the plan was to remove the pipe, there was 4,000 ft. of pipe total for this project, one 40' pipe was already in the ground, and it was decided to leave it in the ground to not disrupt the businesses and to move forward with the project. This pipe was not originally a part of the contract, so it was an addition, but the contractor gave the

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city a credit for the 40' pipe placed in the ground, and the City Council did vote on this credit as a contract Change Order.

- Councilor Pontinen then read letters he received from Frank's Tire Service and the Holiday Station Store in favor of removing the pipe and replacing it with American Steel.
- Councilor Skalko stated that he spoke with Frank Malich today and Mr. Malich's understanding was that the IRRRB had requested the pipe to be removed.
- Mayor Kutsi reprimanded Councilor Pontinen for going off on his own without Council authorization to approach the businesses and ask for a letter of support.
- Councilor Skalko noted that the good news is that the tariffs were finally passed at the Federal level, this one pipe is not the savior for the industry.
- Councilor Pontinen wants the pipe removed and cut up or sent back to Korea. He asked that this item be put back on the agenda and voted on.

Motion by Pontinen second by Bol to add the removal of the 40' foreign pipe to the next agenda. Roll Call – Pontinen – Aye; Skalko – Nay; Mayor Kutsi – Nay; Bol – Aye. Motion failed 2 – 2.

- Councilor Skalko asked for some volunteer help to get the cemetery ready for Memorial Day as the summer help workers do not begin until June.
- Mayor Kutsi
  - Has supported mining personally and as Mayor by attending almost all of the Polymet meetings, dozens of sulfate standards meetings fighting to get it down to 15 parts/million, met with the Bureau of Land Management for the gold mining up by Ely, he has fought very hard and worked with State legislators to support mining and keep it moving forward.
  - He spoke to Senator Tomassoni and there won't be any relief for the \$8.5 million sewage plant, we could possibly get some PFA funding.
  - Did attend a Senate Hearing on special legislation.
  - Also attended a School Board meeting, last night, about sharing staff/equipment, etc.
  - Noted that if anyone wants to donate to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July & the Kiddie Parade there will be an extra slip in with the utility bill that they can use.
  - Received a Thank you letter from the ECFE to the Public Works Department for having equipment at the "Big Truck Night" up at the school.
  - Reminder there is a 10:00 a.m. Memorial Day Service at the Gilbert Cemetery, and the National Honor Society is putting on a Memorial Service at 7:00 p.m. on May 26, 2016 at the Eveleth High School.
- Councilor Bol recognized Mayor Kutsi for this support of mining in our region and that he worked tirelessly in his support, and thought the decision of the foreign pipe being removed would have been a non-issue. This reaches farther than local, it is a country wide issue, buying foreign hurts everyone.
- City Attorney Kearney - agenda
- City Engineer Jamnick
  - Connection was made on Indiana Avenue, 150' left. They are crossing North Broadway this evening (5/24/16) and the second casing pipe will be installed. Clean-up & restoration to follow.
  - City of McKinley bids were received, but not aware of any accepted yet.

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Motion by Bol second by Skalko to acknowledge Campground Committee Board Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2016. MCU

Motion by Skalko second by Bol to acknowledge EFGSD Joint Recreation Board Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2016. MCU

**Old Business:**

Emergency Operations Plan Update

**New Business:**

Motion by Skalko second by Bol to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 for Project 15-214 Kansas Addition Residential – Phase 1 in the amount of \$28,500 to Mesabi Bituminous. MCU

Motion by Skalko second by Mayor Kutsi to approve the Fiscal Year 2016 Agreement between St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant Program and the City of Gilbert for a funding grant in the amount of \$120,000. MCU.

Motion by Skalko second by Bol to authorize the Genoa Sanitary Sewer project to go out for bids. MCU.

Motion by Bol second by Skalko to authorize purchase of 100 chairs from Range Office Supply for the quoted price of \$2,040.00. MCU.

Motion by Skalko second by Mayor Kutsi to authorize contracting with DSGW Architects to design a new shower house building for a fee of up to \$1,500, to be paid with Campground funds. MCU.

Motion by Skalko second by Mayor Kutsi to accept the St. Louis County classification of the listed parcels as tax forfeited non-conservation. MCU.

Motion by Skalko second by Mayor Kutsi to approve the template for the computer service agreement between City of Gilbert, City of Eveleth Police Department and the East Rang Police Department for IT Services as reviewed by City Attorney Thayer and League of MN Cities Insurance Trust Loss Control Attorney Smith. MCU.

Motion by Mayor Kutsi second by Skalko to set up a committee of three, including Councilor Bol, Councilor Skalko and a citizen of Gilbert, to work on updating the City of Gilbert's Nuisance Ordinance and to look at moving to a civil complaint rather than a criminal complaint. MCU.

Motion by Skalko second by Bol to approve bills and payroll subject to audit by Mayor and Clerk. Roll Call – Pontinen – Nay; Skalko – Aye; Kutsi – Aye; Bol – Aye. Motion carried 3 - 1.

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Motion by Skalko second by Bol to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. MCU

  
Debra Sakrison, City Clerk

ATTEST:

  
Robert Kutsi, Mayor