

**CITY OF GILBERT**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2014**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Mayor Skenzich called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Present: Mayor Skenzich, Councilors Nemanick, Skalko, Kutsi and Schutte.

Absent: None.

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

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

Motion by Schutte second by Nemanick to approve the agenda with the deletion of 5A. All approved.

Public Hearing to Vacate a portion of Hill Street. No members of the public spoke. Motion by Nemanick second by Kutsi to close public hearing. All approved.

1<sup>st</sup> reading of the Ordinance Vacating a Portion of Hill Street in Gilbert, Minnesota, took place.

**Public Input:**

Dan Lossing discussed the issues with the water/sewer lines since the water line in the alley froze in February 2014. A broken water main caused water to leak into his basement. He believes part of his sewer line has collapsed due to the water main break. The city of Gilbert paid to have the line jetted this past winter. Now his line is plugged with sand and he feels it is the city's issue, not his. Public Works Operations Director Lautigar responded that he has contacted the city's insurance adjuster and was told that the city has done above and beyond what its responsibility is. Lautigar said he could give him a fire hose to try and flush his line, but the broken water line was an act of God, so the city has no liability. Lautigar suggested for Dan Lossing to turn a claim in to the city's insurance. Lautigar has run a camera down the line and it is full of sand and water. Mayor Skenzich stated that the city has to listen to the insurance adjuster and Lossing should get an estimate to fix and the city of Gilbert will turn it into the insurance.

Tom Hafdahl, of Circle Drive, is protesting the sewer charges being based on water usage. In the summer, residents water their lawns & gardens and the water is not going into the sewer. He noted that in the city of Virginia they average winter water usage and use for summer sewer charges. City Clerk Sakrison noted that the city of Gilbert tried something like this about 25 years ago and it did not work. Councilor Kutsi stated that there are states that charge additional for watering lawns. Lautigar suggested having two meters at residences that wish to water gardens & lawns and then pay a base fee. The city will look into and discuss at a monthly project meeting in October. Mark Lindhorst suggested using an eight month average and use that for summer usage. Councilor Schutte stated that a metering system would probably be the best way to resolve this issue, but they would have to research the options. Hafdahl just wants a fair & equitable charge for all residents who use water that is not put in the sewer. When

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questioned about the condition of the sod of the residents of Circle Drive that did not water the sod, the response was that “everyone” on Circle Drive watered the sod put down.

Motion by Schutte second by Skalko to approve the August 26, 2014 Budget Work Session meeting minutes. Approved.

Motion by Kutsi second by Schutte to approve the August 26, 2014 Regular Council meeting minutes. Approved.

Motion by Kutsi second by Schutte to approve the Employment Agreement with Chief Ty Techar for the period May 1, 2014 through April 30, 2017 with a salary May 1, 2014 of \$69,313.34, May 1, 2015 of \$70,699.60 and May 1, 2016 of \$72,113.59 and 4% longevity with other conditions and benefits detailed in the contract. Approved – 4 Aye; 1 Abstain.

Motion by Schutte second by Kutsi to approve the Employment Agreement with Debra Sakrison for the three period beginning July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017 including conditions and benefits as detailed in the Employment Agreement including effective July 1, 2014 the annual salary will be \$66,000; effective July 1, 2015 the annual salary will be \$72,000 and effective July 1, 2016 the annual salary will be \$73,800. Approved – 4 Aye; 1 Abstain.

Motion by Kutsi second by Schutte to approve the contract with Citi Lites, Inc. for cable locating, contingent on dates being corrected to read 2014 - 2015. All approved.

Motion by Kutsi second by Skalko to approve authorizing advertising for a Utility Billing Clerk for the city of Gilbert. All approved.

Motion by Kutsi second by Skalko to authorize payment of \$1,876 for the annual membership in the League of Minnesota Cities for the year beginning September 1, 2014. All approved.

City Engineer Jamnick discussed the well pumps and that they tested differently this year. Well #4 is down 39% in production and Well #5 is down 71% in production. A quote has been received, but Jamnick stated they should get a 2<sup>nd</sup> quote as a well company may be more familiar with this vs. a pump company. Peterson Well Drilling has been contacted.

Motion by Nemanick second by Schutte to approve up to \$5,850 to a company for a contract to pull the worst well and to televise the wells & screens to see what is building on the screens. All approved.

Motion by Schutte second by Skalko to authorize to pay the \$40 registration for any City Councilor or Employee that would like to attend one of the LMC 2014 Fall Regional Meetings. All approved.

Motion by Kutsi second by Skalko to acknowledge the August 31, 2014 Financial Reports. All approved.

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**MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
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Mayor Skenzich asked Attorney Kearney about the agreements with Mesabi Bituminous. Kearney is working on the agreements.

Councilor Kutsi asked about the sanitary sewer issue in the Ore-Be-Gone Development. Lautigar stated they will be televising and pursue with the contractor.

City Engineer Jamnick received a revised proposal from Scan Tech to include mercury levels. Their proposal is an additional \$2,100.

Motion by Nemanick second by Schutte to approving having Scan Tech complete a facility study for the waste water treatment plant for their revised proposal of \$32,100 commencing immediately. All approved.

City Engineer Jamnick reported that the contractor is doing clean-up on the alley projects and finishing up the paving & sodding.

Police Chief Techar was excused to attend the Biwabik City Council meeting.

Public Works Operations Director Lautigar has started hauling lime out of the lime lagoon; fields are further out than last year so the trucking costs may be more. The goal this year is to get 4,000 ton out.

Motion by Kutsi second by Schutte to approve hiring Lake States Tree Service at a weekly rate of \$4,800 for a 2 man aerial crew, and a bobcat charge of \$160/hour for four (4) weeks. All approved.

Public Works Operations Director Lautigar discussed the cemetery columbarium and asked how to proceed. Lautigar will have pictures put up for people to see.

Public Works Operations Director Lautigar stated that residents need to clean-up after themselves at the recycling center. With the summer student workers being done, the city doesn't have enough staff to keep up with the clean-up.

Library Director Miller reported that she has hired a new person, Pam Marana, who is helping with programs and a scrapbooking class. They have started a Teen Advisory Board that meets Saturday mornings. Preschool Story Time is every Thursday morning. Some of the programming in September includes Intro to e-mail for Seniors and a Hobbit Day.

Campground Caretakers John & Barb Rautanen reported that attendance at the campground is up over 2013, most weekends have been full and they are hoping to be open through the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in October.

**CITY OF GILBERT**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2014**  
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Motion by Schutte second by Kutsi to approve bills and payroll subject to audit by Mayor and Clerk. All approved.

Motion by Mayor Skenzich second by Kutsi to not refund any monies to Iva Lopp. All approved.

Motion by Schutte second by Skalko to acknowledge the United Taconite Anniversary Celebration event set for September 14, 2014 and the notification of the Fairview Range Medical Center Charity Golf Event. All approved.

Motion by Schutte second by Kutsi to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. All approved.

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Michael Skenzich, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Debra Sakrison, City Clerk