

CITY OF GILLETT COMMON COUNCIL

Council Chambers – Municipal Building
150 N McKenzie Ave – Gillett, WI 54124

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 AT 6:00 PM
MINUTES**

1. Mayor McCarthy called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Josh McCarthy, Clerk Treasurer Chelsea Anderson, Alderpersons Irene Drake, Nanette Mohr, Jerry Luther, and Jon Gildemeister, Librarian Shannon Stoner, Fire Chief Kurt Hicks, Police Chief Breitenbach, Public Works Foreman Nate Anderson, Utility Operator Ron Anderson, Attorney Alex Sickel, Ayres Engineer Trace Hubbard, Chamber of Commerce Chris Byars, public Kevin Smith, Jody Bierhals, and David Deland.

2. **Clerk informs the Council that the Open Meeting Law has been complied with**
3. **Public Input:** Jody Bierhals wanted to update the City Council on the state of her house. She is and has been applying for grants and funding in order to repair her home. She has paid off her home. She apologized to Alderman Luther for the way she spoke to him on a previous encounter. She would appreciate any grants or opportunities to fix her home. She knows her home is up for a raze order and wants the city to know she is trying as hard as she can to fix it.
4. Discussion & possible action on minutes for August 3, 2023
MOTION: Drake/Mohr
Motion to approve minutes from August 3, 2023
Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**
5. **CDA Report:** Alderperson Mohr – no report.
6. **Library Report:** Librarian Shannon Stoner reported-

a. Programming

1. Sew-cial Club: Sept. 7/21 from 12-2 pm
2. Fireside Fables: Mondays 12-1 pm
3. Wednesday, Sept. 20: Learn About Bees w/ the Marinette & Oconto Beekeepers Association!
4. Wednesdays 1-2:30 pm: Community Board Games and Pathfinder TTRPG
5. Thursday, Sept 21: 1-2:30 pm: Memory Café: Movie and Popcorn
6. Friday, Sept. 22 12-5:30: Red Cross Blood Drive
7. Saturday, Sept. 23: GPL at Harvest Days
8. Monday, Sept. 25 5-5:30 pm: Reader's Advisory
9. Thursday, Sept. 28th: GED/Job assistance with Oconto County
10. Friday, September 29th: Getting Crafty(K-2) Getting Entertaining (Gr. 5-6) Jackbox Games

- b. New Newsletter released!
 - c. Presented before new teachers about resources available at GPL
 - d. I am looking to do a technology series in the Spring/Summer 2024 with Bug Tussel.
 - e. Looking into getting a Homework Help program for Thursdays after school. If any retired teachers wish to volunteer, that would be great. I have contacted the Gillett Schools Volunteer Coordinator so I can get some tutors who need community service hours to help support this program.
 - f. I wrote a letter of support to enter a partnership with the Children’s Museum of Green Bay. This would be free to the library.
 - g. September is Library Card Signup Month, so we are doing a Gillett Public Library Passport to Library Services. Come get your passport and explore the services we offer. Have a librarian initial your passport and get entered to win a prize at the end of the month.
 - h. Wisconsin Science Festival was a huge hit last year and we plan to participate in it again. I will release more information when it becomes available.
7. **Tourism & Marketing Commission/Gillett Area Chamber of Commerce:** Chamber President Chris Byars asked if the Finance Committee talked about the proposal to donate to the Chamber of Commerce. We did not have a quorum in our last finance meeting and the item is on the next agenda. Money would go toward advertising, Harvest Days, Garden Walk, Discovery Guide, events, spring cleanup, beautification of the city and more. Planning for signage for the Highway 22 construction, to make sure tourists know businesses are still open during construction.
8. **Financial Report:** Clerk Treasurer
- a. Updated Monthly Check Register Provided
MOTION: Mohr/Gildemeister
Motion to approve August 2023 Check Register.
Roll Call Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**
9. **Police Department Report:** Police Chief Breitenbach
- a. Discussion on Training, Public Relations, and Incident Summary Report -Chief Breitenbach provided the incident report: Training and Public Relations-
From the Chief’s Desk;
Gillett Police Department / 107 incidents / August 2023

On August 8th and August 15th, Officers Hoeft, Hull, and I completed our bi- annual EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operation) certification training. This training event was held in Oconto Falls and was hosted by the Oconto Falls Police Department and the Oconto County Sheriff’s Office. This type of training involves hours of desk top review and in vehicle high speed evasive maneuvers, controlled emergency braking, and serpentine course operations. Additional training placed emphasis on high speed pursuit intervention options such as tire deflation devices and the proper use of forced to slow techniques. Also covered was the newly implemented State of WI high risk traffic stop model.

I along with assistance from the Oconto County Sheriff’s Office, have completed an audit by the WI Dept. of Justice of our secure information access system. This is a randomly selected process that helps to insure compliance with local, state, and federal law in reference to the use and distribution of private/personal information utilized by the police department.

The Oconto County Fair was held this month without any major law enforcement issues. I wish to thank WI State Patrol SGT Jenny Austin and Trooper Caleb Traux for the additional manpower during the fair. Also new this year was an assigned Oconto County Sheriff's Deputy to the fairground property to assist with crowd control and alcohol related issues.

I will be compiling information for council review in regards to consideration of implementing a sexting ordinance for the city. This has become an ever increasing issue especially with youth in our community. By enacting an ordinance, it would give our officers another option when handling these issues. I have reached out to other law enforcement agencies in the area and most of them already have ordinances in place or are working on it.

This month I will be participating in a research focus group project being conducted by the Wisconsin Alcohol Policy Project (WisAPP), part of the Comprehensive Injury Center (CIC) at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). The project's name is "Impact of Alcohol Policies on Health in Rural Northern Wisconsin." The project's goal is to better understand how local alcohol policies in northern Wisconsin relate to alcohol consumption patterns, traffic crashes, and health outcomes. The group meeting will be held at Oconto County Courthouse.

10. Fire Department Report: Chief Hicks

- a. Discussion on Training, Public Relations, and Incident Summary Report- August- 11 Calls- Serenity Garden Alarm, Oconto Falls MABAS call Trailer Fire, Oconto Falls Basement Fire, Oconto Falls House Fire, Lift Assist, Underhill Barn Fire, Seneca Alarm, Seneca Alarm, Seneca Alarm, and Green Valley Structure Fire. Green Valley was an 8-hour call and a very hard fire to fight. Very strenuous and very hot, oxygen levels in two young firefighters were not where they needed to be and need a doctor's clearance to return to fighting fires. Training: August 19 Home in Suring to burn. About 50 firefighters attended the training throughout the county. After training in different scenarios, the firefighters burnt the home. City of Gillett Fire Department attended the Oconto County Fair for public relations. Landscaping at the Fire Department is completed. The old ladder truck is on GovDeals, a government auction site.

11. Health, Protection and License Committee Report:

- a. Discussion and Possible Action on appointing both vacancies for Alderperson Ward 1- The Council are left with just a quorum at this point. Council appoints the seats. Advertise for the position. All city action should be unanimously approved by the council.

- 12. Board of Public Works Committee Report:** Utility Operator Ron Anderson stated we are still waiting on the bridge for the Washington Street Project. Water and sewer is all installed on Washington Street, all hooked up, the river crossing is done, storm sewer is almost done, starting Green Bay Avenue, 2nd crew will start on storm sewer in new retention pond location, (Seneca lot we purchased) and the bridge will arrive the 25th of September. Pay requests have come in and have been paid. Two dead-end water lines have been looped into the new construction. Public Works Foreman Nate Anderson stated they are handling normal duties, such as vehicle maintenance and chipping, preparing the leaf vac, and fixing issues in the park with vandalism in the bathrooms. Storm sewer is done being cleaned on Main Street, it is a 30-inch pipe and needed to be cleaned in the first block of Main Street. City did receive the grant for the new skid loader from USDA. Mohr thanked Public Works Foreman Nate Anderson for taking care of the fallen branches in the cemetery. Robinhood Lane will have patch work done in the road by Degroot.

13. **Utility Committee Report:** Alderperson Drake- Utility Operator Ron Anderson stated they put in new valves on the recirculation tanks. Poured concrete for new ferric tank. SCADA upgrade bid is in, \$170,000. Would like a meeting because we have a need to update water regulations. Utility Assistant Tyler Tennesen is doing great, Operator Ron Anderson hopes to retire by 2025. Tennesen has been working on his water licenses. Utility garage was open for National Night Out to show the citizens the SCADA system and all about the utility. Stated he would like to have a public day and show more citizens the workings of the City.
14. **Finance and Personnel Committee Report:** Alderperson Mohr-
- a. Discussion and Possible Action on MSA contracts and invoices
MOTION: Drake/Luther
Motion to approve the TID and TIF services for \$2000.
Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**
 - b. Discussion and Possible Action on Notice of Disallowance for Claim- Attroney Sickle said the City had a claim filed by Ms. Simpson – who fell on public way, but there was no notice to city of dangerous condition. Our insurance did pay her an amount for good will, but she is asking for more.
MOTION: Drake/Gildemeister
Motion under advice from Attorney and Statewide insurance to submit the Notice of Disallowance.
Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**
15. **Park and Cemetery Committee Report:** Alderperson Gildemeister - Public Works Foreman Nate Anderson stated the first group of stones in the cemetery have been fixed, done by Schneider Monument.
- a. Discussion and Possible Action on Harvest Days Event
MOTION: Drake/Luther
Motion to approve Harvest Days Event.
Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**
 - b. Discussion and Possible Action on Park Equipment Funding
MOTION: Drake/Mohr
Motion to allow the parks committee to fundraise and apply for grants for new park equipment.
Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**
16. **Planning Committee Report:**
- a. Discussion and Possible Action on Fair Variance for a canopy over the Show Ring
MOTION: Drake/Mohr
Motion to approve the variance for the fair show ring.
Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**
 - b. Discussion and Possible Action on New Garage Build for 233 Ridgewood Drive
MOTION: Luther/Drake
Motion to approve the new garage build for 233 Ridgewood Drive.
Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**
 - c. Discussion and Possible Action on Tax Incremental District 2 Termination Resolution
MOTION: Mohr/Drake
Motion to approve 12-2023 TID Termination Resolution for TID 2.
Roll Call Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

17. **Clerk Treasurer's Report:** Clerk Treasurer stated Joint Review Board will be October 4th at 4:00 PM. County overpaid the City by \$55,830.90 and we have refunded the money to the County Treasurer.
18. **Attorneys Report:** Hinkfuss, Sickel, Petitjean, & Weiting Attorneys at Law- Mr. Sickel stated he has been corresponding with the 8th judicial court getting Brazeau in our joint, wanted ordinance for all munis. Riemer Land -DNR said we can take it out of Managed Forest Land MFL without penalty. Garbage flume- No noted environmental issues on DNR mapping. Only 3 or 4 acres are wetland. Could make an offer to purchase contingent upon environmental testing. Phase 1 testing could cost a few thousand dollars. Does not include soil testing.
19. **Mayor's Report:** Mayor McCarthy stated continue to work on budgets and will look to fill these vacancies in Ward 1.
20. **Adjourn** at 8:00 PM
MOTION: Drake/Mohr
Motion to adjourn.
Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,
Clerk Treasurer Chelsea Anderson