

CITY OF GILLETT COMMON COUNCIL

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

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 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, Police Chief Breitenbach, Utility Operator Ron Anderson, Attorney Alex Sickel, public Kevin Smith, David Deland, Bonnie Meggers, Joe Babit, and Deanna Smith. Fire Chief Kurt Hicks, Librarian Shannon Stoner, and Public Works Foreman Nate Anderson are excused.
2. **Clerk informs the Council that the Open Meeting Law has been complied with**
3. **Public Input:** David Deland asked about the water tower property turning into a park. He was referring to the sports complex; the school owns the complex and uses it for sports and activities.
4. Discussion & possible action on minutes for October 5, 2023
MOTION: Luther/Drake
Motion to approve minutes from October 5, 2023
Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**
5. **CDA Report:** Alderperson Mohr – no report.
6. **Library Report:** Librarian Shannon Stoner- Calendar of Events for November included in packet.
7. **Tourism & Marketing Commission/Gillett Area Chamber of Commerce:** Chamber of Commerce gave the City Council a partnership resolution/agreement to look over.
8. **Financial Report:** Clerk Treasurer
 - a. Updated Monthly Check Register Provided-
MOTION: Mohr/Drake
Motion to approve October 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 Chiefs Desk;

Gillett Police Department/ 157 incidents/ October 2023

On October 18th, the Gillett Police Department welcomed a group from Sunshine Daycare, to the police station for a tour and fingerprinting of the children. It was great to see all of the enthusiasm! As a reminder if anyone would like a tour or special teaching lesson, please reach out to us and we will do our best to assist.

The Gillett Police Department hosted the bi-annual National Drug Takeback Day on October 28th from 10am-2pm. Nearly 52 lbs of medications was collected. This event is in addition to our daily drug takeback drop box which is located in the police department lobby.

The new ballistic vests for Officer Hoeft and I have arrived! I have located a grant that will cover 100% of the cost of the vest, carriers, and any additional equipment holsters!

On October 31, I and Gillett City Fire Chief Kurt Hicks participated in the annual City of Gillett Halloween Trick or Treat event. The turnout was great and we distributed approximately 201bs of treats.

During the next month I will be scheduling the psychological evaluation for two of the potential part-time officer applicants. I am hoping to have them on board sometime around the first of the year.

As a reminder as we move into 2024, new labor contract negotiations will be beginning. This is an area that I have been researching. I recently looked into how many agencies are currently looking for officers. 98 police agencies and 27 sheriff's offices actively engaged in recruitment. Many of the agencies have multiple openings. We as leaders of the community need to ask ourselves, 1. How do we attract solid applicants? And then 2. Once we have them, How do we retain them? Obviously pay is a huge consideration, and certainly needs to be addressed but we as a team need to ask ourselves what else can we offer to offset pay? For comparison, most all of the agencies in the area are \$35-\$40 hr plus benefits and some agencies are offering substantial sign on bonuses, some topping \$12,000. Our top officer pay is under \$27/hr. I think consideration should be given to potentially implementing a PTO system instead of separate off time benefit line items. An increase in longevity pay, and separate officer uniform allowance, plus the ability to use PTO multipliers could also be used as incentives. I know we will be discussing this in more detail in the future but I wanted to begin the consideration process as soon as possible.

10. Fire Department Report: Chief Hicks Report

- a. Discussion on Training, Public Relations, and Incident Summary Report- 4 Fire Calls
October 18, 2023 Carbon Monoxide Alarm Gillett, October 18, 2023 Auto Aid Underhill Traffic Accident, October 20 Lift Assist EMS, October 26 Carbon Monoxide Alarm Gillett.
Training: Spent the day at Gillett Grade School and High School for our Fire Prevention Programs. Have trained the last two Saturdays with two new firefighters on basic fire concepts. They will go through the entry level A & B in January for school, which is required by State Law.

11. Health, Protection and License Committee Report:

- a. Discussion and Possible Action on Christmas in the Park
MOTION: Mohr/Drake
Motion to approve the special event permit for Christmas in the Park on December 2, 2023.
Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

- b. Discussion and Possible Action on Operator License for Richard Smith
MOTION: Drake/Mohr
Motion to approve the Operator License for Richard Smith.
Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

- c. Discussion and Possible Action on Leaf Pickup Policy
MOTION: Mohr/Gildemeister
Motion to change the leaf policy to 4 feet from curb, not placed in curb pan/gutter. If only sidewalk and no terrace, can use 4 feet of the sidewalk. Pile as close to edge of roadway without creating a hazard. More than 8 feet away or in road will not be picked up.
Roll Call Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

12. **Board of Public Works Committee Report:** Utility Operator Ron Anderson stated Washington Street is prepped for asphalt. Will prep Green Bay Avenue tomorrow. Hopefully will have base coat of tomorrow. Black dirt going in behind curb and seeding will be done. MCC will be doing the asphalt. Dorner will raise the manholes to match the grade. Second Street curb is done, road will be fixed and asphalted. The curb that was installed is called a low roll back curb. Dirt will be placed in spring for landscaping. Martel finished curbs and spillways.
13. **Utility Committee Report:** Utility Operator Ron Anderson stated we will have a public meeting November 28th at 5pm for discussion on a sewer rate increase. It is because the utility needs to plan for Highway 22 project, a total reconstruct.
14. **Finance and Personnel Committee Report:** Alderperson Mohr- Budget will be completed at the November 7th meeting at 4:30 pm.
15. **Park and Cemetery Committee Report:** Utility Operator Ron Anderson stated we solicited for bids for the cutting of the grass at the cemetery. Leaves in parks are being cleaned up.
16. **Planning Committee Report: No report**
17. **Clerk Treasurer's Report:** Clerk Treasurer stated tax bill letters will go out at the end of the month with leaf, chipping, and all tax bill information. Nomination papers will be handed out at the December meeting, alderpersons Mohr and Gildemeister are up for election in April 2024. Budget will be prepared Monday. Budget public meeting will be at 5:30 before council on December 7, 2023.
18. **Attorneys Report:** Hinkfuss, Sickel, Petitjean, & Weiting Attorneys at Law- Mr. Sickel stated he prepared a quick claim deed to transfer the Historical Society museum to them from Community Development Authority; it was never done when the loan was paid off back in 2007. Also found we still have Sunshine Daycare in the City's name, quick claim will be done. GBA (Gillett Business Association) has been disbanded, our Tourism and Marketing ordinance references the GBA, need to change to Gillett Area Chamber of Commerce. A property inspection by our Building Inspector recommend raze order for 209 Armstrong, the raze order will proceed.
19. **Mayor's Report:** Mayor McCarthy – went with our Building Inspector to the 209 Armstrong property because the owner asked for his presence. Budget meeting set for next Tuesday will conclude the budget preparation process.
20. **Adjourn at 6:55 PM**
MOTION: Mohr/Luther
Motion to adjourn.
Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,
Clerk Treasurer Chelsea Anderson