

CITY OF GILLETT COMMON COUNCIL

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024 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: Clerk Treasurer Chelsea Anderson, Acting Mayor and Alderperson Nanette Mohr, Alderpersons Irene Drake, Jerry Luther, Ashley VanStraten, Utility Operator Ron Anderson, Public Works Foreman Nate Anderson, Police Chief Shane Breitenbach, Fire Chief Kurt Hicks, Ayres and Associates Craig Schuh, Times Herald Warren Bluhm, Chamber of Commerce Chris Byars, and Public Jonathan Blaskowski. Librarian Shannon Stoner is excused.

2. **Clerk informs the Council that the Open Meeting Law has been complied with**

3. **Public Input:** None

4. Discussion & possible action on minutes for March 7, 2024

MOTION: Drake/VanStraten

Motion to approve minutes from March 7, 2024

Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

5. **CDA Report:** Alderperson Mohr – no report.

6. **Library Report:** Librarian Shannon Stoner- Library Director Report April 2024

- a. Lisowe replaced our furnace in the community center. I had them look at our furnace and air conditioner in the library. The furnace by the employee bathroom is only 8 years old. However, the furnace by the magazine and the air conditioning unit is both 30 years old (installed in 1994). We should ensure that we place aside some of that money to get at least the furnace fixed before winter this year. Lisowe recommended replacement of the magazine furnace this year.
- b. Lang Landscaping replaced our crumbling bricks out front.
- c. Flyers, trifold, and explorer's logs are ready for Summer Reading Program 2024.
- d. We had about 30 works of art from Gillett Students in our Youth Art Exhibition.
- e. We are going to have a table at the Easter Eggstravaganza again this year.
- f. We're going to be giving out free children's books during Easter week
- g. Our Peep-le's Choice contest is the last week of March.
- h. Programming
 - i. Monday, April 1: ADRC Caregiving Support Group, Community Center, 2-3 pm
 - ii. Wednesday, April 3: Canva 101, Community Center, 4-5 pm
 - iii. Monday, April 22: Aging Mastery, Community Center, 11:30 am-1:30 pm
 - iv. Friday, April 26: Spring Market, Community Center, 5-7 pm
 - v. Monday, April 29: Aging Mastery, Community Center, 11:30 am-1:30 pm

7. **Tourism & Marketing Commission/Gillett Area Chamber of Commerce:** Chamber President Byars stated he was excited for Cleanup Day May 4. The Garden Walk is being planned for July. It was brought to the Chambers attention that the group that took care of the planters on Main Street and in the Park will no longer be doing so, and asked that all businesses plant and care for the planters outside of their business to keep Main Street looking beautiful. The Chamber also took over the Forever Fund, a fund that was created by Revitalize Gillett.

a. Discussion & possible action on Donation to Roy Hubbard Memorial Truck Show

MOTION: Luther/Drake

Motion to donate \$250.00 dollars to the Roy Hubbard Memorial Truck Show

Roll Call Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

8. **Financial Report:** Clerk Treasurer –

a. Updated Monthly Check Register Provided

MOTION: Drake/Luther

Motion to approve March 2024 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 \ 136 incidents \ March 2024

This month we again are experiencing an increase in suspicious activities, disturbances, disorderly behaviors, and harassment complaints. This is a trend that we typically don't see until the summer months. I ask the community to please continue vigilantly watching for anything out of the ordinary and not hesitate to report those activities to the Police Department. The greatest crime fighting tool the Police Department has is its community!

This past month I have attended several informational meetings in regards to the creation of a full-time school resource officer program for the Gillett School District. This has been a topic of discussion for many years but with the increase in disciplinary problems, disorderly, disruptive, and illegal activities, along with demands by parents, students, and staff, for a safer and secure learning environment, the school resource officer has become a necessity for all schools, urban or rural. Funding opportunities do exist that would cover a large portion of the costs. The initial proposed cost share options would be a 75 to 80% responsibility by the school district and the remaining costs by the department providing the SRO. Several options on how the position would be filled have also been discussed including utilizing a Gillett City Police Officer or a Sheriff's Department deputy. There are pros and cons to each. I have approached our officers and Officer Ashley Hull would be interested in the position if it were to be created. If anyone would like to discuss in this in further detail, please feel free to reach out to members of the Gillett School Board, Gillett School District Administration staff, or myself.

The new police department copier is on its way and should arrive in the next two to three weeks! Also the new portable radios are still on track to arrive by the end of this month.

As a reminder, the Gillett Police Department will be hosting the Spring National Drug Take Back Day event on April 27th from 10am-2pm. This is in addition to our daily drug drop box which is located in the police department lobby. These events typically will generate 80 to 100 lbs of expired and /or unused medicines annually that are turned over to and safely disposed of by the DEA.

Also, FYI, on April 9th Gillett Area Ambulance will be hosting a first responder training event at their facility in the Gillett Industrial Park. During the event, a larger emergency responder presence will be expected. This event will be utilizing the Eagle III helicopter and members from several emergency service departments.

10. Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Hicks

- a. Discussion on Training, Public Relations, and Incident Summary Report- 6 Fire Calls, Grass Fire Underhill, March 12 CO2, CO2 Underhill 29th, gas leak, structure fire in Gillett, and false alarm in Gillett. Training in Underhill -will work on drafting water. April 9th will be at Ambulance garage for the training put on there. There were many issues with power outage for the fire trucks and the fire station, need to budget for a newer and larger generator to keep the fire station up and running. The power was out for about 30 hours.

11. Health, Protection and License Committee Report: Alderperson VanStraten stated there was not a March meeting. Next meeting scheduled for April 17th at 5pm.

- a. Discussion & possible action on Operator license for Dave Henrichs and Heidi Weyker

MOTION: Drake/Luther

Motion to approve the Operators Licenses for Dave Henrichs and Heidi Weyker.

Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

- b. Discussion & possible action on picnic license for Oconto County Youth Fair corn hole tournament May 11 and Fair August 21-24, 2024

MOTION: Luther/VanStraten

Motion to approve the Picnic Licenses for the Corn Hole Tournament and Oconto County Youth Fair.

Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

12. Board of Public Works Committee Report: Alderperson Luther- Alderperson Luther stated he received a letter from State on the vibration test on the corner by St. John's Lutheran Church for the upcoming Highway Project. He stated there was no concern on test.

Public Works Foreman Nate Anderson stated they opened up the clerk's office middle wall to make room for and to install the new security window, paid for by the American Rescue Plan Act Funds(ARPA). New garbage cans ordered for the Wanderers Rest Cemetery. Large snow recently, took out power for 2 and a half days. Will do an early branch-chipping day from the storm damage. Installed outlet in the trailhead bathroom for new security camera system, also paid for by the ARPA funds (these funds needs to be spent on security before 12/31/2024). Met with MCC about the job they did on Washington Street, they will fix the low manholes, most every driveway needs to be redone, fix a low spot in the road, and fix the curb in spots because of cracking.

13. Utility Committee Report: Utility Operator Ron Anderson stated the power outage fried very expensive equipment at the Wastewater Treatment Plant because of a power surge. It blew the surge protector out of the panel. We were down to one well. The SCADA system was fried in one well station. Only one station does not have a backup generator. The SCADA alarm system (calls utility workers when there is problem) does not work if Wi-Fi is down, and it was because there was no power.

Utility Operator Ron Anderson and Assistant Tyler Tennessen took turns watching the system manually. We will be Flushing Hydrants April 15th -17th this month. Hydrant is apart on Francis Street, waiting on parts to fix it. Another to fix at the end of Patzer Court.

We also lost VFD's (variable frequently drives) from power surges. CTW Corp will bring new VFD's tomorrow to get us up and running at full speed. The USDA interim loans are closed at Peshtigo National Bank and transferred to USDA. Next project is Highway 22/N McKenzie Ave, need to complete design work as soon as possible. Construction to start next year, 2025.

- a. Discussion & possible action on Sewer Rate Increase \$5.75 per thousand

MOTION: Luther/Drake

Motion to approve the Sewer Volume Rate Increase to \$5.75 per thousand gallons from \$4.

Roll Call Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

14. **Finance and Personnel Committee Report:** Alderperson Mohr- No meeting, Nothing to report.

15. **Park and Cemetery Committee Report:** Alderperson Luther stated the committee is working on grant applications for the proposed new park play equipment.

16. **Planning Committee Report:**

- a. Discussion & possible action on new garage build for 120 Woodlawn Sam Vandermause

MOTION: Drake/Luther

Motion to approve the new garage build for Mr. Vandermause at 120 Woodlawn Avenue.

Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

17. **Clerk Treasurer's Report:** Clerk Treasurer stated all delinquent personal property invoices were due January 31st and now sent to the lawyer to send them letters. The Tax Incremental District (TID) administration fee is due to the state April 15th, its \$150 per TID. The annual TID report will also be due to the State, but it completed by our Auditors, Hawkins Ash CPAs. Dog Licenses and Chicken Permits were due April 1, a reminder letter was sent out. Tax Exemption Reporting for nonprofit organizations were completed and sent to the County. Liquor and Tobacco renewal forms were sent to all license holders to turn in applications for the June Council Meeting. The Reorganization Meeting will be Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 6:00 pm. The Spring Election was Tuesday, April 2, we have 246 voters. Sandra Hubbard will be our new representative for Ward 2, David Bunker for Ward 1, and Jonathan Blaskowski for Mayor.

18. **Attorneys Report:** Conway, Olejniczak, and Jerry S.C. Attorneys at Law- No Report- Excused

19. **Public Input:** Alderperson Luther wanted to Thank the Gillett Ambulance Crew for opening up the Ambulance Garage to the public for a warming and charging station during the power outage.

20. **Mayor's Report:** No Report. Newly Elected Mayor Jon Blaskowksi was in the public and stated he is very excited to join the City of Gillett crew.

21. **Adjourn** at 7:00 PM

MOTION: Drake/Luther

Motion to adjourn.

Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,
Clerk Treasurer Chelsea Anderson