

# CITY OF GILLETT COMMON COUNCIL

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

**THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024 AT 6:00 PM  
MINUTES**

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

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** Mayor Jon Blaskowski, Clerk Treasurer Chelsea Anderson, Alderpersons Nanette Mohr, Irene Drake, Jerry Luther, Ashley VanStraten, Sandra Hubbard, David Bunker, Public Works Foreman Nate Anderson, Police Chief Shane Breitenbach, Librarian Shannon Stoner, City Attorney Robert Gagan, Times Herald Warren Bluhm, Ayres and Associates Trace Hubbard, and Chamber of Commerce Chris Byars. Fire Chief Kurt Hicks and Utility Operator Ron Anderson are 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 from May 2, 2024

## **MOTION: Luther/Mohr**

*Motion to approve minutes from May 2, 2024*

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

5. **CDA Report:** Alderperson Mohr and Bunker- Had a joint meeting with Tourism and Marketing and had a brainstorming session on new projects. Michael Kohn wanted to honor our veterans by putting up banners around the City at no cost to the city, family members pay for the banners, etc, -Chamber and T&M will help get the project moving.

6. **Library Report:** Library Director Report- June 2024 Library Director Report

Our Spring Market was a huge success. Our weekly Summer Market still taking applications.

Newsletter came out for May-August 2024. Visit our website [www.gilpubliclibrary.org](http://www.gilpubliclibrary.org) and click on the newsletter tab to subscribe or to see the latest newsletter. Back issues are also available.

## Library Planning Committee Update

- a. Consolidation was turned down and the Directors have been tasked to come up with a new funding formula for our 2025-2029 plan. We've been meeting weekly on Mondays over Microsoft Teams to figure out how to make sure everyone can have the best possible outcome. The Committee voted to approve Option C for funding which would fund municipal libraries at 100% and joint libraries at 30%. This is not final as it needs to be approved by County administration. We have a meeting in Oconto on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am to present this to the administration.  
AED was installed by Public Works. We want to offer our gratitude for the former GBA and the current Gillett Area Chamber for coordinating efforts to get this installed in our library.  
Programming
- b. I registered for us to participate in the Wisconsin Science Festival which will take place from October 14-20<sup>th</sup> throughout the state. We are mailed themed science kits with multiple activities to do with the theme in mind. This year's theme is Agriculture! (So don't forget to "moo-ooove" to the library in October to get your bag!) ☺
- c. We will be partnering with Lena Public Library and TD3innovative gaming to bring two Virtual Reality programs in July.

**Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> Minecraft: Island Survival Test** Put on your survival hat and test your problem-solving and determination in this test where you'll learn to gather resources, hunt for good and fend off night creatures in a thrilling deserted tropical island challenge!

**Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> Minecraft: Crazy Cannons Challenge** Discover an explosive way to travel through the Minecraft universe. Players design and build a simple cannon and compete in a friendly competition to see who can travel the farthest and highest!

**Only 15 people can register for each program, so I have offered July 30<sup>th</sup> as overflow in case we needed.**

Summer Reading Program Events

**June 14:10:30-11:30 am: Choo Choo Storytime with the National Railroad Museum**

**Tuesday June 18th**

**3:30-4:30 Tape Resist Painting (GBCM)**

6-8 Bread Class with The Rustic Oven

**Friday, June 21 10:30-11:30 am:Survival Adventure with Scouts**

**Tuesday, June 25 6-8 pm: Bread Class with The Rustic Oven**

**Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup> 4-5 pm: Butterfly Adventure with Randy Peterson**

**June 28 10:30-11:30 am: Western Adventures with Wilber the Miniature Pony**

7. **Tourism & Marketing Commission/Gillett Area Chamber of Commerce:** Alderperson Luther stated we discussed signage for navigating the city to make it easier for tourists. We donated to the Garden Walk and the Oconto County Youth Fair. A big Thanks to Mayor Blaskowski and Deanna Smith for matching the funds donated by the city to the Fair, making our contribution \$1,000 dollars.
8. **Financial Report:** Clerk Treasurer –  
Updated Monthly Check Register Provided  
**MOTION: Luther/Drake**  
*Motion to approve May 2024 Check Register.*  
**Roll Call Vote:** All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**
9. **Police Department Report:** Police Chief Breitenbach  
Gillett Police Department \ 121 incidents \ May 2024  
This month we have increased our ordinance enforcement actions addressing several litter/trash cluttered properties. We are seeing successes from our efforts and will continue to monitor the properties for continued improvements.  
The background investigations of the 4 selected officer applicants continues. In person interviews will be on June 19.  
The WI State Patrol has offered to and will be providing additional manpower for the Roy Hubbard Truck Show weekend due to our shortage of department staff. The Gillett Police Department continues to have great professional relationships with fellow departments and appreciates the assistance given in our times of need!  
This past month I have attended several additional meetings in regards to the creation of the proposed Gillett School District full-time school resource officer program for the Gillett School District. Talks have now moved internally to the school. The school district is working on a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) and specific job descriptions/expectations of the SRO. Further discussions will be had at the June and July Gillett School Board meetings.

Officers Hoeft and Hull have completed the bi-annual EVOG (Emergency Vehicle Operations) certification training. Officers Hoeft and Hull also became certified on the new high risk traffic stop model developed and mandated by the WI Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. Also, all department members including myself, have successfully completed our yearly firearms certifications. A special thank you to Village of Suring Police Chief Kevin Schneider with his continued assistance with our firearm trainings.

As a reminder, because time is just flying, the Gillett Police Department will again be hosting the 2024 National Night Out event taking place on August 6. The Gillett City Library has graciously offered to partner with us again this year and provide the venue for the event! Some of the events will include a live music, raffle, dunk tank, casserole cook-off competition, and special appearances and demonstrations by the Oconto County Sheriff's Office, Gillett City Fire Department, and Gillett Area Ambulance. There will be a special guest appearance by one of our regional emergency first responder departments! More details to come! If anyone is interested in donating to or assisting with the event, please contact me or Gillett City Library Director Shannon Stoner!

**10. Fire Department Report:** Fire Chief Hicks

- a. Discussion on Training, Public Relations, and Incident Summary Report- 3 Fire Calls. Structure Fire, Pit Fire, and Lift Assist. Pump testing is done on Engine 1911 and 1912. Four Firefighters participated in the LP Gas Training at Oconto Falls. Took two trucks to the Memorial Parade in Oconto Falls. Landscape upgrade has been completed at the firehouse.

**11. Health, Protection and License Committee Report:** Alderperson VanStraten –

- a. Discussion and Possible Action On Operator Licenses for April Caldwell, Amanda Thorson, Maureen McArthur, Heather Moede, Haley Giese, Jane Winkler, Nicholas Blumreich, Ashlie Patzer, Clay Notz, William Burt, David Dietrich, Dana Peterson, Patricia Randals, Dave Henrichs, Bernard Piaskowski, Esther Verhagen, and Jennifer Kumm

**MOTION: Drake/Mohr**

*Motion to approve the above stated Operator's Licenses, all background checks have been completed.*

**Voice Vote:** All Ayes **MOTION CARRIED**

- b. Discussion and Possible Action On Alcohol Licenses

**Class A Fermented Malt Beverage**

-Pat's Market, Inc. d/b/a Pat's Market; Agent-Rachel Balland, 117 N McKenzie Ave, Gillett, WI 54124

**Class B Fermented Malt Beverage & Class B Liquor**

-Spirits of Gillett LLC; Agent-Kris Piaskowski, 145 N McKenzie Ave, Gillett, WI 54124

-Sleepy Hollow Motel & Resort LLC d/b/a Sleepy Hollow Wildfire Trails; Agent-Laurie Wold, 5 State Hwy 22 E, Gillett, WI 54124

-Thomas Fullerton d/b/a Fullerton's Bar, 109 N Lake Ave, Gillett, WI 54124

-Todd Druckrey d/b/a The Fifth Wheel, 206 East Railroad Street, Gillett, WI 54124

**Class A Fermented Malt Beverage & Class A Liquor**

-GPM Southeast LLC. dba R Store #19; Agent-Rhonda Urlaub 200 N McKenzie Ave, Gillett, WI 54124

**MOTION: Luther/Drake**

*Motion to approve the Alcohol Licenses as presented.*

**Voice Vote:** All Ayes **MOTION CARRIED**

c. Discussion and Possible Action On Tobacco Licenses

-Pat's Market Inc. d/b/a Pat's Market; Agent-Rachel Balland, 117 N McKenzie Ave, Gillett, WI 54124

-Family Dollar Stores of Wisconsin, Inc. #29424, 109 N McKenzie Ave, Gillett, WI 5412

-Thomas Fullerton d/b/a Fullerton's Bar, 109 N Lake Ave, Gillett, WI 54124

- GPM Southeast., LLC. d/b/a R-Store #19; Agent-Rhonda Urlaub, 200 N McKenzie Ave, Gillett, WI

-Sleepy Hollow Motel & Resort LLC d/b/a Sleepy Hollow Wildfire Trails; Agent-Laurie Wold, 5 State Hwy 22 E, Gillett, WI 54124

**MOTION: Luther/Mohr**

*Motion to approve the Tobacco Licenses as presented.*

**Voice Vote: All Ayes MOTION CARRIED**

d. Discussion and Possible Action On Home Occupation Permits for Jeff Hertwig Hertee's Custom Printing, High Falls Metal Shop Weston Jannush, Tammy Temple Body Basics, Jon Ross Realty Jon Gildemeister, Knight Owl Jake Rowell, and SeeYaBye Rentals Bryce Meyet.

**MOTION: Drake/Mohr**

*Motion to approve the Home Occupation Permits for Jeff Hertwig Hertee's Custom Printing, High Falls Metal Shop Weston Jannush, Tammy Temple Body Basics, Jon Ross Realty Jon Gildemeister, Knight Owl Jake Rowell, and SeeYaBye Rentals Bryce Meyet.*

**Voice Vote: All Ayes MOTION CARRIED**

e. Discussion and Possible Action On Roy Hubbard Parade Route and 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Route

**MOTION: Luther/Mohr**

*Motion to approve parade routes for Roy Hubbard and 4<sup>th</sup> of July.*

**Voice Vote: All Ayes MOTION CARRIED**

12. **Board of Public Works Committee Report: Alderperson Drake-** Public Works Foreman Nate Anderson stated the Clerk's office window progress is about 75 percent done. Need to plaster and finish the window frame. After the window is installed, there will be some finishing touches. Poured concrete wall under where the window will be. Weed commissioner duties: many lawns that are long and tagged or send a letter to cut. We have been weed spraying, sweeping the streets, cold patching the streets, chipping, and finally finished Second Street. Top soil needed to be put behind the curb. AED was installed in the library that was donated to us. Washington Street had some spots that we requested to be fixed, such as three curb cracks and landscaping, the company was fixing those today.

13. **Utility Committee Report:** Utility Operator Ron written report: The SCADA system has been upgraded but not without some issues we have been experiencing. Those will get worked out as they will be back on June 11<sup>th</sup> to fix those issues then it will be done. We will be working on installing a backup generator for the water tower as that is the main communication point for our SCADA system. With that installation at the tower our utility will have full backup of all our critical infrastructure to keep our city with working water and sewer during outages and hopefully no disasters. All our reports that must be completed to the DNR by the end of June have been submitted. We replaced the 8-inch

check valve at well 3 for the booster pump as the other one was starting to wear out. The simplified rate case has been submitted the PSC and waiting for further instructions from them. Well 3 has finally gotten the roof replaced from the storm damage from last year. Still waiting for parts from the last storm that took out the phase protection system at the wastewater plant. Our large meters have been tested and passed all the requirements needed to maintain accuracy. We have started to replace some of our exterior lights on all of our buildings with more efficient LED's to get rid of the old lights. Still waiting to hear from the state on the highway 22 project, it's been quiet. Other than daily operations and things that pop up that's all we got for now have a great evening.

- a. Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution 7-2024 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report

**MOTION: Drake/VanStraten**

*Motion to approve Resolution 7-2024 CMAR.*

**Voice Vote: All Ayes MOTION CARRIED**

- b. Discussion and Possible Action on meeting use for Utility Garage

**MOTION: Drake/VanStraten**

*Motion to approve meeting use in the Utility Garage for North Region Alcoholics Anonyms.*

**Voice Vote: All Ayes MOTION CARRIED**

14. **Finance and Personnel Committee Report:** Alderperson Hubbard stated Mayor Blaskowski went over the previous years budgets and did a comparison on our budget and spending over the years, we were over budget most every year. Every month before council, finance will meet and go over the expenditures vs budget. We need to get control over spending.

15. **Park and Cemetery Committee Report:** Alderperson Luther stated he got a hold of Art Bahr from MSA and asked for reference, which he supplied many.

- a. Discussion and Possible Action on the sale of 545 E Foelker Street to Hunter Tilque for \$5,000 dollars

**MOTION: VanStraten/Bunker**

*Motion to approve the sale of 545 E Foelker Street to Hunter Tilque for \$5,000.*

**Roll Call Vote: All Ayes MOTION CARRIED**

- b. Discussion and Possible Action on the sale of 548 E Washington Street to Eric Anderson for \$6,000 dollars-Leave Lay

- c. Discussion and Possible Action on moving Seneca Park to parcel 2310422413741A, across from Carfair, rules to include No Alcohol

**MOTION: VanStraten/Mohr**

*Motion to approve moving Seneca Park to parcel 2310422413741A, no alcohol at the Park.*

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

16. **Planning Committee Report:** Alderperson Bunker- No Report

- a. Discussion and Possible Action on approving the New Home building permit and raze of previous home for 533 E Washington Street

**MOTION: Luther/Drake**

*Motion to approve the raze permit at 533 E Washington Street.*

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

17. **Clerk Treasurer's Report:** Clerk Treasurer stated Home occupation Permits and invoices have been sent out, along with the trailer park permit. Board of Review meeting new law ACT 12 means we no longer have personal property tax bills. City has 776 parcels. With the housing market still so high, we were only at 70 percent assessed last year and that number is dropping. R and R Assessing suggested we do a Market study in 2026. We can only be out of compliance for 4 years with the State, and the study will get us back in compliance. AED that Public Works installed at the library was donated by money from Gillett Business Association, which is now disbanded and handled by the Chamber of Commerce. Thank you, that is a very great tool to have.
18. **Attorneys Report:** Conway, Olejniczak, and Jerry S.C. Attorneys at Law- City Attorney Robert Gagan stated things have been going well and all items on our list are being done.
19. **Public Input: None**
20. **Mayor's Report:** Mayor Blaskowski stated the Girl Scouts planted the flowers in Zippel Park, and wanted to Thank the Troop. Another Thank You to Deanna Smith, who volunteered to match him on a donation to the County Fair on behalf of the City.
21. **Adjourn** at 7:00 PM  
**MOTION: Luther/Mohr**  
*Motion to adjourn.*  
**Voice Vote:** All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Clerk Treasurer Chelsea Anderson