

CITY OF GILLETT COMMON COUNCIL

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 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, David Bunker, Utility Operator Ron Anderson, Utility Assistant Matt Wickman, Public Works Foreman Nate Anderson, Police Chief Shane Breitenbach, Librarian Shannon Stoner and City Attorney Robert Gagan. Public Warren Blum Times Herald, Kevin Smith, Michael Kohn, Gillett School District Superintendent Nathan Hansen, Oconto County Sherriff Todd Skarban, Chamber of Commerce Chris Byars, Norm Finnell, and Cheryl Martineau. Fire Chief Kurt Hicks is absent.

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

3. **Public Input:** Oconto County Sherriff Todd Skarban and Gillett School District Superintendent Nathan Hanson talked about the School Resource Officer position at the Gillett School District. Sheriff's Office budget will not be able to handle a School Resource Officer for 2024-2025 School Year. City of Gillett did not put in a bid for the SRO because of our budget. School District has \$80,000 per year for the position. School is asking for a trial run from January 1 to June 1, 2025. Gillett School District accepted the contract from Oconto County but the Oconto County Board did not have it in their budget, and the board denied the position. The City will need to hold a Health Protection and Licensing Committee meeting to discuss. County stated they will cover night shifts. School Ad Hoc SRO committee wants to be invited to the meeting.

Cheryl Martineau from Lake View Apartments, had concerns with the parking lot sinking and the shape of the building. FOCUS owns the apartments. Send letter to FOCUS on issues. Look into ordinance. Safety concern: fire alarms, only one alarm making sound. Building inspector and Fire inspector to inspect.

4. Discussion & possible action on minutes from October 3, 2024

MOTION: Drake/Mohr

Motion to approve minutes from October 3, 2024

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

5. **CDA Report:** Alderperson Mohr - Meeting just before council – will dissolve Community Development Authority Committee. No advantages of committee, all items can be handled by Tourism and Marketing.

6. **Library Report:** Library Director Report- Library Director Report- November 2024
Programming

The market will take place inside the Community Center on Thursday, November 14th

Coffee with a vet was today. We had a very good turnout. Thank you to OJ's for donating the pie for our vets.

Monday, November 25 to Wednesday, November 27, we have three days of activities for kids off of school.

<p>November 25 10 am: Lifesize Checkers 11:am: Traffic Yam 11:30 am: Cooking/Lunch 1-3 pm: DIY Mason Jar Holiday Craft</p>	<p>November 26 2-3 pm: Rock Painting 3-4 pm: DIY Cookie In A Jar</p>	<p>November 27 1:30-3 pm:Community Board Games</p>
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We are collecting formal wear for the holidays for kids who need something special to wear to family gatherings.

We have a Little Free Pantry in our foyer for people who are in need. They can grab a bag and take anything they need to feed their family.

Planning Summer Reading Program 2025

Science in a Bag was another huge hit this year. All our bags were gone in 4 days!

7. **Tourism & Marketing Commission/Gillett Area Chamber of Commerce:** Alderperson Luther stated we would be redesigning and upgrading our ATV UTV trail signs. Still in process of getting quotes on sizes and designs. Chamber of Commerce: Small business month scavenger hunt: will have a drawing after the cards are turned in. Concern in park: as of now, alcohol is allowed in Zippel and Honey Park. Asking Parks Committee to consider making alcohol only allowed during an event with a temporary class B license (picnic license) issued.

8. **Financial Report:** Clerk Treasurer – Updated Monthly Check Register Provided- Leave Lay

9. **Police Department Report:** Police Chief Breitenbach –
 From the Chief’s desk:
 Gillett Police Department / October 2024 / 270 incidents
 Officer Hull has been continuing her training in regards to her recently assigned duties as the departments IBR/UCR reporter. IBR /UCR is a federally mandated reporting system that tracks crimes on a national level. Officer Hull has taken on these duties due to the exiting of Officer Hoeft.

On October 26, the Gillett Police Department hosted the annual fall National Drug Take Back Day event at the Gillett Police Department. Nearly 30 lbs. of unused/expired medications were collected and turned over to the DEA for proper disposal.

Next month members of our department will be attending CPR refresher training at the Gillett Area Ambulance garage. We are very grateful for the relationship the Gillett Police Department has with Gillett Area Ambulance!

Here is a list of a few community event activities our officers were involved in this past month. Officers Hull and Kurtz handed out treats during the city wide Trick or Treat event. Officer Hull provided a department tour for the preschoolers from the Sunny Side Day Care center. Officer Hull also collected children’s fingerprints for their parents to have for their personal records.

I ask that the council please acknowledge the efforts of the additional responding agencies for their rapid and directed response to the residential fire on October 29, 2024: Gillett City Fire, Underhill Town Fire, Gillett Town Fire, Suring Fire, and Oconto Falls Fire. Without the overwhelming response and diligent efforts expressed by these firefighters the city would have experienced far greater losses.

The firefighting teams were also supported by Gillett Area Ambulance and the Oconto County Sheriff's Office. During these events we band together as a unified front to preserve life and protect property to the best of our abilities. The citizens of Oconto County are extremely fortunate to have such a professional team of first responders to rely upon in their times of need. I personally thank each and every one of them!

10. **Fire Department Report:** Written Report: 4 Calls- October 29 Structure Fire Gillett, October 29 Rekindled Structure Fire Gillett, October 30 Smoke Alarm in Home Gillett, November 1 Alarm Underhill Auto Aid.
October: Ran our program at Gillett Elementary and High School for Fire Prevention Month. The Day Care kids toured the Firehouse.
11. **Health, Protection and License Committee Report:** Alderperson VanStraten – thanked the Police Department and Fire Department on the great job controlling the structure fire in the City of Gillett.
 - a. Discussion and Possible Action on Fireworks Permit for Christmas in the Park and Picnic License for Finnegan Lake Walleye Club
MOTION: Luther/Mohr
Motion to approve the Fireworks Permit for Christmas in the Park and Picnic License for Finnegan Lake Walleye Club
Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**
 - b. Discussion and Possible Action on Union Contract
MOTION: Drake/Mohr
Motion to approve the Teamsters Union Contract.
Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**
12. **Board of Public Works Committee Report: Alderperson Drake-** Public Works Foreman Nate Anderson stated they have been very busy with leaf pickup. Will look into adding a leaf pickup in the spring. Spring cleanup is 1st Saturday in May.
 - a. Discussion and Possible Action on Armstrong Parking
MOTION: Mohr/VanStraten
Motion to approve no parking on the West side of Armstrong and both sides of Franklin.
Voice Vote: All Voting Aye – **MOTION CARRIED**
 - b. Discussion and Possible Action on Robinhood Lane Dead End- take back to committee for further discussion.
13. **Utility Committee Report: Alderperson Mohr-** Chairperson Mohr introduced Matt Wickman: who is in training for the Head Operator position after Ron Anderson retires in February 2025. Utility Operator Ron stated they flushed hydrants, and working with Seneca, they are going to add on a bigger salt brine tank. Utility helped them by moving and ending services so they can expand where the water service was. All patches in roads were cut and fixed in bad areas. Retaining wall done at Wastewater Treatment Plant. Lift station was cleaned out. PLC Jetting did the jetting. Upcoming construction project services are videoed and lateral launched. Meeting with engineers on Highway 22 project. Training Matt is going well, asks many questions and want to learn. Finally, new office window was put in to replace the wall air conditioner that was not used.

14. **Finance and Personnel Committee Report:** Next meeting – December 5, 2024 at 5:45 PM

- a. Discussion and Possible Action on 2025 Budget

MOTION: Luther/Drake

Motion to approve the 2025 Budget, moving Community Development Authority budget of \$4,000 to Tourism and Marketing, dissolve Community Development Authority Committee.

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

15. **Park and Cemetery Committee Report:** Public Works Foreman stated the bathrooms in the park are closed for the winter.

- a. Discussion and Possible Action on Event License for Finnegan Lake Walleye Club

MOTION: Drake/Mohr

Motion to approve the event license for Finnegan Lake Walleye Club.

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

16. **Planning Committee Report:** Alderperson Bunker – did a ride along with the Building Inspector and noted some ordinance concerns, letters will be sent.

Clerk Treasurer’s Report: Clerk Treasurer reminded Winter Parking Rules are now in effect. Tax Bill Letter will go out early December will all information on how to pay taxes, garbage and recycling pickup and rules, leaf and chipping schedule and more. Nomination papers are ready for pickup but cannot be circulated until December 1. I submitted our annual Workers Compensation Audit for approval. I displayed our proposed playground display board at the Election with the explanation/donation papers.

17. **Attorneys Report:** Conway, Olejniczak, and Jerry S.C. Attorneys at Law- City Attorney Robert Gagan- Working on an easement for a utility water line. Will look into the Parking Lot issue at the apartments from Public Input.

18. **Public Input:** Cheryl Martineau asked about roosters and chickens. It was said the chickens are permitted with a permit, but no roosters are allowed.

19. **Mayor's Report:** Mayor Blaskowski had meeting with Sherriff Skarban and Dr. Hanson about the School Recourse Officer.

20. **Adjourn** at 7: 35 PM

MOTION: Drake/VanStraten

Motion to adjourn.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Clerk Treasurer Chelsea Anderson