

CITY OF GILLETT COMMON COUNCIL

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

MINUTES

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

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Jon Blaskowski, Clerk Treasurer Chelsea Anderson, Alderpersons Nanette Mohr, Keri Hicks, Jerry Luther, Ashley VanStraten, David Bunker, Utility Operator Matt Wickman, Public Works Department Head Tim Via, Police Chief Shane Breitenbach, Fire Chief Kurt Hicks, Librarian Aid Ann Ammerman. Public Dennis Heise, Tom Ammerman, Roger Paholke, Tracy Ondik, Gillett School District Dr. Nathan Hanson, Gillett School Board Members Kim Schaal, Robin Banaszynski, Lorie Beyer, and Jamie Heroux. Alderperson Matt Young and Librarian Shannon Stoner are excused.

3. Clerk Treasurer informs the Council that the Open Meeting Law has been complied with.
4. **Public Input:** Dennis Heise asked about site plan for the new playground area, he saw an old site plan and was worried it would interfere with many events. We showed him the new site plan, and he was happy with the site. He also was concerned about the heavy truck traffic destroying our side streets while the highway is being redone. We explained that last Monday, the Public Works put up weight restrictions on the roads to prevent this.

MOTION: Hicks/Luther

Motion to move Fire Department Report under number 4.

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

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Hicks

- a. Discussion on Training, Public Relations, and Incident Summary Report
10 fire calls: MABAS Suring, Gillett Lift Assist, Auto Aid Underhill Brush Fire, Gas smell, MABAS Structure Fire Barn, MABAS Structure Fire Cecil, Smell of Smoke Gillett, Smoke Alarm Gillett, Smell of Sewage Gillett, Lift Assist Gillett EMS.
Training consisted of MSA air packs training and ran an obstacle course. On maintenance, we updated wiring on trucks, updated lights, we need a battery charger for engine 1912, need o-rings on aerial bucket tilt, and are in the process of taking care of all these things. We need the radio bases reset, this week we looked at the setup and bases will be in trucks and programmed in a few weeks. 24 firefighters on the department.

5. Discussion and possible action on February 5, 2026

MOTION: Luther/Mohr

Motion to approve minutes from February 5, 2025.

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

6. Gillett School District Referendum Information – slide show and presentation on referendum.

7. **Library Report:** Librarian Shannon Stoner's written report:

1. Programming
 - i. Gaming group will be starting again in March.
 - ii. Exercise group on Thursday mornings from 8-8:45 am
 - iii. Peep-le's Choice dioramas due Monday, March 16 and voting will be that week.

- iv. Monday, March 23 11 am: Frauds and Scams program to teach people how to spot scams and false information. Hosted by UW Extension
- v. Monday, March 30: Easter Egg Hunt
 - 1. 10:30-11:30 am: Easter Egg Hunt Ages 0-4
 - 2. 1-2 pm: Easter Egg Hunt Ages 5-7
 - 3. If anyone would like to donate candy, we will accept donations until Friday, March 20th
- vi. Tuesday, March 31: Slime Time with Children’s Museum of Green Bay
- vii. VITA tax Prep underway
- viii. Paint Nite with Oconto artist David Hipwell Wednesday, April 15, 5:30-7 pm

- 2. Cleaning up paper records for the annual patron purge of inactive accounts
- 3. I reached out to the Women’s Club, Friends of the Library in regards to the library’s Centennial Celebration next year. If anyone would like to help plan festivities, events, please let me know.
- 4. I will be going to the Public Library Association Conference and the WAPL Conference in April.
- 5. The library system and OWLS are migrating to a new software and catalog. Our staff will attend training in April and Polaris, our new software, will go live in August. We will make sure to share information with people regarding the change and have programs to introduce patrons to our new catalog. The new system will be more cost effective and will serve our system better.
- 6. We’re getting projects ready for the Easter Eggstravaganza at Hillside.
- 7. I had my first meeting with the WAPL board and we’re going to discuss our mission how to best serve public libraries throughout Wisconsin.

8. **Tourism & Marketing Commission/Gillett Area Chamber of Commerce:** Alderperson Luther stated we approved to get new ATV UTV trail signs done. New logos, new signs, new posts. Chamber Bucks still available. Spring clean up on May 2, 2026.

- a. Discussion and possible action on Reinhold Sign Service to replace the two ATV/UTV trail signs for \$3,290.00

MOTION: VanStraten/Mohr

Motion to approve Reinhold Sign Service to replace the two ATV/UTV trail signs for \$3,290.00

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

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

- a. Updated Monthly Check Register

MOTION: Luther/Mohr

Motion to approve February Check Registers.

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

10. **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 \ 228 incidents\ February 2026

Our department has been directing a good portion of our patrol operations to monitor traffic in and around the construction areas. Less travelled areas of the city are now experiencing sharp increases in traffic flow. Load limits have been posted on these thoroughfares due to damage being made by large truck traffic utilizing city side streets due to the road closures. Additionally, the surrounding townships

and counties have implemented their spring load limit restrictions further complicating the traffic flow especially for semis.

Due to this and the beginning of the WI DOT portion of the construction project in the next couple of weeks, you will notice an increasing presence of WI State Patrol Troopers/Inspectors in the area. The Troopers/ Inspectors will be focusing on increasing the safety of the construction crews while attempting to maintain the condition of the surrounding area's roadways. This past week several troopers/ inspectors were in the area, and we worked together on directed truck enforcement in and around the city.

To assist with large truck access to the city, the Gillett City Public Works Department has established a new truck route into the city. Access can be made to all businesses including the Gillett Industrial Park. This route will be utilized for most of the upcoming phase of the construction project. There will be times throughout the length of the project that the route will have to be altered for several days at a time. Please contact Gillett City Hall or the Gillett Police Department for updates on any further closures and route changes. I have been working with several business and trucking firms creating solutions to the logistical issues they have been experiencing.

SRO Hull provided me with updates on the happenings at school. SRO Hull advised that citations for truancy have been decreasing. SRO Hull finished School Resource Officer school. SRO Hull told me the training was excellent and has helped her further understand the parameters between school disciplinary actions and the law enforcement actions. SRO Hull is also working on a presentation for school staff to present during their spring in-service training. The presentation will educate staff on when they can handle an issue in-house or if they are required to advise SRO Hull of the incident for law enforcement involvement.

11. **Fire Department Report:** Fire Chief Hicks- Listed Above under #4.

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

a. Discussion and possible action on Oconto County Youth Fair Picnic License

MOTION: Luther/Bunker

Motion to approve the Oconto County Youth Fair Picnic License.

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

b. Discussion and possible action on School Resource Officer Contract with the Gillett School District to reimburse the City wages and benefits of \$89,000 for school year 2026-2027.

MOTION: Luther/Hicks

Motion to approve the School Resource Officer Contract with the Gillett School District

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

c. Discussion and possible action on the purchase of a new Police Squad- Leave Lay

d. Discussion and possible action on Motion to approve the recommended additions from the DNR to the City Recycling Ordinance.

MOTION: Luther/Bunker

Motion to approve the recommended additions from the DNR to the City Recycling Ordinance.

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

e. Discussion and possible action on quote from Telford for the generator, cost \$14,324 for City Hall

MOTION: Luther/Mohr

Motion to approve purchasing a generator from Telford, cost \$14,324 for City Hall/Police Department/Garage.

Roll Call Vote: All Voting Aye - MOTION CARRIED

f. Discussion and possible action on Sexting by Minors Prohibited Ordinance

MOTION: Hicks/VanStraten

Motion to approve the Sexting by Minors Prohibited Ordinance.

Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - MOTION CARRIED

g. Discussion and possible action on Fireworks Permit for Roy Hubbard and 4th of July

MOTION: Luther/Mohr

Motion to approve the Fireworks Permits.

Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - MOTION CARRIED

13. **Utility Committee Report:** Utility Operator Matt Wickman stated there had been many water main breaks, PTS construction has been willing to help, making the fixes very cost effective. Many locates to be done with all the projects going on in the City. Cloudy water complaints: flushed over 1million gallons this year already, cloudiness is coming from the construction project. Pulled manhole cover in at the Wastewater Treatment facility and found it was full of ferric and sewage, need to replace a valve, it put in in 2011, very corroded, overflow pipe has been being utilized so the ponds are draining correctly. Will drain one pond down and fix the valve. Took last tests to be certified.

14. **Board of Public Works Committee Report:** Alderperson Hicks

Public Works Update–Department Head Tim Via

Took down pickle ball courts and put them on pallets they are ready to sell

Cleaned up large tree in park

Chipped all brush and cleaned up cemetery

Ran wires and installed new cameras on city hall

Reached out to two contractors for cold storage quotes no response

Roofing contractor coming to look at city hall and give ideas possibly Monday the 23rd

Quotes on zero turns have come back leaning toward bad boy

Would like to look into getting push mower and weed wacker to keep at the small shed at cemetery

Put up weight limit signs in high truck traffic areas 5 tons will be purchasing 7 more

Will also be getting designated truck route signs for a few high traffic areas to help direct trucks to correct roads

When construction is completed would still like to have designated truck routes

I have made a map for current truck routes during construction

Street repair purchased 5200 pounds of cold patch from Oconto County and have used all of it

Almost made it through the whole city but did miss a few streets

We will get more once it warms and dries up

Will be looking into ideas for cemetery roads ... only do a few bad sections for now or would it be more cost effective to fix the base in house and do a double chip seal

Storm on Eschner collapsed, making a large hole in the road and no drainage. Need to replace.

- a. Discussion and possible action on the purchase of a lawn mower

MOTION: Luther/VanStraten

Motion to approve the Kawasaki Bad Boy Fox from Valley Truck for \$11,899 dollars. Use contracted budget line item to pay.

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

- b. Discussion and possible action on Cold Storage Building- get updated quotes.

15. **Finance and Personnel Committee Report:** Alderperson Mohr- No Update.

16. **Park and Cemetery Committee Report:** Alderperson Luther- Had a 3 hour meeting with MSA, our engineering firm on the Park Project. Made a few small changes, will be getting Request for Proposals out by the end of the month.

- a. Discussion and possible action on Oconto County Youth Fair Event

MOTION: Hicks/Mohr

Motion to approve the Oconto County Youth Fair Event.

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

17. **Planning Committee Report:** Alderperson Bunker- No Update.

18. **Clerk Treasurers Report:** City Clerk Treasurer Chelsea Anderson stated Annual TID payments for \$150 each TID 3 and 4 have been paid. Dog and Chicken licenses are due at the end of the month. Audit field work is done, finalizing is being done by our accountants and auditors. Election day is April 7, 2026. HWY 22 Road Project will be done in 2 weeks. Camera was added in the city hall parking lot. Park equipment bids will be due April 2 and we will look over the proposal and choose a company for our park equipment.

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

20. **Public Input:** A request to add playground updates to Facebook.

21. **Mayor's Report:** Mayor reported road construction is almost finished, great job working together and staying ahead of issues. Doing as much work in house to save taxpayer money. Some goals when I was elected was to make the city financially stable, help and work with organizations, and keep moving forward. I feel like we are doing well on all fronts. Thrive grant work on downtown area and how to bring more housing to the City.

22. **Adjourn** at 8:00 PM

MOTION: Luther/Mohr

Motion to adjourn.

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

Respectfully submitted by
Clerk Treasurer Chelsea Anderson