CITY OF GILLETT COMMON COUNCIL

Council Chambers – Municipal Building
150 N McKenzie Ave – Gillett, WI 54124
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 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, and Matt Young, City Attorney Robert Gagan, Utility Operator Matt Wickman, Public Works Department Head Tim Via, Police Chief Shane Breitenbach, Fire Chief Kurt Hicks, Librarian Shannon Stoner, and Public Norm and Joanne Finnell, and Times Herald Lee Pulaski. Alderperson David Bunker is excused.
3. Clerk Treasurer informs the Council that the Open Meeting Law has been complied with.

4. **Public Input: None**

5. Discussion and possible action on September 3, 2026 Minutes
   MOTION: Luther/Mohr
   Motion to approve minutes from September 3, 2026.
   Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

6. **Library Report:** Alderperson Hicks-
   Library Director Report- Librarian Shannon Stoner stated
   September 2026
   1. Programming
      1. New Newsletter is out for Fall-Winter 2026
         i. Book Battleship=Through the month of September, we will be playing Battleship! Borrow a book/books from the library and choose a coordinate on our board. You mark off a hit or a miss. If you sink a ship, you win a prize! One coordinate per family per day.
         ii. **Saturday, September 12, 11 am-1 pm**: Spring Creek Petting Zoo at Ebenreiter Square at the library
         iii. **Monday, October 5**: United Way Techquity-United Way of Wisconsin is coming to distribute a no-cost, long term loaned device to eligible individuals and families.
         iv. **Tuesday, October 6, 5-6 pm**: Daughters of the American Revolution and Historic Preservation in the Gillett Library Community Center,
         DAR members participate in projects to help preserve our cultural heritage. From memorials commemorating our veterans to restorations of cultural sites, the NSDAR has supported historic preservation as one of the three main mission areas since its founding. Discover what our local chapter is doing to preserve the legacy of our shared history.
         v. **Tuesday, October 13, 5-7 pm**: Paint Nite with David Hipwell in the Community Center
         vi. **Mitten Tree, November 2-16**: Take a mitten from our tree and purchase a gift for a local person in need of cheer.
         vii. **Friday, November 13, 11 am-1 pm**: The Great Gillett Puzzle Showdown in the Community Center, Bring the family and be the first to finish a puzzle in a race

against the clock! The team with the completed puzzle, or the most pieces assembled when time is called, wins a prize! Light refreshments will be served.

viii. **Tuesday, December 1, 4-5 pm**: DIY Crystallized Pine Cone Ornaments in the Community Center, Create beautiful, sparkling holiday decorations using real pine cones and a simple crystal-growing process! In this hands-on workshop, participants will transform ordinary pinecones into dazzling ornaments that resemble frosted winter treasures.

2027 Budget is done.
Staff Reviews are done.
New software is posing some new challenges, but we're working through them.
Gillett Public Library is turning 100 years old in 2027, so we are forming a committee to plan programming. Some of the things we are looking into is a Time Capsule, Window Art, a scholarship, and participation in the July 4th parade in tandem with Women's Club. Dinah has expressed interest in spearheading this.
Community Center is available for rent again.
We entered into a literacy partnership with Scholastic.

2. Savings of up to 68% off list prices FREE shipping and handling and FREE 10-book bonus collection for every $150 spent
3. Providing access to appropriate age books and collections in your communities
4. I can get books for outreach for a fraction of the price for our community outreach initiatives.

Programming OCTOBER

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Wisconsin Science Festival begins on the 15th, so we should be getting our Science in a bag soon
I wrote a grant to expand our Manga and Graphic Novels collections. They came in and they're ready for checkout
Banned Books week 4th-10th
I'll be going to the Wisconsin Library Association Conference the 3rd week of October in Middleton.

7. **Tourism & Marketing Commission/Gillett Area Chamber of Commerce**: October 16, 2026 opening ceremony for road and playground. There will be music, ribbon cutting, speeches, food, and the new banners will be shown. Chamber voted on forever fund grant, will announce annual meeting November 12th.

8. **Financial Report:** Clerk Treasurer -Updated Check Register presented for City/Utility Accounts
   a. Discussion and possible action on Updated Monthly Check Registers
   MOTION: Mohr/VanStraten
   Motion to approve September Check Registers.
   Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

9. **Police Department Report:** Police Chief Breitenbach
   From the Chief's Desk
   Gillett Police Department: September 2026 / 217 incidents

Congratulations to Officer Lannoye who will be assuming solo patrol duties next week. Officer Lannoye has demonstrated a strong willingness to become an active part of our community and has been serving with a high degree of professionalism these past few months. Officer Lannoye will be working the opposite rotation of myself.

Officer Eric Anderson has resigned from the Gillett Police Department. I would like the council to acknowledge the dedicated years of professional service given by Officer Anderson. We wish him well in his new endeavors!

SRO Hull has been busy this first month of the school year. SRO Hull has gone through and updated 78 first aid kits throughout the schools with basic first aid supplies. SRO Hull is working with the National Honor Society and Gillett Ambulance to get Stop the Bleed Kits added to these bags as well. The Stop the Bleed kits will have tourniquets, pressure bandages, gauze, scissors, tape, chest seals, CPR masks, wound packing material.
SRO Hull is also writing several grants to get the Elementary School interior doors and the Secondary School Commons and Choir Doors covered with perforated security film. The other grant would be utilized for Crime Prevention programs and guest speakers.
SRO Hull is also working with Sources of Strength to establish a peer support group in the Gillett Secondary School. This program will assist students with mental health programs and suicide prevention through the promoting of well-being and help-seeking resilience.

SRO Hull has also kicked off the Design a Squad contest The City of Gillett is getting a new squad and our old squad is going to be used just for the schools. The new squad graphic design contest is open to students and staff. The top 5 drawings will be voted on, and the final design decision will be given to the city council. I have contacted Rouge Graphx in Shawano and they have generously agreed to assist with the re-branding of the SRO squad! Thank you Rogue Graphx for your continued support of local first responders!
A few reminders for the rest of the month. On October 24th the Gillett Police Department will be hosting the Fall 2026 National Drug Takeback Day event. This special event will be held from 10am-2pm. Also, the 2026 City of Gillett Halloween Trick or Treat event will be held on Halloween, Saturday, October 31, from 4pm-6pm.

10. **Fire Department Report:** Fire Chief Hicks- 10 calls this past month, MABAS Call, Gillett EMS lift assist, false alarm, lost person search, lost person search, MABAS call to Oconto, false alarm at Seneca, MABAS call structure fire, lift assist with Gillett EMS, and lift assist with Gillett EMS.
    25 calls was previously the count for the whole year, this year already we have 70.
    Training: Worked on extraction and safely removing a victim from vehicles, training included Gillett EMS (Emergency Medical Services). Learned protocol, and other fellow departments were invited. October 10th we will be burning a house down in Suring, there will be numerous sets of training. MSA breathing apparatuses were tested and up to code. 16 face masks were replaced at no cost, by warranty, a film was no longer up to standard. Seagrave engine 1912 will be on the market for sale.

11. **Health, Protection and License Committee Report:** Alderperson VanStraten. Ambulance meeting was last night. Mohr and Bunker represented the City of Gillett at their annual meeting. Handouts from the meeting were copied and provided to the Council.

12. **Utility Committee Report:** Alderperson Young-
    a. Discussion and possible action on Raising Water and/or Sewer Rates
    MOTION: Luther/ Hicks
    Motion to approve the Final Decision Public Service Commission Rate Case to raise water rates effective October 31 billing.
    Roll Call Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

    b. Discussion and possible action on water and/or sewer extension on Fourth Street- Leave Lay

    c. Discussion and Possible Action on truck purchase and truck sale- Leave Lay

    d. Discussion and Possible Action on vac trailer
    MOTION: VanStraten/Mohr
    Motion to approve the purchase of a vacuum trailer, not to exceed $55,000, from the Wastewater Treatment Plant Savings Account.
    Roll Call Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

    e. Discussion and Possible Action on backup recirculation pump
    MOTION: Mohr/Hicks
    Motion to approve the purchase of a recirculation pump from Crane Engineering for $11,632.00 from the Wastewater Treatment Plant Savings Account.
    Roll Call Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

    Utility Operator Matt Wickman reported HWY 22 project is almost done. Digging up curb stops to properties that don't operate and fixing. Adjusting curb stops on highway to lower into the yards. Paver damaged the water shut off to the feed mill, we have replaced that and will bill Peters Concrete.

13. **Board of Public Works Committee Report:** Alderperson Hicks-
    Public Works Foreman Tim Via stated working on cold storage building and park project, and putting up banners for ceremony. Mid State Asphalt quote for Fire Department and new cold storage, all grading work included for $57,500. Would be 4 inch asphalt, with 12 inches of gravel under. Vince Weier will get quote for concrete at City Hall, and will be done the end of October.

14. **Finance and Personnel Committee Report:** Alderperson Mohr- USDA loans closed at Peshtigo National Bank. Budget meetings need to be set.

15. **Park and Cemetery Committee Report:** Alderperson Luther reported is almost complete and the poured in place rubber will be poured today.

16. **Planning Committee Report:** Alderperson Bunker –

17. **Clerk Treasurers Report:** City Clerk Treasurer Chelsea Anderson stated the Public Service Commission made its Final Decision on Water Rates for the Utility Department, which we approved earlier. I attended the WI Court Clerk Conference in Madison and completed my hours for court clerk for 2 years. Lisa and I will attend training in Oconto on October 29th for a new county wide tax program.
    USDA loans have closed. Election Day is November 3. New Park Bathroom will be set in December or January. The pickle ball and basketball court paint will be done next spring.

18. **Attorneys Report:** Conway, Olejniczak, and Jerry S.C. Attorneys at Law- Attorney Robert Gagon said USDA revenue bonds were completed.

19. **Public Input: None**

20. **Mayor's Report:** Mayor Blaskowski thanked the city workers, fire department, police department, and all for dealing with reaching record highs in call volumes and handling all.

21. **Adjourn** at 6:55 PM
    MOTION: Hicks/ Mohr
    Motion to adjourn.
    Voice Vote: All Voting Aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted by
Clerk Treasurer Chelsea Anderson