



CITY OF GIBSON | 101 E 8TH STREET, PO BOX 545, GIBSON CITY, IL 60936
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MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Monday July 13th, 2026 @ 7:00 pm

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Dickey, in City Hall Council Chambers.

Roll Call:

Ward #1	Susie Tongate:	P	Sarah Sarantakos:	P
Ward #2	Randy Wyant:	P	Ray Hanks:	P
Ward #3	Scott Davis:	P	Terry Roesch:	P
Ward #4	Denis Fisher:	P	Laura Miller:	P

Topics

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve June 22, 2026 council meeting minutes passed with one correction
- Date of the 250th celebration was corrected from July 7th to July 11th in the minutes
- Motion made by Alderman Roesch, seconded by Alderman Fisher. Motion carried 8/0.

Public Comment – Drainage Concerns at 7th & Guthrie

- A resident presented photographic evidence (dated May 20, 2025) showing water flow across 7th Street
- Resident expressed concern that the proposed plan to lower drains 12 inches would reverse water flow back toward his property
- Resident proposed an alternative: dig a catch basin/ditch on the north side of 7th Street and run culverts southward to 6th & Guthrie instead of tearing up the road

Public Comment –

- Eric Lundquist requested a 30-day extension for an ongoing building renovation project, citing weather delays and rain
- Council agreed to a 30-day extension with the condition that fencing/scaffolding be removed from the sidewalk by the extension deadline (approximately July 31st)
- Mayor directed staff to prepare formal extension paperwork for the next meeting
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2026–2027 Appropriations Ordinance – Public Hearing Continuation

Formal motion made to continue the public hearing for the City's 2026–2027 Appropriations Ordinance

- Public hearing continued to a special meeting on July 20, 2026 at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers
- Full council voted in favor; budget books available for pickup at the meeting. Motion made by Alderman Davis, Second by Alderman Wyant.

Administrative Report – 250th Celebration & Time Capsule

- The city's 250th anniversary celebration held the prior Saturday was deemed a success
- A 25-year-old time capsule was opened; items are on display at council chambers for public review
- City is now collecting items representing 2026 to be placed in a new time capsule over the next one to two weeks

Committee Report – Scout Cabin / Parks

- Lions Club received approximately \$40,000 (donated by Presbyterian Church) earmarked strictly for Scout Cabin improvements
- After a walkthrough, the group concluded the cabin is beyond repair even with \$40,000 in funding
- Current cabin issues include: inadequate restrooms, no air conditioning, single-room limitation shared by Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Boy Scouts, and a kitchen in need of replacement
- A Parks, Buildings & Technology Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at 7:00 PM to discuss repair vs. rebuild options

Approval of Bills

- General bills totaling \$1,353,657.91 approved (one abstention noted due to conflict of interest) Motion made by Alderman Fisher, second by Alderman Wyant. Motion carried 7/1
- TIF 2 bills totaling \$25,574.20 approved. Motion made by Alderman Miller, Second by Alderman Sarantakos. Motion carried 8/0
- TIF 3 bills totaling \$38,674.50 approved (two abstentions on property-related items) Motion made by Alderman Sarantakos, Second by Alderman Roesch. Motion carried 6/2.
- TIF 4 bills totaling \$18,182.50 approved
- Downtown TIF bills totaling \$1,377.50 approved (one abstention) Motion made by Alderman Hanks, Second by Alderman Miller. Motion carried 7/1.
- Pool bond payment of \$468,665.78 from the \$6.2 million municipal bond approved. Motion made by Alderman Sarantakos, Second by Alderman Roesch. Motion carried 8/0.

Community Advertising Campaign – WCIA, WGCY, Ford County Chronicle

- Proposal to replace co-op advertising with a broader community promotion campaign
- WCIA: \$7,500 for TV advertising including 20,000 social media ads/month (mid-August through mid-November)
- WGCY: \$2,000 for radio advertising (August through February, \$250/month)
- Ford County Chronicle: up to \$1,000 for print advertising
- Total approved budget: \$10,500; goal is to promote the community and attract new homebuyers
- Motion made by Alderman Roesch, Second by Alderman Miller. Motion carried 8/0

7th & Guthrie Drainage Project – Bid Authorization

- City Engineer Will Gray (Donahue and Associates) clarified the project is a maintenance project only — regrading ditches and replacing culverts, not altering drainage paths or lowering drains
- Ditches have filled in with mud over time, reducing stormwater capacity; project restores original elevations
- The box culvert previously repaired with wood will be encased in concrete
- Estimated budget: approximately \$75,000 (conservative estimate); all work within city right-of-way
- Committee recommended moving forward; council approved going out to bid with fall construction targeted (October timeframe)
- Motion made by Alderman Roesch, Second by Alderman Wyant. Motion carried 8/0

Downtown Tree Planter Rock Panel Installation

- Contractor Ben Stoler presented proposal to install MSI Silver Travertine panels on 28 downtown planter boxes
- Panels will be dry-stacked (no mortar), glued with epoxy and secured with stainless steel pins
- Cap: 2.25-inch limestone, 10 inches wide, square-cut corners
- Sealer (water-based, lifetime) recommended and approved for both caps and side panels to protect against salt, staining, and weathering; reapplication every 8–10 years
- 15 extra stone panels to be kept on hand for future repairs
- Committee (Streets/Infrastructure) reviewed four material options and recommended the silver travertine
- Total approved amount: \$105,000 (includes panels, caps, labor, and sealant)
- Target installation start: first Monday of August; priority on main planters before Summer Bash on August 15th
- Motion made by Alderman Hankes, second by Alderman Tongate. Motion carried 8/0

West 10th & 11th Street Roadway Reconstruction

- Superintendent Tyler Martin and new civil engineer Adam presented three options: (1) oil and chip overlay, (2) brick removal with curb/gutter and HMA asphalt, (3) concrete
- Option 2 (asphalt reconstruction) selected as preferred approach; oil and chip deemed insufficient, concrete too expensive

- Project scope includes: 10th Street west to railroad tracks, 11th Street to dead end, Sangamon Avenue curb/gutter between 10th and 11th, 8 new employee parking spaces for California Nuggets, ADA-compliant sidewalk replacements, removal of hazardous steel channel plates
- Funding source: Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) fund (~\$1 million available)
- Engineering and bidding cost: \$71,352 (approved not to exceed \$75,000)
- Process requires IDOT/GATA approval (Phase 1 clearance) and State Historic Preservation Office (SHIPO) review due to ~100-year-old brick road features
- Projected timeline: late fall or spring of next year for construction
- Motion made by Alderman Hanks, Second by Alderman Sarantakos. Motion carried 6/2 with 2 abstaining.

Motion made by Alderman Davis, second by Alderman Roesch. Meeting adjourned.