



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 27th @ 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

- The Pledge was led by Alderman Fisher

General notes

Overview

- Council Meeting Minutes Approved: The minutes from the July 13, 2026 council meeting was approved via roll call with all present aldermen voting aye (Hanks, Tongate, Wyant, Davis, Miller, Sarantakos, Fisher; Roesch).
- Cowboy Truck Show & Concert Event Logistics Revised: Due to a permit/address discrepancy and beer distributor trailer constraints, the event layout was shifted one block north, with the stage placed at the 8th and 9th Street intersection on Sangamon Avenue. The city liquor commissioner authorized the city clerk to reissue the special event license reflecting the corrected location (between 8th and 9th instead of 7th and 8th). The event requires fencing/barricades, ID checks with wristbands for alcohol access, and proof of insurance naming the City of Gibson as an additional insured — all required before the event.

- New Pool Construction Progressing: Concrete pouring for the new pool is scheduled to begin Wednesday and Thursday of the current week. The bath house will have a regal blue metal roof; pool tile and gutter colors have been selected (gray and speckled gray/blue matching lane lines); all finishes are tile (no paint). A bathroom update at North Park (location) is awaiting delivery.
- FY 2026-27 Appropriation Ordinance (2026-O14) Approved: Mr. Miller presented the appropriation ordinance, which adds a standard 10% budget cushion to the previously approved FY2627 budget. The council approved the marked-up version unanimously; the city attorney's office will produce a clean final version for signing by next month. The ordinance must be filed by the end of the current month (Friday).
- A broken fiber optics cable is causing a Wi-Fi outage in part of the downtown area; the city is exploring a wireless transmission unit to resolve panel water/debris issues and connect to City Hall without opening panels.

Action Items

Jay Christensen (Event Organizer):

- Talk to Tyler (city contact) tomorrow about barricades for the cowboy truck show/concert event
- Obtain and submit proof of insurance naming the City of Gibson as an additional insured before the event
- Fill out required city insurance forms (held by city clerk)
- Notify store owners (particularly those near Ace Hardware) about road/area closure times ahead of the event
- Send a message tonight to the insurance contact to obtain the additional insured certificate
- Ensure all food vendors obtain a City of Gibson business/food vendor license (coordinate with city clerk)

City Clerk:

- Reissue/recreate the city portion of the special event liquor license reflecting the corrected location: between 8th and 9th Street on Sangamon Avenue, Gibson City

Mr. Miller (City Attorney):

- Produce a clean, final version of the FY 2026-27 Appropriation Ordinance (2026-O14) for signing; to be completed by next month

Park Engineering (mentioned by Matthew Burns):

- Deliver survey results for the farmers market pavilion downtown by the next council meeting

Topics

Approval of July 13, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by Alderman Hanks and seconded (by Alderman Miller) to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2026 council meeting
- No corrections, additions, or changes were noted
- Roll call vote resulted in approval: Hanks – Aye, Tongate – Aye, Wyatt – Aye, Davis – Aye, Miller – Aye, Sarantakos – Aye, Fisher – Aye; Alderman Rush-Aye. 8/0

Visitor Report – Farmers Market Pavilion Survey Update

- Matthew Burns from the Economic Development Group addressed the council
- Parky Engineering began a survey today for the farmers market pavilion in downtown Gibson City
- Survey results are expected to be ready and presented to the council by the next council meeting

Cowboy Truck Show & Concert – Event Layout, Permit, and Licensing Issues

- Jay Christensen presented on behalf of the upcoming cowboy truck show and concert event
- The event has grown larger than anticipated, described as a 'learning experience'.
- A key problem: the beer distributor could not deliver the standard 'park and use' trailer due to late permitting; instead, a refrigerated trailer must remain on the distributor's (Falcon Nest bar's) property, making it impractical to position the beer far from the stage
- The city liquor license on record specified the event location as between 7th and 8th Street on Sangamon Avenue; the state license referenced the Falcon Nest's address (116/118 North Sangamon Avenue) without a specific block range
- After reviewing both licenses, it was determined the state license was acceptable; the city license needed to be corrected to reflect a location between 8th and 9th Street
- The mayor, acting as liquor commissioner, authorized the city clerk to reissue the city special event license for the corrected location (8th to 9th Street on Sangamon Avenue) with consensus from the board (thumbs up from all aldermen present)
- New event layout: stage placed in the 8th/9th Street intersection facing north; vehicle show (trucks, cars, motorcycles) spread south toward 7th Street and the adjacent parking lots; beer area (Falcon Nest trailer) remains near the bar's property to the north
- Fencing/barricade plan: perimeter from building to building around the stage intersection, extending to a barricade line running from the corner of the law firm south of IPG across to Ace Hardware, with a gate in the middle; a second gate planned near the vehicle show area to the south; the entire enclosed area will require over-21 wristbands for entry with ID checks at gates

- Beer service: the beer area will be inside the fenced perimeter; bartenders instructed to verify wristbands before serving; no additional fencing required around the beer service area itself
- The Restoration Committee will set up a food vendor (taco-style) at the front end of the open lot near the Jail Club building, with fencing behind them
- Food vendors confirmed: Cundiff, Meatworks, Levi's Truck Wagon, Main Scoop Ice Cream, and possibly the Legion (unconfirmed); the organizer is prioritizing local vendors
- The new barbecue vendor holds a Ford County license but needs a City of Gibson license; the city clerk confirmed this requirement
- Concern raised about competition with Drummer Creek (local barbecue caterer); clarified that Drummer Creek does not operate a restaurant and is not expected to be impacted
- Concert start time: 7:00 PM; hard road closures planned for late afternoon only
- Outstanding requirements before the event: barricade coordination with Tyler, city insurance forms, and certificate of insurance naming City of Gibson as additional insured

Administrative Report – FY25 Audit and FY26 Financial Setup

- Admin Meg Fairchild reported that the FY25 audit is complete and all materials have been filed with the state
- Collaborating with Jeanette to begin FY26 financials to ensure timely completion

Pool Construction Progress Update

- Alderman/Superintendent (Speaker E) provided an update on the new pool construction
- Bath house metal roof color selected: Regal Blue (described as a deep water blue to provide contrast and color to the area)
- Concrete pouring for the pool shell is scheduled to begin Wednesday and Thursday of the current week, weather permitting
- Pool tile and gutter colors have already been selected: one is a solid gray; the other is a speckled mix of grays and blue matching the lane line color
- All pool interior finishes will be tile — nothing painted in the pool
- After pouring and curing, tiling work is expected to begin
- A bathroom update at the North Carolina (park/facility) location is pending delivery of materials

Wi-Fi and Fiber Optics Infrastructure Issue

- A broken fiber optics cable is affecting the downtown Wi-Fi network, leaving part of the area without coverage
- The city is evaluating a wireless transmission unit as a replacement/supplement to avoid having to open panels (which have had recurring issues with water intrusion and leaf debris)
- The proposed wireless unit would be transmitted directly to City Hall, eliminating the need for physical panel access
- The item is being kept under Old Business pending further development

FY 2026-27 Appropriation Ordinance 2026-O14 – Approval

- City Attorney Mr. Miller presented the appropriation ordinance for FY 2026-27 (Ordinance 2026-O14)
- Explained that the appropriation ordinance is distinct from the budget: it takes the approved budget figures and adds a 10% cushion/padding to allow flexibility for line-item adjustments throughout the year without needing further amendments
- The original draft incorrectly omitted the 10% cushion; Mr. Miller made handwritten corrections to the document during the meeting
- The council voted on the marked-up version as presented; the city attorney's office will produce a clean finalized version for signing by next month
- The ordinance must be passed and filed by the end of the current month (Friday)
- Motion to approve made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderman Wyant; approved unanimously by all aldermen present

General Fund Bills Payment Approval

- Motion was made to approve payment of general fund bills totaling \$468,775.95
- Motion made by Alderman Hanks, seconded by Alderman Fisher
- Alderman Tongate abstained; all other present aldermen voted Aye. Motion carried 7/1
- No questions were raised regarding any of the bills