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MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
October 26th, 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:	A
Ward #2	Randy Wyant:	P	Terry Roesch:	P
Ward #3	Scott Davis:	P	Laura Miller:	P
Ward #4	Denis Fisher:	P		

PLEDGE LED BY ALDERMAN ROESCH

Gibson City Council Mtg - October 26, 2026

Overview

The minutes of the October 12, 2026 were approved. Nate McCarthy of Solar on Earth proposed community solar credits worth a 20% discount, about $34,279 a year against the city's roughly $231,000 annual electric spend. The contract is non-binding to start, has no termination fee, and requires 180-day notice to exit. Mayor will consult the city and wastewater superintendents, since a wastewater plant solar farm is already planned. A volunteer updated the Christmas parade plans: house lighting contest, planter decorating, ornament hunt, etc. She must contact the city about street blocking and barricades. Susan Riley was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals and accepted Alderman Ray Hankes' resignation, effective October 13. The meeting was adjourned.

Topics

The meeting was called to order at 7:00. Roll call was taken and the Pledge of Allegiance led. A motion by Alderman Miller, seconded by Alderman Roesch, approved the October 12, 2026 council meeting minutes by roll call.

Solar on Earth community solar credit presentation:

Nate McCarthy of Solar on Earth (Carroll County, Chadwick, Illinois) presented an unscheduled proposal. He obtained the city's electric bills through contacts with Taylor Braasch and Meg Fairchild, and the city spends about $231,000 a year on electricity. Under Illinois' community solar program, credits from solar farms the company is building with Microsoft would be applied to the city's bills at a 20% discount, saving $34,279 a year. The market norm is about 10%. McCarthy said Microsoft is willing to give double because the city is a low-risk, permanent customer. Savings would rise in proportion to electric rates, so year 1 is the minimum. The company is not an energy supplier, and the city would pay nothing, install nothing, and change no meters.

The city has multiple separate meters, with water and sewer as the biggest users. McCarthy also mentioned a future battery program under the Clean Reliable Grid Act, in which batteries placed behind the largest meters could earn the city a check. References included LaSalle, Pontiac, Morton, One Earth Energy, Casey's and local businesses such as the bowling alley. He noted that electricity costs have roughly doubled since 2019, when rates were under 10 cents a kilowatt hour. The next step is a non-binding application, which lets the company draft the contract. The attorney can review it, and the council then votes.

The mayor said a solar farm is already coming to the wastewater plant and may be expanded for the whole city in the future. The mayor wants to talk to the city and wastewater superintendents before making any decisions.

Christmas parade update:

Harvest Fest committee was in attendance to speak on events that have wrapped up and ones that are scheduled; with a full recap to come after the Christmas parade, which is a few weeks away. Plans include a house-lighting contest on Sangamon with cash prizes and a year of free garbage hauling for first place. Businesses will be asked to decorate storefronts and windows and post them on Facebook. Organizations will decorate the roughly 28 downtown planters in a Candyland theme, with prizes. Other plans:

- A scavenger hunt, with prizes supplied by the organizers.
- A hunt for 10 hidden ornaments with cash prizes.
- A Kids Zone at the American Legion.
- Food trucks, a s'more bar and other activities.
- Activities starting at 3 and the parade kicking off at 6:30.

The mayor announced the city crew is replacing downtown tree lights and will keep handling them for uniformity, and planter decorations must not be something that needs plugged in, to avoid overloading circuits. A council member asked that the new façade on the planters not be touched in the process of decorating.

Reports:

There was no treasurer's report, administrative report, committee reports or superintendent reports.

Approval of bills:

All bills were approved by roll call:

- General bills, $476,015.14, motion by Alderman(s) Wyant, seconded by Roesch; motion carried 6/0.
- TIF 2, $452,071.65. Motion made by Alderman(s) Tongate and Miller; motion carried 6/0
- TIF 3, $13,381.89 Alderman Roesch and Alderman Wyant made the motion and the second, respectively. Alderman Miller abstained because he owns no property in the TIF. Motion carried 5/0.
- Downtown TIF, $4,085.75. Motion made by Alderman Roesch, second by Miller; motion carried 6/0.
- Motor fuel tax, $11,345.30. Motion made by Alderman Miller second by Alderman Wyant; motion carried 6/0.
- Pool fund, $973,825 Aldermen Roesch and Miller made the motions and the second. Motion carried 6/0.
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- TIF 4, $23,814.96 Alderman Wyant and Tongate made the motions and the second. Motion carried 6/0.

Zoning Board of Appeals appointment:

The mayor, after consulting several aldermen and the committee chair, Mrs. Hankes, appointed Susan Riley to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Tongate moved and Roesch seconded, and the council approved by roll call.

Resignation of Alderman Ray Hankes:

The council formally accepted the resignation of Alderman Ray Hankes, effective October 13,2026 , which was his last meeting,. Roesch moved and Davis seconded, and the motion passed by roll call.

Adjournment:

Davis moved to adjourn and Roesch seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST APPROVED

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Carla S McGrew, City Clerk

Mayor Daniel Dickey

DATE:_____