

CITY OF REED CITY
SPECIAL COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
September 15, 2025

Mayor Meinert called the meeting to order at 5:33P.M. at Reed City Fire Department 523 Morse St., Reed City, Michigan. Meeting was moved from Council Chambers to accommodate audience members.

Present: Mayor, Roger Meinert, Council Members: Nicole Woodside, and Charles Lupo, Brad Nixon, Nate Bailey and Trevor Guiles James Anderlohr arrived at 5:55. City Attorney, David Porteous, Amanda Grant, City Clerk, and City Manager, Rich Saladin, were also in attendance. The meeting was opened with roll call and the pledge to the flag.

Agenda: Motion made by Woodside, seconded by Lupo, **CARRIED**, to approve the agenda as amended to add public comment. Affirmed by voice vote.

Public Comment:
Mayor Meinert read letters that were received by citizens unable to attend the meeting. Those letters are attached to these meeting minutes.

Public Comment regarding the Reed City Farmers Market summarized:
Emily Miller: Spoke to council in support of the Farmers Market.
Kathy Fiebig: Spoke to council in support of the Farmers Market.
Theresa Lovelette: Spoke to council in support of the Farmers Market.
Nadine Sarabia: Spoke to council in support of the Farmers Market.
Kathy Flemming: Spoke to council in opposition of the Farmers Market.
Jackie Youngs: Spoke to council in opposition of the Farmers Market.
Caroline Ruppert: Spoke to council in support of the Farmers Market.
Amal Schneidt: Spoke to council in support of the Farmers Market.
Dan Forsman: Spoke to council in support of the Farmers Market.
Dennis Homrich: Spoke to council in support of the Farmers Market.
Donna Wheeler: Spoke to council in support of the Farmers Market.
Chelsie Norman: Spoke to council in support of the Farmers Market.
Sara Molenaar: Spoke to council in support of the Farmers Market.
Jason Bircham: Spoke to council in support of the Farmers Market.

Public Comment was closed at 6:12 P.M.

Farmers Market: Motion by Nixon, seconded by Lupo, **CARRIED**, to take no action on the Farmers Market. Affirmed by voice vote.

Statement: Motion by Lupo, seconded by Anderlohr, **CARRIED**, to submit statement regarding the Farmers Market as amended. Affirmed by voice vote.

Adjournment Mayor Meinert adjourned the meeting at 6:53 P.M.


Amanda Grant
City Clerk

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Exhibit A: Public letters (do not contain addresses, email addresses or phone numbers):

Good Morning,

I apologize in advance, I know that I am missing a few members on this email chain. These were the only ones that I was able to find listed on the city website. Please feel free to distribute this email as needed.

First, I would like to thank you all for your time and for allowing us citizens the ability to voice our concerns.

I am writing you all in regards to Mary Galvanek and the farmers market. Unfortunately, I cannot attend today's meeting regarding this issue; however, I wanted to make sure that my opinion was still stated as I am a resident of Osceola county and frequently attend the markets. I would like to add that for me, this has nothing to do with personal beliefs and everything to do with the vile nature of her statements. These words spread far beyond the original post where she describes how Charlie Kirk "chose his fate". After knowing people were upset by this she continued to say that she would not apologize for her statement and began antagonizing people in the comments. As a professional, it would have been far more appropriate to not post anything than to post in celebration that a father and husband was publicly and brutally murdered. Whether it was a personal platform for her or not, it was still on the internet for everyone to see. I find it appalling that she was publicly in support of Charlie Kirk's assassination. While I completely stand by the right to freedom of speech, I firmly believe that there are consequences for such hateful and harmful statements when you are representing a community. I would like to add that I firmly believe that anyone in support of such actions should never be in a position of power and certainly should not be able to speak for the community, as many of us do not share these beliefs and find these statements horrendous.

In addition I would like to add that I will unfortunately no longer be attending the markets if Mary is still in charge. It saddens me that it has come to this; however I cannot support a person who is so vile and incapable of compassion. As a Christian and a person who genuinely cares for other human beings I cannot support such a hateful person. I am sure that many of the vendors did not share the celebratory nature of a public assassination as Mary did and it truly saddens me to know that their business may suffer due to Mary's actions. I truly hope that you will consider this in making your decision so these hardworking farmers and craftspeople do not have to be affected due to her inconsiderate actions.

Thank you again for your time and consideration,
Jaden Draper

Hello,

I own the Tiki Hut Farm Market in Chase. It has come to my attention that a lot of people want to see Mary Galvanek removed from the Wednesday farm market in Reed City. I'm writing in her behalf. I don't believe there would be a market in Reed City if it was not for Mary. As you know, many markets have been tried in Reed City, and have failed. It takes a very passionate and dedicated person to make a successful market, and Mary is probably one of the most passionate and dedicated people I know.

Mary also does so much good for the surrounding communities. Her message really is of love, not hate. I truly believe her words got misinterpreted on the internet. As a farmer, and owner of my own market, I know Mary's work is important. Removing her would not just hurt her, but our community as a whole.

Sincerely,
Paul Avery

Good afternoon. I will not make the meeting tonight because of my work schedule. But I want you to know that I am a vendor at the market, Stone Column Farm, as I would like to be as defense of Mary. I don't agree with Mary but, she voiced her opinions on her own personal social media, never as a co-director of the market. In no way, has she ever made me feel uncomfortable or said anything that was inappropriate at the market. Besides, she does an excellent job running this market.

My name is Irene Wanner.

I would like to publicly voice my support for Mary Galvanek, Emily Miller and the Reed City and Cadillac farmers markets. I have been a vendor at both markets since 2024 and have only had positive interactions with both of them and my family has benefited from the revenue of my sales at the markets. Mary and Emily are kind, generous, fair and honest and deserve to have a place in the community.

Mary and Emily deserve honor and respect for their hard work, faithfulness and generous contributions that they give to our community.

To close down the market would not only harm them and be a stain on our town, but would also cause hardship for all of the vendors who work hard and show up every week to earn a living and provide for the families.

The market also provides a great place for the community to socialize in a positive environment, and obtain fresh produce and other goods grown and produced by the locals. What a waste it would be shut this down! We need it. Please keep the market and support the people making it happen.

Thank you for your consideration.
Irene Wanner

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I am reaching out to you about the downtown market meeting I am unable to attend this afternoon. As a shopper and as a vendor I believe the market has done nothing but good for our community. It gives small businesses and hobbyist the opportunity to network and offer their products. It provides a shopper with a safe welcoming environment to browse. It truly makes our small-town feel like a community. I would hate to see such an asset be discontinued and shut down. The matter that this town meeting has been called for is not the market. It is bullying and harassment against someone. We all have the right to an opinion and to disagree. However, we do not have the right to harassment, demeaning, threaten or exclude. I believe the downtown market should stay and continue to thrive.

Thank you for your time, Tracey Wirth

Hi Rich,

I just wanted to express my deep appreciation for having a farmers market in my small hometown. It has brought a sense of community to our small area. It has given my children activities free of cost within our community. It's been amazing to see vendors faces week after week and buy fresh produce. I have friends with allergies who are able to get allergen free foods in our small community. I'm not condoning Mary's words but I also feel that stopping a market in which has served our community so greatly is only going to hurt our farmers and families. The hate has to stop. Fueling hate with more hate does nothing. If everyone could show a bit more love, grace, and empathy, our community would benefit.

Thank you for all you do, Julianne Jones

Hi Rich,

Aaron Campbell here. Writing in response to the special meeting that is happening today as I will not be able to attend. First of all, I will say that I have been a *vendor* and shopper at both Reed City and Cadillac markets. have been treated with and have seen nothing but professional behavior from the market coordinators. I think the market has done positive things for both communities and should continue to do so.

Second off I would like to state that what I saw Friday at the market, that I was a vendor at, was more like bullying and intimidation of Mary and not a "protest" of the market.

Although I believe personal opinions posted in public can lead to negative consequences, a person has the right to speak them or post them.

I don't believe that it's only "good enough for me and not for thee." which is what I believe the people against Mary seem to want and that is after having discussions with some of these people on Friday.

Some of this dialogue by the "head" of the "protest" to me was that he was "trying to change the mindset of people."

I tried to remind him that people have differing opinions and that just because they aren't the same as his doesn't make either less valid. When the argument is about free speech it works both ways. It seems that the people against Mary and the market are only for free speech if it agrees with their opinions.

Third, Trying to *remove* someone from a non-elected position because a group disagrees with that person's opinion to me seems *very* wrong.

If a person runs a business and people don't agree with them, those people need to make choices on what business they will support. For example, if I don't agree with the gentleman that was leading the "protest" Friday I can choose to not do business with his construction company, but I don't believe I should be able to force a city meeting or the like and have him removed as the owner/operator of his business.

Anyway, I hope the market stays. I don't believe the hateful comments and actions toward Mary or the market are positive for the community.

I hope you take all of this into consideration as this *event* unfolds and hopefully gets resolved quickly and justly.

Thanks, and take care.

Aaron Campbell

Council,

First of all, Mary Galvanek made no political posts on either the Reed City or the Cadillac Market FB pages. And although I haven't seen all of the posts, I certainly didn't see anything that made me believe she celebrated his death.

She said that Charlie Kirk was a dangerous man. She pointed out that he said a few gun deaths were to be expected and accepted to have the right to bear arms. I doubt that he expected to become one of those statistics.

Kirk despised the term "empathy", so don't expect those that don't agree with his views to be empathetic towards him. I despise the fact that he was gunned down, but I do not mourn the man.

Mary has a right to her opinion, and the only ones that crossed a line are the people that dragged this issue onto the market pages.

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Trevor, it feels as though you also crossed a line by going on FB to rally the troops for this meeting. Unprofessional, to say the least. After reading that, I took a look at your FB page, and I find it interesting that as an elected official you were saying there was election fraud in 2021.

Even though those claims have been thoroughly debunked, I didn't see a retraction. You hosted a podcast titled: "How Should A Christian Vote?" Is there no longer a separation between church and state?

You called the Black Lives Matter movement a racist organization. You deny climate change, COVID, and you deny the fact that the assault on the capitol on January 6 was a riot, even though many of those present were charged and convicted. I personally find all of these statements offensive, but I am NOT calling for you to step down. You have a right to your opinions and you don't put any of this on city pages. I wish you would extend that same courtesy to Mary.

I have attended contentious council meetings where I admired your ability to see both sides of an issue, then cut through the bluster to find a compromise. I'd like to see you do that now.

Let this play out—if all the RC market vendors quit, and if there's a full boycott of the market over her views, then yes, we have a problem. Until then, this seems to me to be a cut and dried first amendment issue, and the city council should take no action, other than apologizing to Mary for holding this kangaroo court.

Kathy Fiebig

Exhibit B: Public letter from Mayor:

September 15, 2025

Earlier this week, our nation witnessed a tragedy that took a young man's life simply because he chose to speak his thoughts and welcomed others to discuss them in an open forum. The right to free speech is so foundational to our existence, our forefathers chose to place it first in the Bill of Rights of our great country's Constitution. The ability for our free society to voice our opinions is essential for us to debate ideas and come to a consensus that works for all. Preventing free thought and choosing to silence an opposing viewpoint should never be an action taken by a free society.

Some people are using this time to find ways to unite our country. Many people are trying to understand the situation as they do not recognize the person who was killed. A few are choosing to voice words intended to further divide our society.

The City Council of Reed City condemns the senseless action taken last week that resulted in a person's death. The City Council also recognizes the foundational right of someone to share an opinion that others may not like. Recent comments by the organizer of the Reed City Farmer's Market have caused great concern by many people in our community. Some vendors have chosen to pull out and not participate in the farmer's market. Some people have voiced that they will no longer support the market. Others are considering protesting the market.

Becoming angered by comments that one does not agree with is understandable during a time like this. However, exercising protest of any form against the farmers market does more than just hurt one person that has angered many. The impact hurts our community, it hurts the vendors who have worked hard to provide product for us to purchase, and it hurts the people who have committed their time and talents to make the farmers market a fun and successful event.

The City Council of Reed City encourages everyone to join us on Wednesday and support the people and vendors that make the market great. We encourage you to not give in to anger. Let the Reed City community be a shining light in this dark time and show our neighbors how we can unify and be greater than we were before. Let Reed City be a model for our great nation, that even though we may be angered by one, we can continue to support the many. Let us show the world that we will not be broken in times like this and that we will be stronger going forward.

The market will not be going away. It will be better, it will be stronger, and it will continue to be a focal point of our community for seasons to come.


Roger Meimert, Mayor

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Exhibit C: These letters were not received prior to the meeting and not read to the audience. They will be read on October 13, 2025 at the regular Council meeting.

I am a believer in Christ, married to a pastor. I think the opinions of Mary are poor, but I also don't believe that should cause her to lose her position with the market.

I hope this can be taken into account at the meeting this evening. I will certainly try to be there. (I'm one of the mail carriers here in RC and it is a Monday!)

Thank you,
Eva Ford

Roger and Richard,

I cannot attend tonight's meeting regarding comments made by Mary Galvanek. Emily Miller said we should email the Mayor or City Manager, so our comments can be recorded at the meeting. I feel both Mary and Emily should be removed from their positions.

Mary should be removed because she made disgusting comments about Charlie Kirk and his children. Mary then edited her post after she learned people want to remove her from her position. She also lied about the protesters activities on Friday. Mary's words and actions are unacceptable, and she has proven to be untrustworthy. If she is allowed to stay in her position the Reed City Farmers Market and vendors will lose business as many people have said they will boycott.

Emily should be removed from her position because she is supporting Mary while ignoring what she said. If Emily works with Mary she should have asked Mary step down or at the very least apologize, so it doesn't affect the Reed City Farmers Market or vendors. Emily has commented on a private Reed City Facebook group that she is just trying to advocate for the vendors. One person who replied to Emily summed it up best "Advocating for vendors or the market should be demanding a hateful person be removed for the good of the market, the vendors, and Reed City. That way vendors shouldn't have to make the decision to leave or risk losing business if they stay. That's not what you are doing."

Please consider my comments on this issue.

Thank you,
Jennifer