

CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

June 18, 2007

7:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gottman called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Vandalia City Council to order at 7:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Aldermen present were: Cable, Brosman, Duggins, Swarm, Hobler, Elliott, Bennett and Feldpouch.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was given by all present.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR AVIS MABRY:

A moment of silence was observed for business owner Avis Mabry who passed away June 6th. Our condolences to her family.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Elliott approving the minutes from the June 4th, 2007 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Brosman approving the minutes from the Special Council Meeting of June 11th, 2007 as submitted. Motion carried.

REGULAR BILLS:

A motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Hobler approving the regular bills as presented. Motion carried.

SPECIAL BILLS:

A motion was made by Cable and seconded by Brosman approving all Special Bills as submitted: SCIRP & DC

in the amount of \$2,000. For services in grant writing; Vandalia Main Street in the amount of \$7,500.00 for 1st allotment for 2007; S.W. Ill. Tourism Conv. Bureau for membership dues; Vandalia Asphalt Service in the amount of \$2,501.20 for patch mix; Andy Lester Construction in the amount of \$35,348.00 for final on marina dock replacement; Tri-County Petroleum in the amount of \$1,547.50 for fuel; Peckham, Guyton, Albers in the amount of \$3,504.94 for professional services; Tri-County Petroleum in the amount of \$8,038.66 for garage fuel; Centraz Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$1,710.00 for sewer solvent; Univar USA, Inc. in the amount of \$2,280.00 for mozofloc; G.S. Robins & Co. in the amount of \$\$2,477.38 for chemicals; Illinois EPA Fiscal Service in the amount of \$17,500.00 for permits; Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Cable and seconded by Duggins approving the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Motion Carried.

LAKE LOT TRANSFER'S:

A motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Elliott to accept the recommendation of the Lake Committee to approve the transfer of Lake Lot #65 from Jeff & Mona Beckman, Vandalia, Il. to Phil & Peggy Schildknecht, O'Fallon, Il. and Lake Lot #12 from Doug Fulk, Brownstown, Il. to Ed & Karen Garner, Highland, Il. All necessary fees have been paid. Motion carried.

LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST:

Mayor Gottman announced that he had received a letter from Brent Hunter owner of Jeb'z that he plans to relocate his business in either Highland or Effingham and will not be renewing his liquor license when it

comes up for renewal July 1st.

Mike Cunetto, owner and operator of Cunetto's Pizza & Pasta will open a second restaurant in the current location of Jeb'z and would like to have a liquor license for that location.

It was the consensus of the council to hold the license for Cunetto's.

**REQUEST FOR POLICE
DIRECTIVES MANUAL:**

A motion was made by Swarm and seconded by Hobler authorizing the creation of a Vandalia Police Department Directives Manual to be used as general orders of operation for the department. Motion carried.

T21 GRANT PROJECT:

Mayor Gottman announced that the city received no bids at the second bid letting for the downtown enhancement project on June 14th.

Mayor Gottman suggested that the city take a closer look and clean up with what's wrong with the project.

Mayor referred this off to the Street Committee and the Downtown Street Enhancement Committee along with the architect engineering firm to look at this project.

Cable asked if the fact that the state takes so long to pay on projects was a fact in no one bidding on the project?

Scott Rakers, Engineer for HMG stated that the state has already received the Federal money for the project and didn't know if that did play in a factor.

Feldpouch asked Rakers if he was able to get in contact with any contractors to see why there was no bids put in for the project? Rakers said that he had not.

Feldpouch questioned if the city decided to shut down the project what would the city be out?

City Administrator Morani stated the city would be out about \$250,000.00 at this time including a grant that the city already received.

Mayor Gottman said that he would hate to give up the project and lose all the federal dollars that would go into it.

Street committee chair, Brosman then called for a meeting of the committee for next Monday, June 25th at 6:00 in the Council Chambers.

The next bid letting is set for August 3rd. All bid specs can be picked up at the I.D.O.T. building in Effingham.

MORANI REPORT:

Morani stated that more than 25 applications have been received for the City Administrative Secretary position. Interviews will be scheduled for next week.

Morani reported to the council that two retailers are currently negotiating to locate in Vandalia. One of them being a "hard-line retailer" and the other being a restaurant.

Mayor Gottman also mentioned that he is working with a manufacturer in the community in working to locate a fill plant in Vandalia.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Brosman reported that the street crew is finishing up on the oil and chipping of roads for this year.

Cable reported that the city received a letter from the Department of Natural Resources a notice to all interested parties that an application has been received from the city for a permit authorizing the construction of a stone dike and the placement of riprap on the eastern bank of the Kaskaskia River.

The letter also says any comments on the issue can be directed to Jerry Bishoff, with the Department of Natural Resources up unto June 28, 2007.

Cable also stated because the Kaskaskia River is on a restricted list for the DNR, they would have to wait to see if there is any public comment on the issue.

Cable reported that work is continuing on the Fillmore Street water tower.

Cable said the contractor is trying to find a way to stop the drift of sandblasting material into the neighborhood swimming pools, houses and yards.

Cable stated that the interior work on the water tower looks to be completed at this point.

Swarm gave the monthly police report for May.

Fines in the amount of \$22,274.00 were paid with the city part being \$6,780.00.

Hobler announced that a Lake Committee Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 7th at 8:30 A.M. at the Marina.

Elliott reported that the crowd was down for the Grand Levee this year.

Elliott reported that Gov. Blagojevich had allotted \$440,000.00 for the Lincoln Bicentennial Birthday Celebration coming up.

Various cities requested grant money for the project and Vandalia submitted a grant along with Greenville and others from this region and none of them were accepted.

Elliott remarked that some of the suburbs of Chicago were given grants and some of the projects were questionable as far as a link directly to Lincoln.

MAIN STREET REPORT:

Dana announced that the Fifth Street parking lot is now open.

Dana reported that the Main Street membership drive will begin in July.

Concerts in the Park 2007 will be held on Thursday evenings beginning August 2nd from 7:00-8:00 P.M. in Lincoln Park. The concerts will run through September 6th.

Dana announced the following ribbon cuttings to be held:

June 29th Noon- FCH offices on New York Drive

June 30th 10:00 A.M. - The Zone

Mayor Gottman announced that the Holiday Inn Express will have an Open House on Saturday, June 23rd from 11:00 A.M. -3:00 P.M.

Mayor Gottman announced that five applications have been received for the economic development/tourism director position. Applications will be reviewed beginning July 9th.

Mayor Gottman announced that the council will address the control of vicious or dangerous dogs at the July 2nd meeting.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Gottman reported that the City received the first quarter franchise fees for 2007 from NewWave Communications in the amount of \$5,648.52.

Mayor Gottman directed City Administrator Morani to arrange a meeting for representatives from New Wave Communications to attend a council meeting for a question and answer session.

Mayor Gottman stated that he recently met with a representative from the Illinois Attorney General's office to set up some community seminars on identity theft.

Mayor Gottman reported that he received a letter from Dana Whiteman, Director of Main Street requesting the initial disbursement of \$7500.00 of the approved \$15,000.00 for this year.

COUNCIL CONCERN:

Cable suggested that Main Street place two entrance signs at their parking lot.

AUDIENCE:

Several concerned citizens spoke on the parking ban on Sixth Street.

Tim Meyer, who resides on Sixth St. stated he was against taking the parking away. He felt that this was the only way they had to regulate the

speed on Sixth Street was with parked cars. He remarked that several children live on the street, and predicted that traffic will move even faster with no cars parked on the street.

Dana Andrews said that without on-street parking, there are not enough parking spaces available for her family's vehicles.

Todd Best who also lives on Sixth St. felt that parking on Sixth St. is a safety issue, a safety issue because when you leave the north end of Sixth St. heading to the south towards town that hill you have parking on both sides so that makes one lane to go up the middle of the road, you can't see who is coming from the other side of the hill and if you meet, its going to be head on.

Lori Banal, owner of Totally You, stated that by taking away the parking in front of her business will make her elderly customers now have to walk greater distances and the result of side-street crowding.

Courtney Scott said he thought the congestion and safety concerns could be addressed by changing to parking on one side.

Mr. Scott also stated that emergency vehicles should be using Fifth or Eighth St. as their main routes, not Sixth Street.

Bruce Richards felt that the congestion problems created by the parked cars outweigh the inconvenience caused by the ban. He stated that he felt it was safer with the cars out of the way.

Chris Young stated that there is no easy answer, but told the council that signs will have to go up and the speed limit will have to be enforced to keep the street safe.

Everyone present felt that the main issue is safety.

Mayor Gottman stated that most of the calls he received were in favor of the ban.

Brosman remarked that he thought he would hear more complaints from those residents who were impacted by the ban.

Brosman felt with the majority in favor of the elimination of parking, he didn't see the need to take any action on the issue at this time.

Elliott stated that she would favor one-sided parking as a compromise.

After hearing several legitimate concerns from the audience the council took no action to change the ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT :

There being no further business to bring before the Council, a motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Duggins to adjourn. Motion carried.

