

CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting

January 18, 2010
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: Brosman, Bennett, Black, Cable and Swarm. Hobler and McNutt were absent. Feldpouch joined the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED:

A moment of silence was observed for Dennis Gerkin, Sr. and John Hulskotter. Both were businessmen in Vandalia. Our condolences to their families.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Black and seconded by Swarm approving the minutes from January 4, 2010 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

REGULAR BILLS:

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

SPECIAL BILLS:

A motion was made by Black and seconded by Brosman approving all Special Bills as presented: Burnside, Dees, Johnston, Sheafor & Kelly in the amount of \$9,549.92 for attorney

fees; Lowenbaum Partnership, LLC in the amount of \$2,002.50 for legal services; Civic Systems in the amount of \$3,092.00 for support for software; Ameren IP in the amount of \$22,048.71 for electric; Amren IP in the amount of \$10,162.05 for street lights; Governmental Consulting Solutions in the amount of \$2,000.00 for consulting services; Miller Brothers in the amount of \$7,575.00 for balance due on installing storyboards; Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush in the amount of \$3,625.00 for legal fees for the Vandalia Lake; South Central FS Inc. in the amount of \$35,414.91 for TIF reimbursement; Tri-County Petroleum in the amount of \$7,398.01 for fuel; HMG in the amount of \$23,297.65 for work on the Gallatin Street Project; Hurst Rosche Engineers in the amount of \$30,866.00 for pay request HR 170-1389; Vandevanter Engineering in the amount of \$11,219.00 for the West Main St. sewer extension; Arthur Gallagher Risk Management in the amount of \$40,261.00 for partial payment on liability insurance for the city; Mid Illinois Concrete Inc. in the amount of \$2,307.75 patch mix; G.S. Robins & Co. in the amount of \$7,343.43 for supplies; Precise Construction in the amount of \$1,725.90 for pay request #1. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Swarm and seconded by Brosman approving the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Motion carried.

**COUNTRYSIDE PET CLINIC
WITH PHIL MCKINNEY:**

Phil McKinney DVM, representing Countryside Pet Clinic and The Hawthorne Family of Practices gave a brief presentation of their services at Countryside Pet Clinic as well as the Hawthorne Animal Hospital.

Dr. McKinney stated at their locations they try to support the efforts of local civic and volunteer groups in helping control animal overpopulation and see to it that animals without homes are helped to find good homes.

**RESOLUTION #2010-1-18-A:
APPROVING PARTICIPATION OF
THE CITY OF VANDALIA,
ILLINOIS IN THE 2010 CENSUS:**

A motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Black adopting Resolution 2010-1-18-A, Approving Participation Of The City of Vandalia, Illinois In The 2010 Census.

Voting by roll call: Bennett, yea; Black, yea; Swarm, yea; Brosman, yea; Cable, yea; Feldpouch, Hobler and McNutt were absent. Motion carried.

T21 GRANT PROJECT:

Mayor Gottman stated that the work on the downtown project has been shut down, due to the weather.

Mayor Gottman stated that he along with Jimmy Morani are working with Hanks Excavating to determine the cost associated with the opening of Gallatin Street.

Mayor Gottman said that the downtown project is about 98% completed.

**GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTING
SOLUTIONS UPDATE:**

Mayor Gottman said that he along with Morani were in a conference call with Chris Stone, consulting engineer with Governmental Consulting Solutions earlier today about the inmate population at the Vandalia Correctional Center and working to get the number up as much as possible.

Mayor Gottman said the current inmate number at VCC is a little over 900, with a capacity of 1550. The goal is to have the prison at maximum capacity by April 1st of this year, so

it will count towards the city's census numbers.

Mayor Gottman also mentioned that Chris Stone is working on getting area money released from the Capital Bill.

Mayor Gottman and Morani are both working on supplying a list of the top three priority project items in the community for the Capital plan money.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

Morani asked that the aldermen bring their municipal code books to City Hall to have the updated code ordinances inserted in their books.

Morani stated that the sales tax figures are down for the month of October along with other revenues.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cable reported that the council should have more information in regard to the river intake by the middle of February.

Cable recommended the council have another work session sometime in February to talk about the problem and possible solutions.

A motion was made by Cable and seconded by Brosman to purchase a new pump for the lift station in the amount of \$21,450.00 Cable stated to repair the old one would cost \$12,000. Motion carried.

Swarm gave the monthly report for December. There was \$17,866.22 in fines paid. The city's portion was \$6,183.00.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MAYOR
GOTTMAN:**

Mayor Gottman clarified the rumor that Rob Schukar, Lake Manager will be back in the spring.

He is interim Chief of Police for St. Elmo, but will return to his position as Lake Manager in the spring.

Mayor Gottman reported that he visited The Depot today. He said that they are moving along well with the remodeling of the building.

Mayor Gottman also mentioned that Craig-O's hope to be open very soon.

Mayor Gottman reported that he along with Morani met with the SILDC and FOP to discuss the city's budget and ways to reduce costs or increase revenue.

Mayor Gottman reported that he along with Dana Smith were appointed by the Fayette County Board to represent Vandalia and the County on the Southwestern Illinois Tourism Board.

Mayor Gottman mentioned that minutes from the Vandalia Tourism Commission Meeting from January 12, 2010 were included in your packet along with the Southwestern Illinois Visitors Guide for 2010.

Mayor Gottman attended the Southern Illinois Mayor's Association meeting. Lobby Day is set for mid February.

Mayor Gottman said he will be attending representing the City of Vandalia as well as a board member for the Illinois Municipal League.

Mayor Gottman announced that there will be a census meeting on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 5:00 P.M. at City Hall. Mayor Gottman invited mayors from other communities, along with members from area schools, the county and media to be on hand for the meeting.

Mayor Gottman told the council that he received a card from former State Senator Frank Watson. The card stated that Frank is doing well and hoped all is well in Vandalia and that he believes the sale of the former Thomson Correctional Center would help the Vandalia prison.

COUNCIL CONCERNS:

Mayor Gottman asked that everyone keep the people in Haiti in their prayers.

Alderman Swarm said that the National Road Interpretive Center recently received a half of a covered wagon for the center.

Kenneth Zimmermann recently finished building half of a covered wagon that will be displayed.

The unveiling of the covered wagon will take place on the first anniversary of the Interpretive Center on February 12th at 5:00 P.M.

Cable mentioned that Sloan Implement is now open and thought the city should look into the installation of more street lights near their facility.

Cable thought that there should be somewhere around seven more street lights near the Sloan building to provide adequate lighting.

Mayor Gottman suggested that City Administrator Morani get with Southwestern Electric to see what they can do for the city.

AUDIENCE:

Tony Lawler owner of property at 127 & 128 N. Eighth Street asked if the City of Vandalia would Quit Claim a 4' to 5' piece of property south of the town branch to him. The City will refer this off to City Attorney Johnston and bring back a recommendation to the Council on February 1st.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Black and seconded by Feldpouch to adjourn. Motion carried.

