

**CITY COUNCIL
Special Council Meeting**

May 13, 2013
5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gottman called the Special Council Meeting of the Vandalia City Council to order at 5:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

ROLL CALL:

Aldermen present were: Stunkel, Crawford, N. Clark, Hobler, Beesley, B. John Clark and Lester. Swarm was absent.

**PRESENTATION FROM SOUTH
CENTRAL FS, INC. ON
ANHYDROUS FACILITY:**

South Central FS, CEO Byron Sikma explained to the council the proposed anhydrous facility which would be located on the western edge of Vandalia near Pine Ridge Homes and Laack Flooring Innovations.

Sikma said that they have signed a purchase agreement with George and Shirley Little for twenty acres.

Included in the plans are a new 14,500 ton dry fertilizer building, anhydrous storage, a bulk seed facility for corn and beans, a storage warehouse, a maintenance shop and office space. The whole project will cost approximately \$5 million.

The number of full time jobs would grow from 11 to around 20 and the number of seasonal positions would increase from 6 to 14.

South Central FS is working with Milano and Grunloh Engineers in Effingham on a site plan and water retention plan and with SKS Engineers of Decatur on soil boring and fertilizer building foundation design. The company hopes to begin dirt work and excavation on the site in July and begin construction on the dry fertilizer building in August, pending permit approvals. Construction on the office, shop, warehouse and crop protection facilities would start in September and the facility would become operational by March of 2014.

If the proposed time frame works, the company's anhydrous plant would move from the current location on Hillsboro Rd. to the new site by July 2014.

Alderwoman Dorothy Crawford questioned whether they had planned for potential safety issues, especially relating to the proposed anhydrous facility.

Crawford mentioned the incident in Altamont that an attempted theft and subsequent leak of anhydrous at the plant in Altamont resulted in the evacuation of resident within a mile radius.

Crawford said if you take a mile radius from this proposed location, that takes in a lot of homes, restaurants and businesses and a huge chunk of Interstate 70.

Sikma responded by saying that there would be no anhydrous placed in the new facility until all safety requirements and inspections were completed.

Crawford suggested that we get feedback from residents and business owners in that area before we vote on this matter. She did not feel comfortable moving forward without hearing what citizens have to say about it.

A motion was made by N. Clark and seconded by B. John Clark to move forward with the project.

After more discussion continued on the project it was decided to hold a public hearing so residents and businesses could voice their opinions.

N. Clark withdrew his motion along with B. John Clark.

**PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD AT
6:30P.M. AT CITY HALL:**

Mayor Gottman announced that a Public Hearing will be held at City Hall on Monday, May 20th at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by N. Clark and seconded by Stunkel to adjourn at 6:28 P.M. Motion carried.

