

CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting

November 16, 2015
7:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

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: Swarm, Rebbe, Hubler, Crawford, Hobler, B. John Clark & Stunkel. Lester was absent.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

A moment of silence was observed for the people of Paris, France after the deadly terrorist attacks across Paris last Friday.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Hobler and seconded Stunkel approving the minutes from the November 2, 2015 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

REGULAR BILLS:

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

SPECIAL BILLS:

A motion was made by Swarm and seconded by B. John Clark approving the Special Bills as presented: Johnston, Connor & Sheafor in the amount of \$1,741.75 for legal fees; Leader Union in the amount of \$1,698.93 for October publishing; Direct Energy in the amount of \$17,098.12 for electric; Brenntag Mid South Inc. in the amount of \$11,579.51 for electric; Hawkins, Inc. in the amount of \$4,144.10 for

chemicals; Kaskaskia Springs Water in the amount of \$2,513.77 for 5.411 million gals of water delivered. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Crawford approving the Treasurer's Report to be filed for audit. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF 2016 COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

A motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Stunkel approving the 2016 Council Meeting Dates as submitted. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF 2016 HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE LIST:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by B. John Clark to approve the 2016 Holiday Observance List as submitted. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT ON A NEW VFD FOR LAGOON EFFLUENT LIFT STATION AT SEWER PLANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,871.56:

A motion was made by Swarm and seconded by Hubler authorizing payment for a new VFD (Variable Frequency Drive) For Lagoon Effluent Lift Station at the Waste Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$2,871.56 from Vandevanter Engineering. Motion carried.

TOURISM COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 13, 2015:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Crawford approving the Tourism Commission Meeting Minutes from October 13, 2015 as presented. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Gottman publicly thanked Robin Schukar for donating the Christmas tree at the top of the hill.

Mayor Gottman said that the Vandalia Police Department will be collecting any donations again this year for the program "Shop With A Cop". Donations will be accepted through the end of November.

Mayor Gottman publicly thanked Jean Stombaugh and her group for decorating the Lincoln Park for the Olde Tyme Christmas.

Mayor Gottman attended the KC Vision Meeting on November 2nd at Kaskaskia Community College.

November 3rd Mayor Gottman met with a business developer to talk about development in Vandalia.

November 9th a Water & Sewer Committee Meeting was held to review the preliminary plans for the new Water Plant.

November 10th Mayor Gottman attended the Tourism Commission Meeting here at City Hall.

November 13th Mayor Gottman attended the Olde Tyme Christmas. There was a large crowd on hand for the event.

Mayor Gottman publicly thanked Donelle Conaway for working so hard on The Olde Tyme Christmas on her own time. She was the one who brought the Chime Masters Carillon, the Live Reindeer, the Live Nativity, Santa & Mrs. Claus, all of the characters from the movie Frozen.

As always, Donelle put her heart and soul into planning this event.

Mayor Gottman said that he spoke with several people that would like to work with Donelle to make it grow even bigger.

Mayor Gottman reported that several from the city met with representatives from IDOT to discuss the Motor Fuel Tax Funds and the Surface Transportation Urban Funds and how they work and what they can be used for.

Stunkel asked about the Thrill Hill bridge and Mayor Gottman said that we talked about that and it would be 2017-2018 before we could do construction.

Mayor Gottman said right now the way our monies are committed we do not have the money to do it.

Another item that was discussed was the lighting downtown.

There is some concern from several individuals that it is too dark downtown.

Mayor Gottman will be in touch with someone that oversees that project.

The Vandalia Historical Society is hosting the 2015 Christmas Gala at the Vandalia Statehouse on Friday, December 11th from 6:00-8:30 p.m. and everyone is invited.

Mayor Gottman shared with the City Council and the public a letter that Public Works Director, Marlin Filer received from a Vandalia resident thanking him for the excellent service that the residents of the city receive from the department.

Mayor Gottman shared with the council a letter he received from the city's engineering firm, Crawford & Associates which was a recommendation on the downtown exposed brick

exterior walls on Dennis Grubaugh's and Nedra's building.

Mayor Gottman reported that IDOT did receive the package from Hurst-Rosche Engineering on the Fifth & Randolph Street Bridge project.

The City of Vandalia is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2015 Olde Tyme Christmas Window Decorating Contest was First National Bank of Vandalia.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor Gottman told the council that one of the police squad cars has a transmission problem that would cost \$4,000 to \$5,000 to fix.

Mayor Gottman said that the car is not even worth that so he is asking to seek bids for a new squad car.

The money would come from the DUI Fund which has \$23,993.44 in it at this time.

In addition to purchasing the car, it would cost roughly \$2,500 to transfer equipment from one vehicle to another.

A motion was made by B. John Clark and seconded by Crawford authorizing the city to seek bids from the two local car dealers in Vandalia. Motion carried.

Hubler reported that he is still looking into the green burials at the Vandalia Cemeteries. He stated that it would be a way to generate more cemetery revenue. He will update the council when he has further information.

Mayor Gottman announced that the City's sexton, David Wodtka is out due to a broken ankle.

Mayor Gottman wished to thank Marlin Filer and his crew for handling the cemetery duties until David can come back.

Filer thanked Barbara McCart for helping him with finding burial plots and so forth.

Mayor Gottman reported that the front doors at City Hall will need to be replaced.

By replacing the front doors they must meet ADA standards. Mayor Gottman noted that the project does qualify for the use of TIF funds.

COUNCIL CONCERNS:

Hubler stated that the Code Official's report should be more in detail. The council felt that the report needed more information.

He said, that he felt we need a report monthly and he should attend a council meeting periodically to explain his report.

Hubler said that he has complaints, but he has no idea of what is going on and Hubler would like to have more detail so he can report back to the people.

Mayor Gottman told the council that he (Keith) is available if you have questions.

Mayor Gottman told the council members that he will sit down with Keith and talk to him about the report.

A question in regard to if a building permit was issued to any individual who has a camping lot that built a roof off of a trailer at the Vandalia Lake is in question.

The council was in agreement if there was no permit issued, he will be asked to remove it.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by B. John Clark and seconded by Hobler to adjourn. Motion carried.


CITY CLERK