

CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting

November 18, 2013
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 were: Neil Clark, Beesley, Crawford, Swarm, Lester, B. John Clark, Hobler and Stunkel.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

A moment of silence was observed for those that either lost their lives or damage to their property after a devastating tornado in Central Illinois took place Sunday.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Swarm and seconded by Stunkel approving the minutes from the November 4, 2013 as presented. Motion carried.

REGULAR BILLS:

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

SPECIAL COUNCIL BILLS:

A motion was made by N. Clark and seconded by B. John Clark approving the Special Bills as presented: IMLRMA in the amount of \$138,263.46 for 2014 Min/Max Contribution; Historical Vandalia, Inc. in the amount of \$2,837.62 for salaries and

etc.; Dennis Grubaugh in the amount of \$7,500.00 for TIF reimbursement for former State Farm Ins. Building; John H. Crawford & Associates in the amount of \$24,400.00 for the design engineering for Fast Stop; South Central FS, Inc. in the amount of \$8,181.58 for fuel; St. Jacob Winwater Works in the amount of \$6,425.75 for supplies; Centraz Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$2,874.00 for sewer solvent; Brenntag Mid South Inc. in the amount of \$12,010.06 for chemical supplies; Direct Energy in the amount of \$6,392.82 for electric; Vandevanter Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$3,199.00 for the annual maintenance contract. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

A motion was made by N. Clark and seconded by Stunkel approving the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Motion carried.

LAKE LOT #27 TRANSFER FROM GLEN DANIELS TO LARRY & JANET RENCH:

A motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Stunkel approving the transfer of Lake Lot #27 from Glen Daniels, Vandalia to Larry & Janet Rench, Mulberry Grove, Il. All necessary fees have been paid. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL, FINANCE & INSURANCE MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 4, 2013:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler approving the Personnel, Finance & Insurance Meeting Minutes from November 4, 2013 as presented. Motion carried.

ACCEPT OR REJECT BIDS ON EQUIPMENT FOR NEW POLICE VEHICLE:

A motion was made by N. Clark and seconded by Stunkel approving the bid for equipment for new squad vehicle in the amount of \$5,410.00 from Whiteside Communications in Sorento, IL. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #2013-11-18-A:
AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF
THE IMLRMA MINIMUM/MAXIMUM
CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT

A motion was made by N. Clark and seconded by Stunkel approving Ordinance #2013-11-18-A, Authorizing The Execution Of The IMLRMA Minimum/Maximum Contribution Agreement in the amount of \$138,263.46 for 2014. This is an increase of \$2,741.25 from last year.

The coverage includes Property, G/L, Professional Liability, Auto, Worker's Compensation and Umbrella insurance coverage.

Roll Call vote: Beesley, yea; Stunkel, yea; Lester, yea; B. John Clark, yea; Crawford, yea; N. Clark; Swarm, yea. Hobler, yea. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION FOR PREPARATION
OF 2013 TAX LEVY:

Mayor Gottman explained to the council that the city's accounting firm, Timmermann & Company prepared two levy options for the council to consider.

Option A, would increase the 2013 levy a little over 3% compared to the 2012 levy, which includes an increase in the police pension fund of \$19,372.89.

Option B, would still increase police pension level, but would lower the amount levied for the Fire Protection by \$19,373.00, which would result in no increase over the 2012 levy.

Alderman Beesley said that the city will have a substantially larger payment on the truck coming than the one that just got paid off.

Beesley said that we are going to have to find more money to pay for that, so decreasing fire protection would not be a good idea.

Alderman Swarm agreed with Beesley that decreasing the fire protection would not be a good idea.

Alderman Lester said that he would support keeping it the same and that fire protection needs to go back to what it was last year, then the corporate levy needs to go down \$19,373.00.

Alderwoman Crawford agreed with Lester. She remarked by saying she definitely don't want to go raising taxes.

It was the consensus of the council to find a way to cut \$19,373.00 from the corporate levy.

Mayor Gottman said that the tax levy will be voted on at the December 2nd meeting.

CLERK REPORT:

Clerk Bowen reiterated that she did not want to see taxes increase for the citizens of Vandalia by saying she has contacted the State of Illinois in regard to the outstanding Water & Sewer bills for the Vandalia Correctional Center.

The Correctional Center was in arrear of \$77,872.76 for water usage and \$30,401.25 for sewer.

On October 17, 2013 the city received a check for \$36,244.32 for usage for September.

The invoice for August in the amount of \$41,628.44 was evidently overlooked.

Bowen made a call to Springfield to speak with her contact to let them know that there was an oversight on

the August billing in the amount of \$41,628.22 and the September sewer bill in the amount of \$17,762.50 and while we are reviewing your account you also have a current water bill in the amount of \$39,297.16.

On Friday, November 15th the City received a check from the State of Illinois in the amount of \$98,688.10. They are current at this time.

Bowen reported that in 2011 the Correctional Center was over \$203,000 in arrears. We can't have that happen again.

Bowen said that she has a good working relationship with Springfield.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Alderman Beesley announced that the Water and Sewer Committee will meet on Monday, December 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss the proposals for design/preliminary engineering for a potential future water plant.

Mayor Gottmana reported that he spoke with the engineering firm in regard to the west interchange water project.

Mayor Gottman said that will be going out for bid shortly.

Mayor Gottman said that John Moyer Public Works Director has met with the engineering firm.

Mayor Gottman stated that Byron Sikma would like to have water to the new site by March 1, 2014.

Alderwoman Crawford reported that the winner of the 2013 Olde Tyme Christmas window decorating contest was Tiger Lily Florist. Second place was Our Place Youth Center and Third Place went to Sunshine House Health Food Store.

It was reported that a good turnout was on hand for Olde Tyme Christmas.

Crawford said that it was so successful that next year she is going to suggest that we close the street at least for Friday night for the holiday festival.

Mayor Gottman said that they tried this before and it hurt the event.

Mayor Gottman said closing traffic in all four blocks cuts down on the parking and people won't come downtown.

Mayor Gottman said that he would like input from the downtown merchants before the event next year.

Safety issues are a big concern in the downtown area. The intersections are very, very dark in the downtown area.

Mayor Gottman stated that he believes the state should allow additional lighting to be put on those intersections.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MAYOR
GOTTMAN:**

There is a new business in the former Village Shoppe building.

Wayne Swofford will be opening a business that will provide Fed Ex, printing and other services.

Mayor Gottman announced that The Huddle House is on track to open in December.

A second restaurant, Embers is hoping to open in March of 2014.

Mayor Gottman spoke to the council in regard to large commercial buildings.

As you know we have a couple of vacated buildings that businesses have left.

Mayor Gottman said that there are communities our size passing ordinances if those buildings were to be sold or salvaged those properties would have to be taken back to natural earth. That means getting rid of all buildings, asphalt, piping and everything on the property.

Mayor Gottman said in other towns, owners of large commercial buildings have walked away from those properties.

Mayor Gottman's recommendation is to have Attorney Jack Johnston draft an ordinance that requires the owners of such properties to have to take it all back to natural earth.

The council was in agreement to have the attorney draft such an ordinance.

Mayor Gottman announced that State Rep. John Cavaletto held a public seminar on concealed carry this evening at the American Legion.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being nothing further to discuss a motion was made by Beesley and seconded by Stunkel to adjourn. Motion carried.

