

CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting

October 5, 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 were: Hubler, B. John Clark, Swarm, Rebbe, Hobler, Lester and Stunkel. Crawford was absent.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

A moment of silence was observed for Bob Newcomb, father of Judd Newcomb, a former Vandalia Police Officer.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Swarm and seconded by Stunkel approving the minutes from the September 21, 2015 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

REGULAR BILLS:

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

SPECIAL COUNCIL BILLS:

A motion was made by B. John Clark and seconded by Stunkel approving the Special Bills as presented: Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$3,448.49 for street lights; Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$12,488.50 for fire truck payment;

Illinois Director of Employment in the amount of \$3,987.22 for 3rd quarter unemployment; South Central FS in the amount of \$7,341.43 for lake fuel; Octochem in the amount of \$91,646.63 for Payment #3 on TIF Reimbursement; Razmus Demolition Services in the amount of \$93,804.45 final invoice on collapsed building; Round Table Design, Inc. in the amount of \$2,900.00 for a second opinion on the collapsed building; Centraz Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$2,970.00 for chemical supplies; Brenntag Mid South Inc. in the amount of \$7,296.22 for chemical supplies; Hawkins, Inc. in the amount of \$6,171.24 for chemicals; Vandevanter Engineer Inc. in the amount of \$6,826.96 for annual maintenance agreement; First National Bank in the amount of \$181,278.13 for payment on GO Bonds. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Hobler and seconded by B. John Clark approving the Treasurer's Report to be filed for audit. Motion carried.

JAMIE HIRES SPEAKS ON NOT FOR PROFIT PROGRAM:

Jamie Hires, Field Organizer for Elevate Energy spoke briefly to the council in ways to save money on energy bills.

**RESOLUTION #2015-10-5-A:
APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE CITY OF VANDALIA AND HACH**

A motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Swarm adopting Resolution #2015-10-5-A, Approving An Agreement Between The City of Vandalia, Illinois and Hach.

The city will pay Hach \$662.00 for a one year agreement for regularly scheduled preventative maintenance on the Spectrophotometer 3900 and calibrations at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Roll Call: Swarm, yea; Hubler, yea; Stunkel, yea; Rebbe, yea; Lester, yea, Hobler, yea; B. John Clark, yea; Crawford, absent. Motion carried.

**AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE
PALLET TRUCK FOR WATER PLANT:**

A motion was made by Swarm and seconded by B. John Clark accepting the low bid from Black Equipment Co. in the amount of \$4,000 for a Heavy Duty Low Lift Walkie Pallet Truck.

The city also received a bid from Bahrens Equipment out of Effingham, Il. for a Toyota Electric Pallet Truck in the amount of \$4,500.00.

Council approved the low bid from Black Equipment. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF ZONING BOARD OF
ADJUSTMENTS MEETING MINUTES
FROM SEPTEMBER 30, 2015:**

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by B. John Clark approving the minutes from the Zoning Board of Adjustments Meeting Minutes from September 30, 2015 as submitted. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #2015-10-5-B:
APPROVING A MASTER TAX-EXEMPT
LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN U.S. BANCORP GOVERNMENT
LEASING & FINANCING, INC. AS
LESSOR AND THE CITY OF VANDALIA
AS LESSEE**

A motion was made by B. John Clark and seconded by Swarm adopting Resolution #2015-10-5-B, Approving A Master Tax-Exempt Lease Purchase Agreement Between U.S. Bancorp Government Leasing & Financing, Inc., As Lessor and The City of Vandalia As Lessee.

Roll call vote: Swarm, yea; Rebbe, yea; Lester, yea; Hubler, yea; Hobler, nay; Stunkel, yea; B. John Clark, yea; Crawford, absent. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Gottman reported that demolition of the buildings at the corner of fifth & Gallatin has been completed.

The next step will be to put together the hours that the Public Works Department worked on the project cleanup.

Gottman said the total amount will be applied to the city's lien against the property.

Gottman said he will be talking to the owners of those two adjacent buildings and that he recommended that a structural engineer be contacted to take a look at the condition of the buildings.

He will be talking with the owners to get their ideas of how to improve the appearance of their exposed walls.

Mayor Gottman said that there are six buildings with exposed walls that could use some work and that he wants to bring the owners of those buildings together to discuss what can be done.

Mayor Gottman said the 2014 real estate taxes on the property at 501, 503 & 505 W. Gallatin was not paid this year in the amount of \$1,533.29 plus interest.

MidLand State Bank paid the taxes on that property in 2011, 2012 & 2013.

Mayor Gottman asked Ryan Connor, City Attorney his opinion on this? Connor said If this thing is seen through completion our lien (the city) would be superior to even a tax lien.

Connor said that he don't believe that the delinquent taxes pose a particular problem to the city's tax lien.

Hubler asked how does the city go about acquiring the property where the buildings stood that were demolished. Connor said, that it is a long process to acquire the title.

Connor said that one factor that favors the city's attempt to obtain the land, is that there weren't a lot of people claiming to take ownership once it was determined that the buildings needed to be taken down.

Mayor Gottman reported that the last payment received from the State of Illinois on the MFT Funds was in July. The last payment received on the Video Gaming was in June. The Sales tax was received in September.

A copy of the 2015 permits was made available by Code Official Keith Meadows.

A project status report was made available from Hurst-Rosche, Inc.

Mayor Gottman reported that he had a lengthy discussion with Ken Johnson with NewWave Communications.

Mayor Gottman is very unhappy about another increase in the service.

He along with other aldermen felt that the quality was not there. The service techs do all they can do to provide what they can.

NewWave Communications will have a rate increase November 1, 2015.

Mayor Gottman received a letter from the Brownstown VFW thanking the Vandalia Fire Department & Police Department for their participation in the Nine-Mile Gut Check from Vandalia

to Brownstown VFW.

Mayor Gottman reported that he met with officials from Enbridge Pipeline on where there at and where they are going. They will continue to have a presence in our community even after the line is built.

Enbridge did award to replace two windows at the Old State Capitol building.

Mayor Gottman will be working with Fire Chief Keith Meadows to see what the Fire Department can apply for grants through Enbridge Pipeline.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Works Director Marlin Filer reported that they had some demonstrations on a tar machine. He will review the quotes with the committee before the next meeting.

Filer said that the hot water pressure washer is also breaking down.

Filer was hoping to get another year out of it, but continues to breakdown.

Filer said that he had \$3,800.00 in the budget for a road grader blade instead of that he would like to purchase the hot water pressure machine which is \$3,190.00 and said that he could get by without the road grader blade until next summer.

Mayor Gottman asked for the quotes for review.

Marty Huskey is working with the City of Casey in purchasing some anthracite.

Huskey is requesting two pallets to help throughout the winter.

The Public Works Department crew painted the overhangs. Mayor Gottman said that it looks a lot better.

He asked Filer to have his crew paint the drive thru also and remove the First Bank name.

Hobler announced the Lake Committee will meet Saturday, October 10th at 11:00 a.m. at the Vandalia Lake Marina.

Mayor Gottman announced that the Armed Forces Tribute is scheduled for this coming weekend, October 10th-October 11th.

Mayor Gottman reported that there was a very small turnout for the Harvest Festival.

Mayor Gottman said that will be discussed at the next Tourism Commission Meeting.

Planning for the Olde Tyme Christmas to be held on November 13th & 14th is well under way.

COMMENTS FROM ALDERMEN:

Alderman B. John Clark mentioned that Enbridge employees have been spending a lot of money in Vandalia. Clark said that they are even buying new vehicles in town.

B. John Clark stressed that he was very much opposed a new library. There is a lot of people asking why we need a new library and concerned what it will do to their taxes.

Swarm agreed with B. John Clark on this subject.

Lester asked if a list of sidewalk repairs have been made yet.

Nothing at this time. Filer said a letter has been sent out to contractors for the sidewalk work in front of the collapsed building to be done in the near future.

Mayor Gottman said that he would talk with Filer before the next council meeting to bring a recommendation back to the council.

A letter was read by Jason Arndt of The Money Pit where the business owners in the downtown area would like to see the lot used for a parking lot.

Arndt said that the parking is limited on Gallatin Street and that additional parking close to downtown businesses would help promote business.

Swarm responded by saying this has been a pet peeve of mine since the 80's.

Swarm said that some of the merchants are the ones that park on Gallatin Street.

Swarm said that the merchants are the first ones to complain that there's no parking.

Swarm said that the city has an ordinance in place that limits parking on Gallatin St. to two hours. Swarm said that he's been trying to get that enforced.

Chief Ray said that his officers did enforce the ordinance when asked to do so by the council and the police got a lot of complaints.

Ray said at this time they have been doing complaint driven. Unless you want to go another route.

Dennis Grubaugh who owns several of the buildings downtown, said that individuals who live in second-story apartment's park on Gallatin Street and rent paid by those individuals make the buildings viable.

Hobler said that there is no great answer.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being nothing further to bring before the council a motion was made by B. John Clark and seconded by Swarm to adjourn. Motion carried.

CITY CLERK

