

CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

August 17, 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 Robert "Bob" Anderson who formerly owned a jewelry store in downtown Vandalia.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Swarm and seconded Stunkel approving the minutes from the August 3, 2015 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

REGULAR BILLS:

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

SPECIAL BILLS:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by B. John Clark approving the Special Bills as presented: Mark Boelling in the amount of \$1,620.00 for July & August mowing; Direct Energy in the amount of \$13,740.58 for electric; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$ 3,043.66 for street lights; Vandalia Asphalt in the amount of \$2,250.40 for patch mix; South Central FS, Inc. in the amount of 16,069.64 for fuel; Mark Brunk in

the amount of \$7,294.58 for TIF reimbursement on new dental office; Illini Restoration, Inc. in the amount of \$29,700.00 for masonry repairs on City Hall; J.F. Brennan Co., Inc. in the amount of \$11,295.00 for inspection of water tower; Brenntag Mid South, Inc. in the amount of \$8,097.78 for chemicals; Razmus Demolition Services in the amount of \$55,587.75 for partial payment to handle the demolition of buildings on Gallatin St. 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.

AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE PART-TIME TELECOMMUNICATOR FOR POLICE DEPT.:

A motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Stunkel to move forward with the hiring of Sara Milburn as a part-time tele-communicator. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE #2015-8-17-A:
AMENDING THE VANDALIA
MUNICIPAL CODE AT TITLE V
BUSINESS LICENSES AND
REGULATIONS AT SECTION
5.08.070 NUMBER OF LICENSES**

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by B. John Clark to increase the number of Class H liquor licenses from one to two.

A license was issued to Lorenzo's Italian Restaurant, Inc. for beer and wine.

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

AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD OPEN CLASS A LIQUOR LICENSE TO MARANATHA'S D/B/A THE CORK:

The council authorized Mayor Gottman to issue Maranatha Cripe D/B/A The Cork an open Class A liquor license.

This license allows the sale of beer and wine, as well as the operation of video gaming devices.

A motion was made by Swarm and seconded by B. John Clark authorizing the repair of a lift station pump at the WWTP in the amount of \$12,740.18 by Vandevanter Engineering from Decatur.

Motion carried.

Alderman Ken Hubler stated that the cost may increase by an additional \$1,000 due to another part being needed.

RESOLUTION #2015-8-17-B:
APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF
VANDALIA AND WORLD ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

A motion was made by Swarm and seconded by Crawford adopting Resolution #2015-8-17-B, Approving An Agreement For Economic Development Services Between The City of Vandalia, IL and World Economic Development Alliance.

The agreement will provide business-attraction, business retention and additional marketing services to assist the City of Vandalia in economic development.

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

RESOLUTION #2015-8-17-C:
APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF
VANDALIA, IL AND BUXTON, CO.

A motion was made by Swarm and seconded by Crawford adopting Resolution #2015-8-17-C, Approving An Agreement For Economic Development Services Between The City of Vandalia, IL, And Buxton, Co.

Buxton will provide demographic and mapping information the city uses in its economic development efforts.

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

**TRANSFER OF LAKE LOT #311
FROM THE CITY OF VANDALIA TO
RICHARD POWELL, BROWNSTOWN:**

A motion was made by Hobler and seconded by B. John Clark approving the transfer of Lake Lot #311 from the City of Vandalia to Richard Powell, Brownstown, IL Motion carried.

**TRANSFER OF LAKE LOT #312
FROM THE CITY OF VANDALIA TO
SETH POWELL, BROWNSTOWN:**

A motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Swarm approving the transfer of Lake Lot #312 from the City of Vandalia to Seth Powell, Brownstown, IL Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Gottman asked the council to keep Alderman Andy Lester in their thoughts and prayers. Lester had surgery today at Mercy Hospital in St. Louis.

Andy has been very ill for the past several months. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Mayor Gottman stated the City's attorney recommends extending the mayor's emergency powers and to also continue to obtain the ten day restraining orders to keep anyone out of the property.

A motion was made by B. John Clark and seconded by Hubler that the corporate authorities ratify any powers that Mayor Gottman have to be exercised between now and the next city council meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Gottman said the city did receive three proposals-Anderson Backhoe Service from Decatur, Il in the amount of \$368,887.06; Mettler

Construction from Highland, Il in the amount of \$348,000.00; Razmus Demolition Services from Chrisman, IL not to exceed the amount of \$345,000.00.and could be as low as \$222,000.

Mayor Gottman stated that Razmus has extensive experience in this type of demolition work.

Representatives from Razmus met with business owners in the Gallatin Street area in regards to the properties and what was going to happen.

Mayor Gottman said that Razmus says their first job will be taking down the chimney at the collapsed building and to make sure the walls of connecting buildings that are not damaged are stabilized and protected as well as possible.

Rasmus representatives said that they would "surgical remove" and make it safe.

It will take 45 to 60 days to clear the property and Mayor Gottman says that will be down to seeded and grassed.

Rasmus representatives met with Dennis Grubaugh who owns the parking lot across from City Hall and Grubaugh has authorized him (Rasmus) to go on the lot to start removal. They worked out a deal themselves, so the city is not in that portion of it.

Mayor Gottman said that the goal is to save the wall next to Nedra's Printing, if possible, and to Dennis Grubaugh's building, if possible.

There is no guarantee, based on what happened.

They hope to start the demolition as soon as possible.

Mayor Gottman said that cameras have been installed to monitor the entire process, a recommendation by the structural engineer. One is installed on the First National Bank and two on the top of City Hall.

Alderwoman Crawford asked if there was any way to get some relief from the building's owners.

Mayor Gottman said that looks very unlikely. He stated that the City of Vandalia will now be the 12th entity with a lien on the property.

Mayor Gottman expressed his reluctance to have the historic building taken down, but said the move would be in the best interests of public safety.

Mayor Gottman commented that it is history that we are losing. He said, I hate it. It's not something I wanted to do, nor any of you wanted to do, but we had no option for the safety and well-being of the citizens of our community.

Mayor Gottman gave a brief report on the former Shell Station located at Eighth & Veterans.

The individual that currently has the lease on the property is buying that lease out and the fuel tanks on the property have to be removed in order to turn the property back over to the owner Larry Mabry.

Mayor Gottman said that Mabry will be putting the property up for lease.

Mayor Gottman said that Project House was to meet today, hopefully will hear something soon on this project. This is the developer the city has been working with Agracel.

Mayor Gottman reported that the air-conditioning in the Chief of Police Office has went out.

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by B. John Clark to have Stombaugh Heating and Cooling install a unit in the amount of \$3,038.00. Motion carried.

The First National Bank is celebrating its 150 anniversary in Vandalia which is a strong financial institution and has been a great partner of the City of Vandalia. Many times we have gone to them and they have worked with the city very diligently.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

B. John Clark reported that Edwards Street between Sixth & Seventh Street will be completed in the next couple of days.

Mayor Gottman reported that the Old Capitol Foundation donated \$40,000.00 to the Cemetery for this year and \$10,000 of this will be dedicated to replace the other building at the cemetery.

Mayor Gottman reported that the Fire Department received \$23,000.00 from the Old Capitol Foundation.

Stunkel reported that the Personnel Committee recommended the hiring of Sara Milburn as a part-time dispatcher.

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to hire Milburn as a part-time dispatcher for the Police Department.

LaTisha Paslay reported on the Harvest Festival to be held on September 25 & 26.

The Ministerial Alliance will be sponsoring the Ham & Bean Dinner on the Statehouse lawn on Friday, September 25th.

Tourism is working on either a band or a movie on the Statehouse lawn.

The ABATE Family Fun Fest was cancelled in May due to the weather, it was decided to hold the ABATE Bike Show on Saturday, September 26th.

The regular Little Mister & Miss Pageant will be held on Saturday.

Years ago, The Leader Union hosted a Talent Show. Tourism has decided to bring this back.

Paslay said that she was informed that the Copper Penny has a band scheduled for that evening.

Mayor Gottman said that he spoke with Cory Jobe, Director of the Illinois Tourism who has agreed to come to Vandalia this fall to discuss the future of Tourism for Vandalia.

AUDIENCE CONCERNS:

Neil Clark remarked that the Water & Sewer bill that you received this week, the garbage rate increased 30 cents thru 2016 when the Waste Collection Agreement will be renegotiated.

He was happy to say, that when he was the chairman of that committee we were able to get a 30 cent increase for the past two years.

Max Chappelear asked once the buildings are taken down who will be the owner of the ground that remains?

Mayor Gottman responded by saying, there are eleven liens on the property as of today, including the Federal Government and the IRS and others. The City of Vandalia will be the twelfth lien holder putting a lien on the property; right now we don't know, it will have to be worked out through the attorney's.

Mr. Chappelear asked where the city stands in hiring a City Administrator. Mayor Gottman said that we are still working through the process on that, hoping to do interviews via skype next week.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

CITY CLERK

