

CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting

April 20, 2020
6:30 P.M.

TELECONFERENCE MEETING:

Due to the Corona-virus Disease (COVID-19) The City council held there regular scheduled meeting via teleconference.

Each council member was directed to dial in and when prompted entered a code to participate in the meeting.

City Administrator, LaTisha Paslay read the following statement:

"This meeting is being conducted remotely pursuant to Executive Order 2020-07 signed by Governor Pritzker and on the advice of counsel. Given the information we have about the COVID-19 pandemic, this body has determined that this meeting must be conducted remotely to limit the spread and impact of the virus, and is the prudent course of action given the necessity to conduct limited municipal business while providing protection to this body, staff, participating members of the public and the community a whole. We ask for your understanding during this time and welcome any input you may have as we proceed."

Mayor Gottman then called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Vandalia City Council to order at 6:30 p.m.

Aldermen present for the remote participation were: Lester, Hobler, Rebbe, Stunkel, Barker, Crawford and Brosman.

Others that were on teleconference were Mayor Gottman, City Clerk Peggy Bowen, City Administrator, LaTisha Paslay, Chief of Police Jeff Ray, City Attorney Ryan Connor, Economic Development Director, Amber Daulbaugh, Erica Foltz with the WPMB/WKRV radio station. Rich Bauer with the Leader Union was in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker approving the minutes from the March 16, 2020 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

There was NO MEETING on April 6, 2020 due to the "STAY AT HOME" Directive from Governor Pritzker due to the Corona-Virus Disease (COVID-19).

REGULAR BILLS:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker approving the regular bills from April 6, 2020 & April 20, 2020 as presented. Motion carried.

SPECIAL BILLS:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker approving the Special Bills as presented: Higgs Welding in the amount of \$11,250.00 for International S1900 Dump Bed; Compass Minerals America in the amount of \$9,729.74 for rock salt; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$16,208.39 for electric; U.S. Bancorp in the amount of \$14,781.19 for water meters; County Materials Corp. in the amount of \$2,125.00 for Sanitary Manhole with Dog House Hole & lid; Brenntag Mid South, Inc. in the amount of \$12,013.80 for chemicals; Hawkins, Inc. in the amount of \$18,742.19

activated carbon & Aqua Ammonia; Sidener Environmental in the amount of \$2,959.66 for O Rings & Tubing; Aquafix, Inc. in the amount of \$5,503.13 for chemicals; Cedarchem, LLC in the amount of \$12,557.56 for cedarclear; Philpot's Plumbing & Septic in the amount of \$1,807.50 for pump out lift station; South Central FS in the amount of \$2,158.00 to mount & balance tires; Mac's Fire & Safety Inc. in the amount of 16,143.00 for fire coats & boots & annual inspections on equipment; Vandalia Asphalt in the amount of \$1,849.68 for patch mix; Wehrle Properties in the amount of \$68,229.50 for TIF reimbursement on the new build for Sarah Bush Lincoln for a Medical Supply & Hospice Business; Chandler Brothers Construction in the amount of \$15,683.00 for removing & replacing 4" side walk for project on 7th Street & St. Louis Ave.; Vandalia City Gargae in the amount of \$3,300.00 for maintenance to rolling stock; Kaskaskia Springs Water Co. in the amount of \$1,915.00 for 4.789 million gals of water & energy pass thru. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

A motion was made Barker and seconded by Stunkel approving the Treasurer's Report to put on file for audit. Motion carried.

TRANSFER OF LAKE LOT #76
FROM SCOTT & AMANDA VONBURG,
VANDALIA TO ED & TAFFANY
HALL, BROWNSTOWN:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler approving the transfer of Lake Lot #76 from Scott & Amanda VonBurg, Vandalia to Ed & Taffany Hall, Brownstown. All necessary fees have been paid. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT CHEMICAL
BIDS FOR WATER TREATMENT
PLANT:

A motion was made by Lester and seconded by Hobler approving the low chemical bids for the Water Treatment Plant. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT CHEMICAL
BIDS FOR THE SEWER PLANT:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker approving the low chemical bids for the Sewer Plant. Motion carried.

EXTENSION REQUEST FOR TIF
REDEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE
#2019-11-4-C FOR JANE LYNN
HOLDINGS, INC. (COPPER
PENNY)

A motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Stunkel approving the extension request for the TIF Redevelopment Ordinance 2019-11-4-C for Jane Lynn Holdings, Inc. Amy Gaffney stated due to the winter season and weather they were unable to start on their projects of a new roof, tuck pointing and building a door to access the patio. Now due to the coronavirus and the state mandate of shutting down non-essential business, they do not have the funds to start these projects.

The council unanimously approved a six-month extension to complete the projects.

EXTENSION REQUEST FOR TIF
REDEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE
#2019-10-21-C FOR JAY
LESKERA:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman approving the extension request for the TIF Redevelopment Ordinance #2019-10-21-C for Jay Leskera. Leskera said that some tuckpointing around window openings took longer than expected and that they are in the process of waiting for the custom windows to be manufactured. They are also on the list of a local painter and are waiting to be contacted as to when the painting of the storefront would begin. The council unanimously approved an additional six-month extension to complete the project.

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN
ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT
BY & BETWEEN THE CITY OF
VANDALIA, IL AND FAYETTE
COUNTY, IL - TABLED

Mayor Gottman recommended that this animal control agreement be tabled due to questions & concerns about the contract. He stated that there needs to be more discussion. When you look at the numbers, where we stand on our monthly fee plus the facility fee, we need to discuss it more in depth.

Lester asked whether the city can get some additional information on the building and what they are planning on doing?

City Attorney Connor said that the city did not receive the agreement until the day of the meeting or the day after.

Lester said, since other municipalities are contributing to the animal control program, "does every community have a say in expenditures and that kind of thing?"

Brosman asked whether he was correct in thinking that each municipality's contribution to the program is based on population.

Mayor Gottman said that's what he's been told.

Mayor Gottman said that there is a lot to be worked out on this yet.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Gottman said that he along with LaTisha Paslay, Jeff Ray, The Illinois State Police, Governor Pritzker's Office and the Fayette County Health Department have been on conference calls in regard to the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Fayette County Health Department provided Mayor Gottman with the official COVID-19 update for Fayette Co. Monday afternoon.

15 positive case
1 death
111 tested

You can visit the IDPH website:
<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19>

The big thing about the COVID-19 is to protect yourself.

1. Stay at least six feet away from others and disinfect items you touch.
2. Stay home as much as possible and avoid close contact with others.
3. Clean & disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
4. Wash your hands often with soap & warm water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
5. If you need medical attention, call ahead.
6. Everyone is at risk of getting COVID-19.
7. Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more severe illness.

Please, keep in mind the decisions that have been made are not local, they are orders from the Governor.

Mayor Gottman said that he has been in touch with State Representative Blaine Wilhour different times in regards to how can we get these small businesses open.

Mayor Gottman said, "My concern is survival".

Mayor Gottman said that we are in the process of going through the budget right now. Budgets are very tight.

Paslay worked up a spreadsheet on the State Revenues.

There is a potential hit to our State Revenues we receive for Sales Tax, Infrastructure, Gaming, Income Tax, Use Tax and Motor Fuel Tax.

The State is projecting a major deficit in revenue due to COVID-19 as well as due to the tax deadline being pushed back to July 15th from April. The Comptroller's office has already informed municipalities that they can expect delays in their payments.

Barker asked Mayor Gottman if he had spoken with anyone in Springfield if they are going to treat the rural areas different from the metro areas. Barker felt that we should be able to use common sense to open up some of our small businesses to alleviate some of the pain if precautions are made.

Mayor Gottman said that he spoke with Blaine Wilhour this evening and had questions for him. Such as, when you have a business with 700-800 people in it and you have a mom & pop business that might have 2 or 3 people in it at a time why can't they do curb service? Wilhour said that he would take those questions to Springfield to see what can be done.

Mayor Gottman provided a telephone number to contact the Governor's Office.

Springfield: 1-217-782-6830 or 217-782-6831

Chicago: 1-312-814-2121

People should flood it, if they do not answer please leave a message. Volume talks. This is killing our economy.

Stunkel asked Mayor Gottman as the President gives money to the states and the states are to pass it on to the municipalities how does Vandalia play in that role.

Mayor Gottman referred the question to the Economic Development Director, Amber Daulbaugh and she said that she did not have an answer for that. She did mention that the Federal Government is trying to figure out the next stimulus package which she believes is to address municipalities. Amber did not know how Gov. Pritzker plans to distribute any of those funds.

Mayor Gottman said that he knew the Mayor from Rockford and five other mayors are protesting this whole thing. I'm hoping by the end of the week the Governor will make some kind of announcement.

Mayor Gottman noted that Amber is working with several of the Vandalia businesses with information regarding COVID-19 response efforts from the SBA regarding federal and state financial assistance.

Mayor Gottman encouraged everyone to fill out the 2020 Census.

Mayor Gottman reminded everyone of the revenues that could be lost by each Census questionnaire that is not

returned and the devastating effect it could have on the county and its towns & cities as a whole.

Mayor Gottman gave a run down on the 2020 Fayette County census reported:

Farina - 60.6%
St. Elmo - 60.2%
Vandalia - 57.3%
Ramsey - 54.9%
Brownstown - 45.8

Our county and communities can do much better. Tell everyone we need your support in completing the Census!

The city will do some advertising in the paper, the air waves & social media to encourage everyone to fill out their census form or get online at <https://2020census.gov> to do so.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Barker praised the Public Works Department for working as hard as they can and as fast as they can. They had to take on additional duties and it's gonna slow them down a little bit but will get their normal duties done.

Mayor Gottman said that we have a situation as you know the Governor closed state parks so we followed that with the marina. We are not bringing the summer help back at this time. The garage workers will be mowing out at the marina. Kudos to our Public Works Director, Marlin Filer for taking on this additional responsibility till we can get back to normal, whatever normal is.

The city is on a hiring freeze at this time except for the one position.

Stunkel reported that he was out at the lake yesterday and reported that there were 18 trucks & trailers on the marina side. Everything is looking good at this time.

The dumpsters are in place. An additional one has been added.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hubler to adjourn. Motion carried.


CITY CLERK