

CITY COUNCIL  
Regular Meeting

May 4, 2020  
6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gottman called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Vandalia City Council to order at 6:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

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

Others that were on the teleconference call were: Mayor Gottman, City Clerk, Peggy Bowen; City Administrator, LaTisha Paslay; City Attorney, Ryan Connor; Chief of Police, Jeff Ray; Todd Stapleton, WPMB/WKRV Radio; Rich Bauer, Leader Union; Lee Beckman, Milano & Grunloh Engineers; Bruce DeLashmit, County's Administrative Consultant; Merrell Collins, Chairman of the County Board's Animal Control Sub-committee

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

MEETING BEING CONDUCTED  
REMOTELY PURSUANT TO  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-07  
SIGNED BY GOV. PRITZKER:

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."

**MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman approving the minutes from the April 20, 2020 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

**REGULAR BILLS:**

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

**SPECIAL BILLS:**

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Crawford approving the Special Bills as presented: Online Solutions in the amount of \$1,800.00 for code enforcement software; Mac's Fire & Safety, Inc. in the amount of \$3,014.40 for gear bags, gloves, face shields and badges; Chandler Brothers Construction in the amount of \$11,106.00 for a sidewalk project at 7<sup>th</sup> Street & St. Louis Ave; U.S. Bancorp in the amount of \$14,781.19 for water meters; Brenntag Mid South, Inc. in the amount of \$3,815.80 for chemicals; Hawkins, Inc. in the amount of \$4,646.40 for activated carbon; Vandevanter Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$6,859.00 for the annual maintenance inspection; USA BlueBook, Inc. for Hach Digital Reactor Block; Motion carried.

TRANSFER OF LAKE LOTS:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Lester approving the transfer of the following Lake Lots

Lake Lot #87 from Tim & Barbara Henna/Jenny Sefton to Zeke & Mary Philpot.

Lake Lot #119A from Roger Smith, Brownstown to Brent Horner & Susan Schwarm, Vandalia

Lake Lot #119 from Lisa Smith, Brownstown to Greg & Amy Schaal, Shobonier.

Lake Lot #75 from Chad Dane, Vandalia to John & Dana Feltner, Brownstown.

All necessary fees have been paid. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2020-5-4-A:  
AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN  
EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN  
THE CITY OF VANDALIA AND  
MIKE ANDERSON

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker approving Resolution #2020-5-4-A, Authorizing Execution of an Employment Contract Between The City of Vandalia & Mike Anderson.

Vote: Hobler, yea; Rebbe, yea; Stunkel, yea; Crawford, yea; Lester, yea; Brosman, yea; Hubler, yea; Barker, yea. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #2020-5-4-B:  
AMENDING SALARIES FOR FISCAL  
YEAR MAY 1, 2020-APRIL 30,  
2021

A motion was made by Lester and seconded by Stunkel adopting Ordinance #2020-5-4-B, Amending Salaries For Fiscal Year May 1, 2020-April 30, 2021.

Vote: Rebbe, yea; Crawford, yea; Hobler, yea; Stunkel, yea; Brosman, yea; Lester, yea; Barker, yea; Hubler, yea. Motion carried.

ACCEPT OR REJECT CHANGE  
ORDER #1 FOR WATERMAIN  
PROJECT:

A motion was made by Lester and seconded by Brosman accepting the Change Order #1 for Watermain project.

The original contract price was \$610,713.30 but the change order increased the price by \$16,672.00, a total of \$627,385.30. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT BID FOR  
FLYGT PUMP AT VCC LIFT  
STATION:

A motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Stunkel approving the pump repair estimate for a Flygt 3152.350 from Vandevanter Engineering in the amount of \$10,611.70 for the Vandalia Correctional Center.

COVID-19 DISCUSSION &  
POTENTIAL ACTION:

Mayor Gottman told the council that he is on a conference call or meeting every day of the week except Saturday's in regard to COVID-19.

Mayor Gottman is hosting a teleconference meeting with all of the mayors in Fayette County this week to discuss a list that came up in reopening the businesses that none of the mayors were involved with.

Mayor Gottman said that he would report on that meeting to State Rep. Blaine Wilhour.

Barker said, that he contacted the Fayette County Health Department today to get an update on what we have in Fayette County. These are the numbers:

Still at 16 cases  
2 deaths  
12 recovered  
2 under observation

Barker said that we have not had any further cases since April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Barker felt that this area could just start laxing up. We've got to, because our businesses are hurting.

Mayor Gottman said that it is not possible because of Governor Pritzker's executive orders.

Mayor Gottman said we can't, legally by law, tell a beauty shop they can open.

Mayor Gottman said that contrary to some reports, the Mayor from Marion has not completely relaxed the state restrictions in its community.

The Marion mayor, is basically saying the same thing as Mayor Gottman, you open at your own risk, if you have a state license, the state overrules anything that the municipality or the county does. Mayor Gottman did verify this.

City Attorney Ryan Connor said, as a matter of record, he agreed with Mayor Gottman and he would say that our role is make some determinations with regards to enforcement but we have no power to change anything that's happening at the level above us at the state.

Mayor Gottman said, that if you have a liquor license, the county or state can come and take it.

Mayor Gottman also said, if you have a tax license, the Illinois Department of Revenue could come in and take it.

Mayor Gottman said that he has had a lot of discussion on that, but we as a city are not saying that they can reopen.

Mayor Gottman stated, do we want them to reopen? Absolutely!

Barker asked about the status of lawsuits filed by state lawmakers who are seeking to lessen the state's COVID-19 restrictions.

Attorney Connor said that at this point, there are no rulings that would impact the COVID-19 executive orders.

Mayor Gottman said, that he wanted to make it very clear that I'm on board of trying to get stuff open, because it affects me. Mayor Gottman said his wife owns her own business in town and she's got rules that she needs to go by.

Barker asked Mayor Gottman if Octochem contacted the city about donating hand sanitizer to the city. Mayor Gottman said that Octochem donated hand sanitizer to each elected official and the City Administrator & Economic Development Director.

Mayor Gottman will be talking with Witness Distillery about donating some for the departments.

Mayor Gottman directed Paslay to contact Kendra Craig to get some hand sanitizer for our staff.

Andy Lester said that he would like to donate his to a department at the city.

**AUTHORIZATION TO SEEK BIDS  
FOR CAR LEASE:**

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to seek bids on a car lease for the city. Motion carried.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

The Illinois Municipal League met last week in regards to the COVID-19.

CLERK'S REPORT:

My staff has been very busy with the drive-up window & walk up window.

We had a couple incidents happen last week with customers passing money to my staff at the window. Bills sticking together using their mouth and fingers to separate the bills.

With COVID-19 this is uncalled for.

Mayor Gottman directed Clerk Bowen to get their license plate of the vehicle when this happens and call the police.

Some of my staff have been out at the lake and have noticed that there are some boaters on the lake who do not have a current boat sticker.

If you remember, this is the situation we had two years ago. This is something that someone might look into.

Stunkel said, with the cutbacks due to COVID-19, the city does not have lake patrol personnel at the lake, so that news travels fast.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

City Administrator Paslay received an email that IDOT authorized a grant program for Rebuild Illinois capital. and that she learned that the city will receive some of those funds for MFT.

Paslay said the city's first installment will be \$77,349.25 and they are hoping for two distributions per year for three years. If this follows through we could get \$454,095.50 over the three years.

She told the council that those funds can be used for capital projects such as road and bridges.

Mayor Gottman said that the city has a lot of capital improvement projects in the works and that there will be discussions on which projects will be funded with that money received.

One of the buildings downtown formerly The Village Shoppe the back part of it the brick fell in and Grubaugh thought about taking the whole building down but now considered keeping a one-story store front. He is really not sure at this time.

Mayor Gottman made notification that the state did open up some of the parks such as Ramsey State Park but no camping. He asked if we could open up our camping area but they said no. We can the water but no camping grounds.

Barker asked if we could open up the Marina. Mayor Gottman said, we could but Mayor Gottman preferred not to at this time. That would mean adding staff back when revenues are not coming in and the revenues at the marina will not offset the staff coming in.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Barker said that the Public Works Crew have been working on the concrete work Gallatin Street today.

A complaint on Fifth Street on the parking along the street. Mayor Gottman directed Barker to speak with Chief of Police Ray to evaluate what can be done.

The City Clean Up Week will take place next week May 11-15<sup>th</sup>.



Brosman said that he has some concerns about the wastewater we are getting from the Correctional Center not being within the definition of wastewater should be and hope there is some follow up with them. Mayor Gottman said, that there will be.

Stunkel said that DNR is out on the lake.

He also said they seem to be accelerating the number of four-wheelers that are tearing up the dam.

Stunkel said that signs were put up but they don't comply.

Mayor Gottman said that he has a call into Springfield in regards to opening the campgrounds.

Most of the city's have not open their lakes. Our lake is open. People live around it, there gonna get on it, they pay a fee every year.

The only regulations at the lake at this time is state regulations or restrictions.

City Attorney Connor said that boating is allowed but under the direction of Gov. Pritzker only two people can be on a boat at a time and have to observe social distancing.

Mayor Gottman said that he has received some complaints about that so he referred them off to the state.

Lester will set a date for a Personnel Committee Meeting.

Mayor Gottman asked for Lester to meet with Andy Gelsinger to review the applications for the Water Plant.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONCERNS:

Mayor Gottman said that he will be getting a committee together. We will not be acting on this animal control agreement tonight. Mayor Gottman is not happy paying \$40,000 for a building. He said that he has no problem with the fee that we have to pay but I do have a problem with making a partial payment on a building that we do not own.

Mayor Gottman said that the city council will work that out and it is not on the agenda to take any action on it this evening.

Mayor Gottman said after the council makes a decision he along with the City Attorney will meet with DeLashmit, the county's administrative consultant.

Hobler had a question on the engineering report for Lee Beckman with in regard to the Safe Routes to school, especially the sidewalks in the amount of \$424,865. That project hasn't started any construction work yet has it?

Beckman said that the City of Vandalia was funded \$200,000 for the sidewalks, that runs from the college to the grade school. Potentially late this year it will be done.

Hobler felt that it could be put on hold if we needed to after the engineering and everything is done depending on the state. Lee thought the City had five years to spend their money.

Lee Beckman, Engineer for Milano & Grunloh Engineering gave a report on the different projects that will be taking place in Vandalia.

He mentioned the Safe Routes to School mentioning that the city was funded at \$200,000 with a project estimate of \$424,865. Tentatively this project for construction in late 2020. The Environmental Survey Request has been submitted, the field survey completed, and design has started.

The Watermain Replacement on Eighth Street. The City received a \$500,000 grant to replace the watermain in the areas shown on the attached maps.

The Water Treatment Plant is our large project. The project estimate is for \$21,099,000. The state has a new grant program with a maximum grant of \$5 million, An application for \$5 million will be submitted, and if secured, the EDA grant will be omitted.

Barker asked if the interest rate for the Water plant locked in. Lee said we are locked in at the lower of the two.

The Payne Road & Wagner Street-Octochem. This is a project to reconstruct Payne Road & Wagner Street. Octochem is planning an expansion which opens up the potential for grant funds. The project estimate is \$1,172,164. The EDP funds in the amount of \$608,693. And DCEO funds in the amount of \$400,000 have been secured. Lee mentioned that they have applied for TARP funding in the amount of \$54,400. There is a sewer relocation estimated at \$56,100 and a watermain location estimated at \$167,100.00.

Mayor Gottman said to keep in mind that there is a dead-line on these grants also there is a situation they

Lester suggested again that the council look at changing its restrictions on burning leaves and other landscaping waste.

He received a call from a constituent who has a child with asthma, and that people in the medical field have spoken to the council about issues related to burning.

Lester suggested amending the burning ordinance to prohibit burning on weekends and holidays from May through the end of October.

Lester said, I just wanted to put it out there for everyone's consideration. He would like to get some feedback on the idea.

Stunkel appreciated the report that was in the packets from Amber Daulbaugh, Economic Development Director.

She is continuing to forward information to business owners regarding new financing opportunities tax credits and any updated literature regarding program policies and COVID-19 response efforts.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

  
CITY CLERK