

CITY COUNCIL  
Regular Meeting

May 18, 2020  
6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was given by all present.

ROLL CALL:

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

Others that were on the teleconference call were: Mayor Gottman, City Clerk, Peggy Bowen; City Administrator, LaTisha Paslay; Public Works Director Marlin Filer; City Attorney, Ryan Connor; Chief of Police, Jeff Ray; Todd Stapleton, WPMB/WKRV Radio; Rich Bauer, Leader Union; Lee Beckman, Milano & Grunloh Engineering; Merrell Collins, Chairman of the County Board's Animal Control; Jeff Beckman, Chairman of the Fayette County Board; Sandy Michel, Real Estate Broker; James Meyer.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker approving the minutes from the May 4, 2020 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

REGULAR BILLS:

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

SPECIAL BILLS:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman approving the Special Bills as listed: Richland Land Improvement in the amount of \$12,400.00 to tear down & removal of house located on the corner of Gallatin Street and Remann St; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$16,623.94 for electric; Nick DePaolo in the amount of \$ 1,800.00 for removal of a large hard elm tree; South Central FS in the amount of \$3,381.36 for tire repair; 22.5 low pro drive on fire truck 1451; Metal Culverts in the amount of \$4,527.00 for 10" 12" & 15" rivet pipe; Chandler brothers Construction in the amount of \$9,087.00 for removing & replacing 4" sidewalk for Project Area #7 at Kennedy & Randolph St.; Milano & Grunloh Engineering in the amount of \$12,297.44 for design engineering for the Safe Routes to School Projects; IMCO Utility Supply in the amount of \$2,560.00 for blue paint & accessory kits & restrained joint accessory kits; Brenntag Mid South, Inc. in the amount of \$7,511.40 for robinfloc, lime & liquid chlorine; Hawkins, Inc. in the amount of \$3,012.58 for activated carbon; Water Solutions Unlimited in the amount of \$2,895.00 for MS635-55 (4-55 gal drums); Kaskaskia Springs Water Com pany in the amount of \$2,117.60 fir 5.294 million gallons of water & \$540.74 for energy pass thru; Vandevanter Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$ 8,237.28 for the annual maintenance service contract & to replace mini-CASII/FUS 120/24 VAC on a lift station. Motion carried.

EXTENSION REQUEST FOR TIF  
REDEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE  
#2019-12-2-D FOR WITNESS  
DISTILLERY, LLC:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman approving the Extension Request for TIF Redevelopment Ordinance 2019-12-2-D for Witness Distillery LLC.

They are asking for an extension until September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

TRANSFER OF LAKE LOT #23  
FROM TIM & SHERRY DUNAHEE,  
VANDALIA, IL TO DORCAS  
THOMPSON, BRIGHTON, IL:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Lester approving the transfer of Lake Lot 23 from Tim & Sherry Dunahee, Vandalia, IL to Dorcas Thompson, Brighton, IL. It was noted by Mr. Thompson that the unsafe dock will be repaired within 60 days. All necessary fees have been paid. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE JEFF  
STOREY FOR WATER PLANT  
OPERATOR POSITION:

A motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Stunkel approving the hiring of Jeff Storey to the position of Water Plant Operator. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO PROMOTE  
CITY CLERK EMPLOYEE DANIELLE  
PAYNE FROM PART TIME TO FULL  
TIME:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker approving the promotion of Danielle Payne from part-time to full time.

It was agreed upon that a job description will be drafted describing her duties.

With her three years of experience and her associate's degree in accounting she will start at full time/second year pay.

A roll call vote was taken: Lester, yea; Barker, yea; Brosman, yea; Rebbe, yea; Crawford, yea; Stunkel, yea; Hubler, yea; Hobler, nay. 7 yea and 1 nay. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2020-5-18-A:  
AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN  
EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN  
THE CITY OF VANDALIA & ANDY  
VAUGHAN AS BUILDING & ZONING  
OFFICIAL

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker adopting Resolution #2020-5-18-A, Authorizing Execution of an Employment Contract Between The City of Vandalia and Andy Vaughan to the position of Building & Zoning Official for the City of Vandalia.

A roll call vote was taken: Hubler, yea; Barker, yea; Rebbe, yea; Hobler, yea; Stunkel, yea; Crawford, yea; Lester, yea; Brosman, yea. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT BIDS FOR  
SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS:

A motion was made by Barker and seconded by Lester approving the bid from Horst Enterprises in the amount of \$18,931.00 for sidewalk improvements.

AUTHORIZATION TO SELL CITY  
OWNED REAL ESTATE:

Mayor Gottman stated the City of Vandalia has a list of real estate properties that need to be listed with the realtors.

Mayor Gottman said that he spoke with Sandy Michel, about how we could list the properties.

Sandy said, that she thought it would be better to list the properties with either one realtor or another. The reason for this, if you list with both realtors it does not go online to show up on Zillow or realtor.com or any other place. It would be better if you listed with one agency or list some with one and some with another, or if you have to draw straws who would be selling what would be in the best interest of the city. Otherwise people would not know these were for sale.

Barker asked if the other real estate agency was contacted to see if they were in agreement with this. Mayor Gottman said, no she hasn't, it's our

choice not there's. Barker said, I understand but to just be fair in drawing the properties out.

Sandy said, she thought they would be fine with it, because it is to both of their advantage to each have some to work with.

Mayor Gottman said that the local financial institutions basically rotate the properties from realtor to another. That is what would happen start with a baseline to rotate.

It was decided that the city has 5 pieces of property to sell. So, each real estate agency would get 2 of the lots and would draw for the house.

Mayor Gottman said if you all were in agreement with this he would contact both agencies' to draw for the house property.

It was the consensus of the council to do so.

A motion was made by Barker and seconded by Brosman authorized the sale of city owned properties to the two local real estate agencies in Vandalia. Motion carried.

**APPROVE OR REJECT MILANO &  
GRUNLOH ENGINEERS, LLC AS  
ENGINEERS FOR PAYNE DR/WAGNER  
ST ROAD & STORM SEWER  
PROJECT:**

Lee Beckman with Milano & Grunloh Engineering reported to the council that the Octochem project has secured funds from the EDP in the amount of \$608,693.00 and DCEO funds in the amount of \$400,000.00. The necessary paperwork has been sent in to secure funds from TARP funding in the amount of \$54,400.

A time frame for this after everything has ben approved would be somewhere between six to eight months. Looking at spring of next year 2021 letting.

Octochem hopes to start on their part as soon as the weather is good.

Lee said at the bid opening for the Water Main Project where Kamadulski is doing the work, a discussion of boil orders came up about reducing the boil orders as much as possible.

Marlin & Lee sat down and went through the plans and looked at the areas that would need to be isolated to reduce the boil orders.

Another thing that came up in the change order was moving the water main from the east side to the left side of the road. Marlin was afraid if the digging was to close to the old main they could bust.

A modification of plans to comply with IEPA requirements in Section A was an increase of \$10,959.55. In section B there was a decrease in the amount of \$8,783.90 on the Water Main Replacement Project.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING**  
**ACCEPTANCE OF ASSIGNMENT OF**  
**CHAMBER ELECTRONIC**  
**SIGNBOARD:**

A motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker adopting Resolution 2020-5-18-B, Accepting the Assignment of the Vandalia Chamber of Commerce Electronic Signboard.

Brosman asked who would have the responsibility of programming the messages on the signboard and Mayor Gottman said it will be City Administrator, LaTisha Paslay and Tourism Director, Jessica Hampton.

Lester asked if there were any repairs needed to the structure. Mayor Gottman said yes and have already received a quote to move forward with the project.

Barker asked the money received from the advertising will it be deposited in General Fund or the Tourism Account. Mayor Gottman said that has not been determined at this time.

Lester asked what account will pay for the signboard. Mayor Gottman said that it will come from the TIF Account.

Brosman asked how much are the repairs on the signboard. Mayor Gottman said between \$4,500-\$4,700. This includes all repairs and taking some of the shrub out.

Roll call vote: Hobler, yea; Brosman, yea; Lester, yea; Rebbe, yea; Hubler, yea; Barker, yea; Stunkel, yea; Crawford, yea. Motion carried.

**CITY ATTORNEY ON COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS:**

City Attorney Ryan Connor praised the city officials for their approach and says they should stay the continued course of leaving it up to each business to make their own decisions and not taking any official stance.

Lester asked what has changed since this letter was written.

Connor said that the State's Attorney & Sheriff's Department released a statement this morning in response to the Governor's emergency rule making it a class A misdemeanor for certain business to open.

The county will not move forward with any prosecutions.

Crawford agreed with Governor Pritzker's decisions on shutting down the state.

Crawford said that she would like to remind everyone that the reasons they're part of the state is and has been and remains a low risk area is because of the stay at home orders that were put in place that stopped the traffic on 57 and across this area.

Until that was put into place, you could sit on the DPH website and literally watch it travel down the interstate. We got locked down before it got here.

Crawford said, that she would rather look back at this and have it appear that we overreacted because no one got it, then be sitting here, as we thought we were going to do in March.

She said looking back on the 2% of our city population that have died from the disease we can rebuild businesses. We can't give people back their parents and their spouses and their children.

She said, this is not over. I know the businesses are hurting. I know that we have people in this town that cannot pay their rent. I know that we have people in this town that can barely afford food. I understand that, but they're alive.

She said that she wanted to get some perspective on that, because she has lost people to this thing all over the country. She couldn't stand to watch people that live in this town go the same way her friends have.



**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Gottman reported that the Village Shoppe is coming completely down and the plan is to have it down within the next thirty days.

A comment was made at the County Board Meeting saying the City of Vandalia was holding up the animal control and Mayor Gottman said that he'll hold that animal control up on our end until we have firm numbers. I'm not signing an open-ended contract and Mayor Gottman tried to tell Bruce DeLashmit, the county's administrative assistant and he hung up on him.

Mayor Gottman said that Chris Wall, Ramsey village president was trying to get a meeting with Bruce and with the county and that has not happened as of last Friday.

**CITY CLERK'S REPORT:**

Clerk Peggy Bowen announced that the liquor license renewal's will be sent out this week.

Mayor Gottman said that the businesses will be required to pick up their license at City Hall.

Barker asked on the gaming and liquor licenses if we are still under closure are we still going to do this, or are we going to hold off on this to alleviate some of that pain on these businesses.

Mayor Gottman said we need to move forward on this because they are due July 1<sup>st</sup> so they can get their state license as well.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Barker reported that the Public Works Department had a couple of water breaks this week. Trying to keep up with all the mowing. Kudos to the street crew.

Barker asked to call a Street Committee Meeting after the first of June addressing the signage on that street.

Lester said, kudos to Grubaugh for getting on the Village Shoppe to get it down as soon as possible.

ALDERMEN'S CONCERNS:

Lester said regarding the COVID-19, he still sees no reason why some of the downtown shops can't operate like Rural King or Wal-Mart. The small businesses can run with safety measures as taken place in other businesses.

Barker concurred with that.

UPDATE FROM MAYOR:

The forestry reps will be going to the lake to look at that project.

Mayor Gottman spoke with Matt Hortenstine last Friday and things look like they are going to move forward again.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

  
Peggy Bowen  
City Clerk