

CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting

September 21, 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

ROLL CALL:

Aldermen Present were: Brosman, Hobler, Stunkel, Rebbe, Lester, Hubler and Barker. Crawford was absent.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler approving the minutes from September 8, 2020 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

REGULAR BILLS:

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

SPECIAL BILLS:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler approving the Special Bills as presented: Vandalia Asphalt in the amount of \$61,630.20 for oil & chip; South Central FS in the amount of \$2,266.54 for fuel; Milano & Grunloh Engineering in the amount of \$3,108.38 for engineering fees on the Safe Route For Schools; Kamadulski Excavating in the amount of \$44,028.36 for excavating and grading; SCIRP&DC in the amount of \$,6522.00 for technical outside services for advertising; Vandalia City garage in

the amount of \$3,303.50 for vehicle operating costs; Hawkins, Inc. in the amount of \$4,586.40 for activated carbon; Hach Company in the amount of \$1,753.21 chemicals; Kaskaskia Springs in the amount of \$2,150.80 for 5.377 million delivered and energy pass thru. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATION OF THE FY2020
AUDIT:**

Tricia Elam with Timmermann & Co. presented the FY2020 audit to the council.

Elam said overall, the city's funds are in very good shape.

There will be a slight increase in the water and sewer rates that take effect October 2020.

The total water expense will increase 1.45% and the sewer expense will increase 1.71%.

There was no action taken on the increase so automatically by Ordinance 1996-10-7-B, will make the increase go into effect October 1st.

A motion was made by Barker and seconded by Hobler approving the audit as presented. Motion carried.

**TRANSFER OF LAKE LOT #1A
FROM DATON SCOTT,
BROWNSTOWN, IL TO TOBY
TACKETT, BROWNSTOWN, IL.:**

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler approving the transfer of Lake Lot #1A from Daton Scott, Brownstown, IL to Toby Tackett, Brownstown, IL. All necessary fees have been paid. Motion carried.

**APPROVE OR REJECT BID FOR
SOFTWARE SYSTEM AT POLICE
DEPARTMENT:**

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman requesting approval of funds in the amount of \$24,600 for a software system that will assist Vandalia Police Department and other law enforcement agencies for crime reporting in the mandated

transition from I-UCR (Unified Crime Reporting) to NIBRS (National Incident-Based Reporting System). The other agencies will share in the cost of that software, based on the number of officers.

Chief Ray said that he has applied for a grant for the purchase of the software. Vandalia Police Department's share would be \$8,350.00. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES-SEPTEMBER 1, 2020:

A motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Stunkel approving the Planning Commission Meeting Minutes from September 1, 2020 as presented. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES-SEPTEMBER 8, 2020:

A motion was made by Barker and seconded by Stunkel approving the Planning Commission Meeting Minutes from September 8, 2020 as presented. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #2020-9-21-A:
AMENDING THE CITY OF
VANDALIA ZONING DISTRICT
MAP

A motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Stunkel Approving Ordinance #2020-9-21-A, Amending The City of Vandalia Zoning District Map.

The Petition of Matt & Kelly Emerick, for amendment of the Zoning District Map of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Vandalia to re-zone the hereinafter described area from "A-1" Agricultural to "CG" General Commercial.

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

REQUEST FOR CLOSURE OF 4TH
STREET (MAIN-GALLATIN)
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020 1
PM-5 PM FOR A CHRISTIANS
FOR AMERICA EVENT:

Stunkel asked to table this request because he wanted to make sure the event is non-political, as one of the agenda items mentions the upcoming election.

It will be acted on at the October 5th council meeting.

TRANSFER OF LAKE LOT #129
FROM STEVE LARGENT,
VANDALIA TO JAMES LAURIE,
VANDALIA, IL:

A motion was made by transferring of Lake Lot #129 from Steve Largent, Vandalia to James Laurie, Vandalia. All necessary fees have been paid. Motion carried.

SET DATE FOR TRICK OR
TREAT:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler setting "trick or treat" night for Vandalia for Saturday, October 31st from 6-8 pm.

Mayor Gottman said that some communities have decided to cancel their trick-or-treat night due to COVID-19 pandemic, but the City of Vandalia wanted to allow trick-or-treating in light of other activities including the Halloween Parade being cancelled.

Those residents who will welcome trick-or-treaters leave your porch light on and those who wish not to participate do not have your light on.

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

RESOLUTION #2020-9-21-B:
APPROVING A LAND LISTING
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY
OF VANDALIA & FAYETTE
COUNTY REAL ESTATE:
MAYOR'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Barker and seconded by Lester approving the agreement with Fayette County Real Estate to sell the house and property located at 119 E. Jackson St. Approximate lot 2.85 acres.

Mayor Gottman stated the city initially planned to build a new water plant on this piece of property, plans changed to locate the Water Plant more so in the center of town.

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

APPROVE OR REJECT SURPLUS
ITEM BIDS:

A motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker approving the sale of surplus items belonging to the City of Vandalia. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT TIF
AGREEMENT EXTENSION REQUEST
FROM JANE LUNN HOLDINGS
(COPPER PENNY)

A motion was made by Lester and seconded by Barker approving the extension on TIF funds for Jane Lynn Holdings d/b/a The Copper Penny for one year.

Amy Gaffney said, due to the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting economic environment, they did not have the funds and are not comfortable spending funds during such an uncertain time.

The council approved the extension of funds.

WAIT LAND TRUST TIF
AGREEMENT TRANSFER TO
DENNIS & DEBORAH GRUBAUGH:

A motion was made by Barker and seconded by Stunkel approving the transfer of a TIF agreement from Dennis & Deborah Grubaugh to Wait Land Trust for the properties at 2505 and 2515 W. Veterans Ave. Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARIES
DISCUSSION:

Mayor Gottman announced that the Consolidated Election is coming up.

The Mayor, City Clerk & 1 Aldermen from each Ward will be up for election.

Salaries for the newly elected officials shall be fixed at least 180 days before the beginning of the terms.

Mayor Gottman gave his opinion on the mayor's salary. He did not want a raise. He said that he isn't doing it for the money. He is doing it for the citizens of Vandalia. He said that he has put his heart and soul into the job. The salary will remain the same for mayor.

City Clerk Peggy Bowen announced after 6 terms or 24 years she will be retiring at the end of her term. Bowen said that she is the longest serving City Clerk for the City of Vandalia from 1997 to the present date.

Bowen said that she is truly grateful to the citizens of Vandalia who supported her throughout the last twenty-four (24) years and very blessed to have such a great staff all these years. Bowen also thanked elected officials for their assistance and support during her tenure as City Clerk. Bowen said, I think it's time for me to retire and bring in a new clerk.

The council discussed the salary and benefits for the upcoming term.

Alderman Hobler asked if a suggested salary was discussed. Clerk Bowen said that she and Mayor Gottman thought that a fair salary would be \$48,500 with health insurance.

Aldermen's salary was then discussed. Andy Lester who is Chairman of Personnel said, it just so happens that I am up for re-election, so this is not a self-serving comment I want

to make but I want to say, the pay for aldermen has remained the same since 2009. At some point it has to be raised. Lester suggested that the council create a schedule that was put in place in 2006-2009 and raise the salary 2% for each year.

The ones that would receive an increase would be the four aldermen who are running this term.

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hubler to increase the salary of the Aldermen 2% for each year. This will only be for the four elected in the 2021 election.

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

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to set the salary for the City Clerk at \$48,500 with a 2% increase each year and 90/10 on the health insurance.

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

A motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Hubler to leave the salary as is for the mayor for the upcoming term. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2020-9-21-C
RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT AND
COMMITMENT OF LOCAL FUNDS

A motion was made by Barker and seconded by Hobler approving Resolution #2020-9-21-C, where the City of Vandalia is applying to the State of Illinois for a Community Development Block Grant.

This Community Development Block Grant is for water improvements in the city.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Gottman announced that he will be attending the IML Conference in Chicago this week.

The firm that will be removing trees from the lake & cemetery will begin marking trees as soon as they receive legal description on the property.

Mayor Gottman announced that the cases of COVID 19 have went up this week in the county.

The City of Vandalia will be supplying masks for all of their employees from money received from the Federal government.

We also will be installing a glass wall in the front part of the building to protect the staff.

The glass wall will be installed sometime early October along with plexiglass by two desks in the clerk's office.

Mayor Gottman, City Administrator LaTisha Paslay and Economic Director, Amber Daulbaugh will be working on the necessary paperwork on the business district in October.

Mayor Gottman announced that Fire Chief, Mark Meadows will meet with him and City Administrator Paslay on purchasing a new water pumper for the Fire Department.

CITY CLERK:

Clerk Bowen stated she contacted the Local Records Commission for permission to dispose of records ok'd from the Local Records Office. She publicly thanked Public Works Director Marlin Filer and his crew for helping with the disposal of records. A lot of heavy lifting & truly appreciate their help.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

Paslay reported that she along with Mike Anderson will look into a grant that Ameren Illinois has out there for LED lighting for the Waste Water Plant and possibly other departments.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Mayor Gottman said that the city is waiting on a final report from OSHA on all the inspections that were done at the city.

Stunkel reported that operations at the lake will close October 12th for the year.

Stunkel also brought up the sale of the Marathon sign out at the lake.

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to advertise on e-bay to sell the Marathon sign. It will be the responsibility of the buyer to take the sign down. Motion carried.

Mayor Gottman & Director of Economic Development Amber Daulbaugh are pleased to announce the opening of Kanata Blanket. The company has purchased the former Land O' Lakes/Purina Property at 1500 Veterans Avenue. Kanata Blanket's headquarters, are located in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Kanata Blanket has ties to Poly-Pak & Ship, which has been in Vandalia for many years.

Mayor Gottman along with some of the aldermen & Building Inspector, Andy Vaughan went to access the Tourist Information Center Building. It was determined that it would be more feasible to construct a new building.

Merrill Collins, Chairman of the Fayette County Board's animal control subcommittee, introduced the county's new animal control warden, Lee Kephart.

Kephart said that she was working with our city attorney Ryan Connor on ordinances governing animal control, including reckless ownership.

Clint Simpson with our local State Farm agency said that he is working with other agencies in organizing a Halloween Festival.

Simpson is working with the Lions Club on the event to be held on October 24th at the Vandalia Lake.

The festival would include a Trunk or Treat tentatively from 2:00-5:00 P.M. from socially distant vehicles and floats, there will also be a children's petting zoo, a costume contests, VCHS Drum Line Performance and finish up with a Drive-In movie "Hocus Pocus" beginning around 6:30 pm. Donations will be collected for the "Shop With A Cop Program".

Simpson said that he spoke with the Fayette County Health Department Administrator Melissa Storck about holding the event safely, and that he has also contacted the city police department and the county sheriff's office for their assistance.

Russ Stunkel, Chairman of the Lake Committee said that the bathhouse is being shutdown for the season on October 12th.

It was discussed to maybe change the date of closure but Stunkel said that would be expensive so the city officials agreed to provide porta-potty's for the event.

A motion was made by Lester and seconded by Hobler accepting the idea of a Vandalia Halloween Festival at Vandalia Lake on October 24th.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

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


CITY CLERK