

CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting

February 1, 2021
6:30 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 6:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Barker, yea; Brosman, yea; Stunkel, yea; Hobler, yea; Lester, yea; Hubler, yea. Rebbe and Crawford were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker approving the minutes from the January 18, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

REGULAR BILLS:

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

SPECIAL BILLS:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman approving the Special Council Bills as presented: Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$7,000.00 for payment on sewer vac truck; ADS Electric Corp. in the amount of \$8,890.00 for maintenance on traffic signals; Dunn Co. in the amount of \$1,939.60 for M-120 premium patch; Econo Signs in the amount of \$2,067.66 for stop, dead end, and yield signs; Mid Illinois Concrete Inc. in the amount of \$5,671.25 for Class SI/PV; SCIRP & DC in the amount of \$6,000.00 for the

public infrastructure project; IMCO Utility Supply in the amount of \$5,870.00 for a safety flange kit; clamps & etc.; Hawkins, Inc. in the amount of \$6,275.68 for activated carbon; Motion carried.

FIRST READING FOR CLASS J LIQUOR
LICENSE REQUEST FROM RAY
MALHOTRA, HILLSBORO - GAMING
PARLOR & TOBACCO SALES:

A first reading from Ray Malhotra, Hillsboro requesting to open a video gaming parlor and tobacco sales.

This is the first reading action will be taken at the February 16th meeting.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VANDALIA
MUNICIPAL CODE AT TITLE V
BUSINESS LICENSES & REGULATIONS
AT SECTION 5.08.070 NUMBER OF
LICENSES (GAMING PARLOR)- TABLED

A request from Lester Kretz, Hoyleton, Il is requesting the City of Vandalia to consider acting to allow Kretz, Inc. to be issued a liquor license for a gaming parlor.

At this time Mr. Kretz holds five liquor licenses in the State of Illinois. One in Mt. Vernon, Hoyleton and Chester and two in Nashville.

He explained that he has three gaming parlors one restaurant in Hoyleton and another bar.

He shared with the council the Illinois Gaming Board Video Gaming Reports from his establishments at Chester, Nashville and Mt. Vernon.

City Attorney Ryan Connor recommended that this be tabled tonight it has nothing to do with his petition.

Connor said that an explanation of some of the minutes and how this is preceded between August 15, 2016 and late 2017 is in order before the council moves on this request.

A motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Lester to table this request until City Attorney Connor can review previous council minutes.

A roll call vote was taken: Barker, nay; Stunkel, yea; Lester, yea; Hubler, yea; Brosman, yea; Hobler, yea. Motion carried to table.

APPROVE OR REJECT BIDS FOR
OVERHEAD DOOR REPLACEMENT AT
GARAGE:

A motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker approving the low bid from Durbin's Overhead Door, Inc. in the amount of \$4,135.00 for an overhead door at the City Garage. Motion carried.

The city also received a bid from Altamont Overhead Door in the amount of \$4,216.00.

APPROVE OR REJECT BIDS FOR
DEMOLITION OF HOUSE AT 1319 W.
RANDOLPH ST.:

A motion was made by Barker and seconded by Brosman approving the bid from Robert Simmons, LLC, Mason, IL. in the amount of \$1,850.00 to demo a house located at 1319 W. Randolph St. Motion carried.

The city also received a bid from Grubaugh Contracting in the amount of \$3,850.00 and Richland Land Improvements, LLC in the amount of \$6,500.00

WATER/SEWER & STREET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES-JANUARY 11,
2021:

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler approving the Water/Sewer & Street Committee Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2021 as presented. Motion carried.

SEWER DUMPING SURVEY COST:

The council discussed the fees for dumping by septic trucks.

Pricing for sewage dumping from neighboring municipalities were given to the aldermen to review.

Brosman stated that we are well under the going rate of those around us and feels that something needs to be done.

At this time the actual charge in Vandalia is \$5.89 per load.

Mayor Gottman asked for a recommendation from Brosman who chairs the Water/Sewer Committee.

I'm looking at Litchfield at \$50.00 per thousand gallons and that seems reasonable to me.

A motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Stunkel to change the city's sewage dumping for the tanks from the current rate of \$5.89 per load to \$50.00 per 1,000 gallons based on the capacity of the tank. Any increases will go along with our water/sewer rates in the future. Brosman suggested that we hold off to enact this raise for another three or four months to give the businesses enough lead time to make their plans. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING DISPATCH AT
POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

Mayor Gottman stated that the city is having trouble hiring someone for a part-time dispatcher position.

Mayor Gottman said the county raised the pay in their department.

Mayor Gottman said, that it takes a talented person who knows under 911 how to give directions for CPR over the phone and many other tasks. It has revolved into more over the years.

Chief Ray said currently the part-time dispatchers make \$14.46 an hour as the starting wage. If they work an overnight shift it is \$14.96. A .50 cent shift differential. Our starting full-time wage is \$21.29 an hour. Last year we had between the part-time secretary and part-time dispatcher we had 3,284 hours worked by the part-timers. Three of those were brand new employees so for each new employee it takes about 300 hours of training time before we can get that person working on their own. Three of those people are gone. They came and left. It's a hard position to fill because there are no guaranteed hours.

Chief Ray said, we've had some really good people interested but with people having a house payment, car payment, they need this many hours a week, but I can't guarantee that they're going to get any. It's become a very difficult position to fill. We are not getting applicants, I'm not sure if it's the rate of pay or if there is something we can do to increase that rate of pay to get more qualified candidates. It is a job that continued education is needed. The pay at this time is \$14.46 per hour with no benefits.

Lester stated, if the full-time is trained the same and as many hours as part-time and do the same job why can't we pay the part-time the same as a full-time dispatcher which is \$21.29. Chief Ray said, that would be my preference, obviously they are not getting the benefits as the full-time employees.

A motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Stunkel to bring the part-time dispatchers to \$21.29 per hour with no benefits. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Gottman talked about some of the Illinois Municipal League initiatives that were introduced last week.

HB281 which would allow local governments to use tax increment financing (TIF) funds to provide grants to businesses within the TIF district that experienced business interruption losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. IML is in support of this bill.

Stunkel brought up the Illinois Housing Development Authority is taking applications fir round five of their Abandoned Property Program.

Grant funds that may be used for securing, maintaining, demolishing or rehabilitating abandoned residential properties. He asked if this is something that Andy Vaughan, Building Inspector could apply for.

Mayor Gottman said yes, and City Administrator Paslay will give him the information.

Stunkel also mentioned that there is an application for Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program that is now open. Again, Paslay will pass this information on to Fire Chief, Mark Meadows.

Mayor Gottman announced that this will be Rich Bauer, editor for The Vandalia Leader-Union last meeting. We would like to thank him for

dedicating almost 40 years of his life to the Vandalia Leader Union and his community. We congratulate you and extend our best wishes on your retirement.

REMINDER SECOND MEETING IN
FEBRUARY IS TUESDAY, FEB. 16TH:

City Clerk Bowen reminded the council that the next Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16th due to President's Day on Monday the 15th.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Barker reported that the Public Works and Street Department are keeping busy.

Brosman reported that the Water & Sewer Committee had two complaints to review.

Stunkel reported that the Lake Committee discussed the possibility of another lake study. Looking at updating that. The last one was done around twenty years ago.

Stunkel said that several old trees were taken down by the marina. They will be out of there before the Lake opens in April.

Stunkel suggested that we think about planting some new trees, not so much for us but our kids and grandkids.

Mayor Gottman announced that he along with Economic Development Director Amber Daulbaugh; Kaskaskia College Director of Workforce, Superintendent of Schools, Jennifer Garrison attended an Atlas 46 meeting in Hillsboro a few weeks ago. They are opening a facility in Vandalia and moving forward with that.

Barker reminded the council and the public that the CEO class is hosting Old Capitol Skate on synthetic ice in front of Charters Patio on Friday evening February 5th and Saturday February 6th. If at all possible plan to attend.

COUNCIL MOVES INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Barker to move into Executive Session at 7:23 pm under 5 ILCS 120/2 for possible litigation.

Mayor Gottman asked that Attorney Chuck Pierce and Chief of Police Jeff Ray join us in Executive Session.

Roll call: Barker, yea; Brosman, yea; Hobler, yea; Lester, yea; Hubler, yea; Stunkel, yea.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDS AT 8:00 P.M.:

Executive Session ended at 8:00 P.M.

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES AT 8:01 P.M.:

Mayor Gottman reconvened the regular council meeting at 8:01 P.M.

Roll call taken: Brosman, yea; Hobler, yea; Barker, yea; Stunkel, yea; Hubler, yea; Lester, yea.

2014 VEHICLE-TRAIN ACCIDENT FOUND CITY NOT LIABLE IN LAWSUIT:

Mayor Gottman had Attorney Chuck Pierce say a few words on the press release.

Pierce spoke on the tragic accident that occurred in Vandalia on October 30, 2014. Crystal Ann and three of her children were killed when their vehicle was struck by a CSX train while in-route to the Lion's Club Halloween parade. After the incident occurred, the family filed a lawsuit claiming that CSX, the Vandalia Lion's Club and the City of Vandalia were liable for this accident. CSX settled the claim against it for a

confidential amount. The court then dismissed the claims against the Lion's Club, finding that it could not be liable, leaving the claims against the City.

The City mounted a vigorous defense under the coordination of Mayor Gottman who provided testimony on behalf of the City. The years of litigation have finally come to an end. The Fayette County Circuit Court has recently granted judgment in favor of the City of Vandalia on all claims arising out of this tragic accident.

We are, however, gratified by the court's recognition that this accident was not the City's fault. We look forward to putting this lawsuit behind us and move on.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being nothing further to discuss from Executive Session, a motion was made by Hubler & seconded by Stunkel to adjourn. Motion carried.


CITY CLERK