

City Council
Regular Meeting

September 6, 2022
6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ROLL CALL:

Aldermen Barker, Brosman, Hubler, Stunkel, Lewey, Lester, Hobler and Rebbe were present.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

A moment of silence was observed for Pat Gathe, Local Business Owner of Gathe's Tax & Accounting.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES DATED
AUGUST 15, 2022:**

A motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2022 City Council meeting as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer's Report was received as presented.

REGULAR BILLS:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve the regular bills as submitted. Motion carried.

SPECIAL BILLS:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to approve the special bills as presented: Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$7,000.00 for sewer vac; Hawkins in the amount of \$1975.60 for supplies; Brenntag Mid-South Inc. in the amount of \$25,364.34 for supplies; Core & Main in the amount of \$6,340.20 for parts; Leskera Law Firm in the amount of \$99,198.37 for

TIF Reimbursement; Tune Trucking Inc in the amount of \$8,859.78 for rock; Vandalia Asphalt Service in the amount of \$8,577.64 for patch mix; Mid Illinois Concrete in the amount of \$4,168.75 for patch mix; Beelman Logistics in the amount of \$6,163.26 for sealcoat chips; Nick DePaolo in the amount of \$3,300.00 for removal of trees; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$2,492.87 for street lights; Stenger Professional Services in the amount of \$2,600.00 for appraisal services; First Presbyterian Church in the amount of \$2,700.00 for payment for appraised value for the Safe Routes to School Project; McKellar, Robertson, McCarty & Click Ins in the amount of \$2,587.00 for annual renewal. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2022-9-6-A:
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING
THE ACQUISITION OF
EASEMENT FOR SAFE ROUTES
TO SCHOOLS PROJECT
WITHIN THE CITY OF
VANDALIA:

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to approve Ordinance 2022-9-6-A: An Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Easement for Safe Routes to Schools Project within the City of Vandalia. Mayor Gottman stated that this is for the Church property to pay them \$2,700.00.

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

ORDINANCE 2022-9-6-B:
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING
THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE
DONATION OF CERTAIN REAL
PROPERTY BY THE CITY OF
VANDALIA-3.41 ACRES
WITHIN THE CITY OF
VANDALIA:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to approve Ordinance 2022-9-6-B: An Ordinance Authorizing the Acceptance of the Donation of Certain Real Property by the City of Vandalia-3.41 Acres within the City of Vandalia.

Roll Call: Hubler, yea; Brosman, yea; Stunkel, yea; Hobler, yea;

Rebbe, yea; Barker, yea; Lewey, yea; Lester, yea. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 8/22/2022:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to accept the Water & Sewer Committee Meeting minutes for August 22, 2022. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION FOR SCADA SYSTEM REPAIR AT WATER TREATMENT PLANT (SEE BIDS ATTACHED TO MINUTES) :

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker for authorization for SCADA System repair at Water Treatment Plant form Vandevanter Engineering. Motion carried.

TRANSFER OF LAKE LOT #314 FROM ELIZABETH WILLIAMS, VANDALIA TO TAMMY THOMPSON, VANDALIA:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Lewey to approve the transfer of Lake Lot #314 form Elizabeth Williams, Vandalia to Tammy Thompson, Vandalia. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT RESIGNATION OF BILL BEARD FROM PLANNING COMMISSION:

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to approve Resignation of Bill Beard from Planning Commission. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT BIDS FOR SKID STEER FOR CITY GARAGE:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to approve the bid of \$150,000.00 for Skid Steer, trailer and accessories for the City Garage. Motion carried.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF VANDALIA AND FAYETTE COUNTY - SQUAD VEHICLE:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Vandalia and Fayette County for Squad Vehicle. Mayor Gottman wanted to thank the County publicly. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Paslay reported that recently the City had a bore underneath the railroad on Second Street to fix the sewer clots. The concrete was fixed last week and the road was able to be put back. Filer will check on curb and gutter. Regarding the

Fillmore to Washington Watermain Replacement project, the City has a change order due to the amount of utilities that are under Fillmore Street. The contractors are going to have to cut rather than bore. Estimated cost of that change order is an increase of \$4,570.75. However the Council had approved 2 change orders that were decreased. Those decreases totaled \$3,156.00 so going ahead with this, the City will be over on this project of only \$1,415.00. Gottman stated in order to move ahead with this project and avoid delays, he would like the Council's blessing to move forward. There were no objections. On the Safe Routes to School project, the next step will be for Paslay to submit reports for each parcel that was obtained and meet with IDOT to get those certified before the City can let it out for bid. The City was granted a 1 year extension on the funding for the Lake Dam and the Main Street lift station, which were set to expire at the end of August. Gottman said he talked to ADS Electric about the 4th Street lights and they will hopefully have those installed next weekend.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Gottman discussed the job description for the Economic Development Direction position. Gottman noted the first job description was approved on 6/20/2022 and was revised/rectified on 7/05/2022. This will be published in a couple of magazines. He has talked to a couple of individuals who will be submitting resumes. Once resumes are received, he will put a team together to conduct interviews.

Gottman stated that if any Council member had questions, they should

not hesitate to contact him. He reminded Council on how they communicate with each other due to the Open Meetings Act under the Illinois State Statute. Connor stated that the Open Meetings Act requires any subdivision of every unit of local government in Illinois, every committee, a majority of a quorum applies to. Most of the committees have 3 members on them, and that means if 2 of the Aldermen discuss municipal business, this triggers a meeting. Connor reported that, for example, when a group email is sent out to the Aldermen, the Aldermen cannot start replying to that email where everybody can see it. Text messages or emails that are sent during a meeting are FOIA-able. Brosman stated that the committees are comprised of 4 Aldermen and therefore, there would not be a majority of the quorum if just 2 Aldermen communicated about anything. Connor stated the majority of the quorum is 2. Connor stated that everything the Aldermen have to do with the City is public, unless it is privileged. Connor stated if Aldermen discuss public business at a gathering, the gathering is subject to conversion to a meeting. Connor urged the Aldermen to review the Open Meetings Act. Connor stated that 2 Aldermen who are not on the same committee can discuss municipal business and it is not a meeting. He stated the Aldermen need to be mindful of the Act at all times when it touches on municipal business. If the Aldermen start knowingly violate this particular law, there are consequences and an entire government agency designed to investigate. Connor stated that the Open Meetings Act is aimed at a

public body of decision makers who vote. It is designed to cause discussion about those issues to happen in public and not in private, when a majority of the quorum comes together to discuss public business. He stated that officers are the subject to a different group of opinions than those who vote. Connor will report on that at a future meeting.

Gottman stated that the Statement of Economic Interest forms that were completed earlier this year are being pulled across the state and if found that something was not disclosed, the AG will step in which could result in fines.

Scooters has announced they will be opening a facility in Vandalia. Gottman and Paslay have met with them. They also met with a developer who has numerous developments in a neighboring community. Gottman noted that the City is in a good position for continued and future growth.

Gottman reported he is working to set up a meeting with an Economic Development consultant next week.

He stated he spoke with Vandalia Correctional Center and they currently house 500+ inmates.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

City Administrator Paslay stated that the Council will have a request for approval to vacate an unimproved alley at the next meeting. Oiling of streets begins next week. Paslay will get maps to the media and share them on the City website as well. Andy Gelsinger has interviewed one applicant for the vacant water plant

position and is interviewing another applicant. One of the new chopper pumps that the council approved at the Wal-Mart lift station was installed today and the second one will be installed tomorrow. Mike Anderson and Lee Beckman will be going through the energy audit that was recently done and they will see what needs to be done at the sewer plant. Anderson would like to have the aerator pumps and motors updated. Greater Fayette County Chamber of Commerce is celebrating Chamber week. Paslay has a conference call scheduled for tomorrow for potential Tourism grants. Farmer's Market is Saturday, September 10 from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. They have 15 vendors signed up. Gottman encouraged the Council to try to attend events such as this. Festival of Trees is November 3, 2022 at the Vandalia Moose Lodge. She reported that 78 Christmas displays were purchased for Festival of Lights. The date for Trick or Treat has been scheduled for Saturday, October 29 from 6 until 8 p.m. Downtown Trick or Treat will be the same day from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Motion to set the date for Trick or Treat was made by Lewey and seconded by Barker. Motion carried.

SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL REPORT:

Report will be provided at next City Council meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Barker reported that a lot of the mowing has been caught up. Brosman stated he is looking forward to getting the water treatment plant fully staffed. He reiterated his position on solar energy and his concern for rising cost of electricity. A new police officer was sworn in at tonight's meeting.

Gottman stated he has appointed Sam Kerr as interim Lake Manager in addition to his current position of Sexton. He publicly thanked Chuck Ruot for filling in. Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to appoint Sam Kerr as interim Lake Manager in addition to his regular duties of Sexton. Motion carried. Lester stated he will be looking at the paint on the second story north face of City Hall tomorrow. Gottman asked if Lester could look at the set of stairs that go to the basement as the basement has been getting a lot of water. Stunkel reported that the boat ramps at the lake are old and in need of repair. Hubler reported he and Gottman attended Cages Bike Show the past weekend. All proceeds from that go to the St. Louis Shriner's Hospital. Paslay reported there will be a car show at the next Farmer's Market in October.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS :

Stunkel stated he had raised concerns with the Park district about the bathrooms not having doors on them. He reported there are now doors on the bathrooms. He also noted that there are tall weeds along the railroad ties and on both sides of the tracks. Paslay will contact the railroad. Stunkel asked about the status of bridge repairs. Paslay said there are not a lot of funding opportunities such as grants for bridges. Discussion was held regarding the appearance of both interchanges with regard to pavement and weeds. Filer will reach out to IDOT. Lester asked about a timeline for the downtown hotel's front façade that crumbled. Connor reported ownership has been identified and discussion on a weekly basis has been held on the

best corrective action to take. The owner of the building lives in Florida. Andy Vaughan, Zach Kopp and Connor have been working on this matter. A spec has been drawn up for the new building at the Cemetery.

ADJOURNMENT :

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Rebbe to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Motion carried.

Deputy Clerk