

**City Council**  
Regular Meeting

February 6, 2023  
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 Brosman, Lester, Lewey, Hobler, Stunkel, Hubler, and Barker were present. Rebbe was absent.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

A moment of silence was held for Jim Staff, former Regional Superintendent of Schools and former business owner. A moment of silence was also observed for Joann Tessman, mother of Mark Tessman who is an employee of the City.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES DATED**  
**JANUARY 16, 2023:**

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to approve the City Council meeting minutes dated January 16, 2023. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer's report not submitted.

**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 Hobler to approve special bills as submitted:  
Culbertson Heating and Cooling in the amount of \$10,370.00 for a new unit for City Hall; Triple A Asbestos Service, Inc., in the amount of \$2,195.00 for code enforcement; Robert Simmons, LLC in the amount of \$11,750.00 for code

enforcement; Fayette County Clerk and Recorder in the amount of \$73,326.00 for animal control fees; Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$7,000.00 for sewer vac; Crafcoc, Inc., in the amount of \$3,108.00 for supplies; ADS Electric in the amount of \$11,375.00 for maintenance on traffic signals; Julie, Inc., in the amount of \$2,123.76 for annual transmissions; SCIRP & DC in the amount of \$2,500.00 for reimbursement of staff costs; Birkey's in the amount of \$6,149.05 for equipment maintenance; Brenntag Mid South, Inc., in the amount of \$6,374.60 for supplies; Culbertson Heating and Cooling in the amount of \$9,555.00 for new unit for sewer plant; Cedarchem, LLC in the amount of \$17,379.04 for supplies. Motion carried.

**SWEARING IN OF ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE:**

Clerk Huhn swore in Jerry "Jake" Bowling as Assistant Chief of Police.

**ACCEPTANCE OF WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 11, 2023:**

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to accept the Water and Sewer Committee meeting minutes dated January 11, 2023. Motion carried.

**ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 11, 2023:**

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to accept the Public Safety Committee meeting minutes dated January 11, 2023. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE 2023-2-6-A: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SALARIES FOR FISCAL YEAR MAY 1, 2022 - APRIL 30, 2023:**

Gottman reported that there will be two Amendments on the floor: Public Works Foreman will be removed from the Ordinance as presented pending further discussion. The second Amendment is the amount of the stipend for Deputy City Clerk which will be \$1,500.00 per year instead of \$1,200.00 per year. Motion was

made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve Ordinance 2023-2-6-A: An Ordinance Amending Salaries for Fiscal Year May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023 with those Amendments. Hobler asked if these could be voted on individually. Stunkel withdrew his motion. Motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Barker to vote on each stipend individually. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Brosman to approve a yearly stipend in the amount of \$3,000.00 for the Assistant Chief of Police. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve a yearly stipend in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Deputy City Clerk. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Lester to approve the title change from Sexton to Superintendent of Lake and Cemetery; yearly stipend in the amount of \$18,000.00 for Superintendent of Lake and Cemetery; and hiring 1 additional seasonal employee. The motion passed with Alderman Hobler voting no.

**REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE  
SESSION MINUTES:**

Gottman said he has reviewed the Executive Session minutes and per legal counsel, he feels the minutes are not beyond the period of time that they can be released. Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to not release Executive Session minutes covering the past 1 year at this time. Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Gottman reported he has been visiting area businesses. Big River Motorsports is located at the former John Deere building. He said they are looking to grow their business in Vandalia. Giuseppe's Pizza is going to change its name to Mario's Pizza. They are hoping to open within a month. He also met with Tucker Willms, owner of Arrow Landscaping. Cricket Phone Company has opened their business at the Retail Center. He has also been talking with Dollar Tree. Gottman is looking to schedule a meeting with the District Manager. He also noted he has been working with Michel's Feed Store. He reported that the City has 120 acres and question has been raised if the City would be interested in subdividing it out for commercial business. He said 2 people are interested. It was the opinion of the Council to look into this further. Gottman met with the owners of Harry's Liquor Store. They want to expand in Vandalia. They are looking at 2 parcels of property in the City of Vandalia. Gottman will be holding a meeting with a group of people to talk about Economic Development on February 22 at 12 Noon. He noted that each Alderman has received a Statement of Economics Form that needs to be completed and turned in to the County Clerk's office by May 1, 2023.

**CITY CLERK'S REPORT:**

Huhn noted that the City Clerk's office can now accept debit/credit cards in addition to cash and check for reconnect fees for nonpayment of water bills. Her office will now be working on accepting credit and debit cards for boat stickers. She also noted that the software upgrade and training had been completed.

Huhn also noted that she has begun automating liquor licenses for the 2023-2024 year.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Safe Routes to School paperwork should be done by the end of the week. On Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 12 Noon, there is a TIF Joint Review Board meeting. Planning for the Farmer's Market will be starting soon. Festival of Trees is set for Friday, November 17, 2023. Marlin Filer will begin conducting interviews for position of Laborer at the City garage on Tuesday and Thursday of this week. Tourism meeting will be Tuesday, February 14 at 4 p.m. She will be rolling out Small Business Awards program at the end of the month. CEO will have 3 or 4 speakers at the Council meeting on March 20, 2023. At the beginning of April, she is looking to bring back the Downtown Strategies Committees. Gottman, Paslay, County Clerk Jessica Barker and Jodi Smith from the Health Department will be speaking to the CEO class on the morning of March 29, 2023.

**SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL:**

Report provided in last Council meeting packet.

**STANDING COMMITTEES REPORTS:**

Barker reported that the Street Department is doing a great job. Brosman reported he received 7 requests for water adjustments. He also noted that a Water and Sewer Committee meeting was held earlier. Gottman stated that he gave Ray authorization to purchase additional body cameras. Question was asked about the status of the survey for golf carts. Paslay is working on this. The new Cemetery building is coming along nicely. Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to advertise for Lake patrol and

seasonal Laborer. There were no objections. Motion carried. Connor reported that he has court for the property located at 633 S. Fifth Street tomorrow. Barker asked about the status of the old hotel building downtown. Connor reported that a status hearing is set for March regarding that property. Lewey asked about the open lot on the corner of Third and Gallatin Streets. He would like the City to do something to make that corner more appealing. Paslay and Hubler will talk about it at the Downtown Strategies meeting. Paslay will talk with Zach Kopp regarding the dilapidated house south of Cages Bar and Grill. She will also talk with Kopp regarding a dilapidated house located on Fourth Street near Randolph Street.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:**

Krista Whitten addressed the Council regarding allowing chickens on her property which would be fenced in. She stated surrounding communities allow chickens (with a limit of number of chickens allowed). It would be in a residential zone. Planning Commission will need to address this request. Hobler asked if the eggs needed to be approved by the FDA or another entity before she can use them for her commercial business. Gottman asked Whitten to check with the health department regarding that. Paslay will ask municipalities the size of Vandalia what their policies are regarding chickens.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Barker to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Motion carried.

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City Clerk