

City Council
Regular Meeting

April 3, 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, Stunkel, Hubler, Rebbe, Barker, Lester, Lewey and Hobler.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

A moment of silence was held for Gene Daniels, former owner of Culligan Water Conditioning. A moment of silence was also observed for Rebecca Carroll, co-owner of ABC Carpet.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES DATED
MARCH 20, 2023:**

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to approve the City Council meeting minutes dated March 20, 2023. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

An updated Treasurer's report for period ending February 28, 2023 was reviewed. Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Hobler to file the report for audit. Motion carried.

REGULAR BILLS:

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

SPECIAL BILLS:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve the special bills as submitted: Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$7,000.00 for sewer vac; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$3,032.81 for electric bill; Nick's Tree

Service in the amount of \$3,300.00 for tree removal; Dinges Fire Company in the amount of \$6,790.95 for equipment; Discover Downstate Illinois in the amount of \$1,810.00 for advertising and marketing; Mid-Illinois Concrete, Inc., in the amount of \$5,145.75 for supplies; ADS Electric Corporation in the amount of \$4,477.77 for service fees; Mid-Illinois Concrete in the amount of \$1,883.13 for materials; Brenntag Mid South, Inc., in the amount of \$7,147.70 for supplies; Sidener Environmental Services in the amount of \$4,040.20 for annual maintenance. Motion carried.

**APPROVE OR REJECT
APPOINTMENT OF LAKE CAMP
HOST:**

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve Scott Workman as Lake Camp Host. Motion carried. Brosman asked if there was a written job description for this position yet. Gottman reported this is being worked on.

**AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE A
POLICE OFFICER:**

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Rebbe to authorize Chief Ray to hire a police officer. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE 2023-4-3-A: AN
ORDINANCE APPROVING AN
INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
CITY OF VANDALIA,
ILLINOIS AND VANDALIA
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL
DISTRICT 203:**

Motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Rebbe to approve Resolution 2023-4-3-A: An Ordinance Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Vandalia, Illinois and Vandalia Community Unit School District 203.

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

**APPROVE OR REJECT BID
FOR MAIN STREET LIFT
STATION:**

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Stunkel to approve bid submitted by Haier Plumbing and

Heating, Inc., in the amount of \$295,622.00 for the Main Street Lift Station project. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2023-4-3-B: AN
ORDINANCE APPROVING
DESIGN STANDARDS FOR
BUILDING FACADES:
(TABLED)

After much discussion, motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Stunkel to table Ordinance 2023-4-3-B and forward on to the Building and Grounds Committee, the Planning Commission and then to City Council. There were no objections. Motion carried. Ordinance was tabled.

ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC
SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES FROM MARCH 20,
2023:

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Hobler to accept Public Safety Committee Meeting minutes dated March 20, 2023. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF TOURISM
COMMISSION SPECIAL
MEETING MINUTES FROM
FEBRUARY 21, 2023:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to accept Tourism Special Meeting minutes from February 21, 2023. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Gottman noted that Lee Beckman will be here on Monday, April 17, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. for a work session on the new water plant.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

IML Lobby Day is coming up. Gottman encouraged those who were interested in attending to let Paslay know by tomorrow. The Chinese restaurant behind Wendy's will be reopening as a Chinese restaurant. Copper Penny has begun work on the South side of the building and will be installing a door facing Charters Patio. He noted that Irons is getting ready to open. They will be offering axe throwing and a golf simulator. Gottman reached out to the Mayor of Salem as the south side of Salem sustained significant damage from a

tornado on Friday, offering any support they might need. Beauty Mark. will be hosting a Grand Opening on April 14 and 15. The cleanup of the Simmons property on 633 S. 5th Street has begun. Gottman noted that the City is going to move forward on other properties in the City that need cleaned up. Gottman is going to meet this week with another organization regarding the Fourth of July fireworks. He reported that he is still working with Madison County Transit to schedule a meeting. Barricades were taken down at Lincoln Park. Huhn will work on getting a golf cart survey link printed on the back of water bills. Once the survey results are compiled, Hobler and Paslay will schedule a Public Safety Meeting. Paslay has filed a complaint with the railroad company regarding the loosening tracks at the 8th street crossing. Paslay reported on the employee insurance benefits. She said that the health insurance went up 14%, a decrease from 25% which the insurance company initially proposed. Gottman has made contact with IDOT regarding the proposed work on Route 51. Todd Thoman met with Paslay and Gottman regarding the 120 acres the City owns. They are going to meet with Thoman again. Gottman reported that he met with Illinois delegates while he was in Washington DC last week. Paslay and Beckman are working on a packet of shovel ready projects. Gottman will be delivering this information to Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin's aides. He will also be setting up meetings with Representative Blaine Wilhour and Senator Jason Plummer to discuss funding. Gottman will

meet with Beckman and Paslay regarding the OSLAD grant.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Connor reported that there are a lot of cases in court right now at the property level and Ordinance violation level. There are a couple of other pieces of properties in the works. It was recommended by the Lake Committee at its meeting earlier to move forward to revoke the permit of Lake Lot 139. Connor noted that the Clymer property will probably be resolved by deed in lieu and expects this to be resolved in the next couple of weeks.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

Huhn reported that her office is close to being able to accept credit and debit cards for building permits and boat stickers in addition to utility payments and reconnect fees for nonpayment.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Paslay reminded the Council about the Small Business Awards that will be awarded on May 1, 2023.

SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL:

Report provided in previous meeting packet.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Barker reported the street department is working hard. Lester noted that the basement door on the west side of City Hall can be closed as there are 2 other exits. He also noted that he had discussions with a painter about the lower soffit and fascia areas of City Hall. He will get back to Lester and as soon as he does, Lester will let Paslay know so she can schedule a Buildings and Ground Committee meeting. Lester noted that the windows on the west side of the building around the Clerk's office will be addressed as the

blue coverings are starting to peel. Stunkel reported that the Lake Committee had a good meeting. He reported that Paslay will schedule a meeting with the City, County, Vandalia Township and Shafter Township engineers regarding a washout area. They will then give the Lake Committee a briefing of their findings. The Lake Committee unanimously voted to move forward with revocation of the lease of Lake Lot 139. Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to move forward to revoke the lease of Lake Lot 139. There were no objections. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS :

Matt Haake, the new President of the Vandalia Historical Society, noted that Wine and Ale with Abe is scheduled for September 23, 2023. He has requested road closures on Gallatin from Kennedy to Fifth and then Fourth Street from Johnson to Main from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. Resolution will be voted on at the next Council meeting.

Todd Stapleton noted that the Council took Action on an item during a Discussion. He asked in the future if the action items could be under actual New Business. Connor said if there were no objections, he would not object to ratifying that particular action at the next Council meeting. There were no objections.

Lester asked if it was an Ordinance violation to use exterior wood burners to heat homes. He said if it is not, he would suggest creation of an Ordinance to eliminate those kinds of things. Paslay said it is in the code that people can have them. Connor

referenced the current Ordinance which lists exceptions as apparatuses that are designed to burn wood pellets to heat a home, so it is specifically an exception as of now.

Lester asked is there a process to selling property ourselves that the City is accumulating. He said Effingham does that. Connor is currently working on that.

ADJOURNMENT :

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Barker to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

City Clerk