

**City Council  
Regular Meeting**

August 7, 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, Stunkel, Hubler, Bowen, Lewey, Hobler and Barker were present.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

A moment of silence was held for Keith Moran, former TIF consultant for the City.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES DATED  
JULY 17, 2023:**

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to approve City Council meeting minutes dated July 17, 2023. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer's Report for period ending July 31, 2023 was reviewed. No action required.

**REGULAR BILLS:**

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Lewey 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: Sandberg Phoenix in the amount of \$2,403.00 for legal fees; Ritchey Painting in the amount of \$3,550.00 for maintenance to building; Global Tech Systems, Inc., in the amount of \$5,465.86 for police department equipment; Andy's Auto Body in the amount of \$5,612.90 for maintenance; Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the

amount of \$7,000.00 for sewer vac; ADS Electric Corp in the amount of \$2,253.25 for maintenance to traffic lights; Milano and Grunloh Engineers in the amount of \$55,846.25 for engineering fees; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$2,355.99 for utility bill; Nick's Tree Service in the amount of \$1,650.00 for tree removal; General Contractor's Inc., in the amount of \$4,029.48 for supplies; Genesis Property Improvements in the amount of \$6,337.50 for new roof on Lake shed; Schaal Construction in the amount of \$3,645.32 for professional services; Imco Utility Supply in the amount of \$2,641.10 for supplies; Core and Main in the amount of \$3,236.11 for supplies; Coe Equipment, Inc., in the amount of \$3,825.93 for maintenance to equipment; Brenntag Mid South, Inc., in the amount of \$18,089.91 for supplies; Hawkins, Inc., in the amount of \$4,093.21 for supplies; USA Blue Book, Inc., in the amount of \$4,327.67 for supplies; and Cedarchem, LLC in the amount of \$18,684.60 for supplies. Motion carried.

**ABATE PRESENTATION:**

Representatives from Shoal Creek ABATE presented a check to the City for Veterans Memorial Park in the amount of \$3,000.00. Gottman thanked the group for their donation and for all they do for the community.

**ACCEPTANCE OF LETTER OF RETIREMENT FROM MARLIN FILER, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:**

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Lewey to accept the letter of retirement from Marlin Filer, Public Works Director. Motion carried.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE LAKE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - JULY 17, 2023:**

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to accept the Lake Committee meeting minutes dated July 17, 2023. Motion carried.

**REVIEW OR REJECT FINAL  
PAY ESTIMATE NO. 11 FOR  
PAYNE/WAGNER STREET  
PROJECT - \$156,321.90:**

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Brosman to approve the FINAL pay estimate No. 11 for Payne/Wagner Street Project - \$156,321.90. Motion carried.

**REQUEST FROM  
SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC. -  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2023:**

Request from Southwestern Electric Cooperative asking the Council to consider the use of golf carts during their annual electric cooperative meeting on Saturday, September 9 at the Vandalia State House was discussed. Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Barker to allow the use of golf carts to transport the attendees within a 5 block radius of the State House during the Cooperative's annual meeting. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE 2023-8-7-A: AN  
ORDINANCE APPROVING  
WRITTEN DECISION OF LAKE  
COMMITTEE AND REVOKING  
LAKE LOT 139:**

Connor said a hearing was conducted regarding revocation of Lake Lot #139. Committee made a recommendation to revoke Lake Lot #139. Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hubler to approve Ordinance 2023-8-7-A: An Ordinance Approving Written Decision of Lake Committee and Revoking Lake Lot 139. Connor said the Lessees have 60 days to remove material from the property but after that, this Ordinance empowers the Council to move forward with any removal that is required.

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

**RESOLUTION 2023-8-7-B: A  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING  
AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY LOAN  
TO BRENDA DUFF  
INDIVIDUALLY AND D/B/A  
HELM DUI:**

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to approve Resolution 2023-8-7-B: A Resolution Authorizing an Economic Development Eligible Activity Loan to Brenda Duff Individually and D/B/A Helm DUI.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Paslay reported the City was awarded a \$1.5 million dollar CDBG grant for water main replacement on Jefferson Street from First to Fourth Streets. She will forward a list of corrected names to Connor for Safe Routes to School. A public hearing will be held for reapplication for OSLAD grant and for the second Safe Routes to Schools which would include the Fletcher and Orchard Street area.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Gottman reported that the City has made donations in memory of family members of Council and City employees to organizations designated by those families. Follow up list will be in the packet at the next meeting. Two candidates for Economic Development Director position were interviewed with a recommendation to be made prior to the next Council meeting. Gottman reviewed the Letter to the Editor regarding the improvements that have taken place at the Lake this season. He reported that there are 3 City employees who have expressed interest in the Public Works Director position that will be vacated by Filer in mid-September. A recommendation for his replacement will be made at the next Council meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Connor reported that the City has continued on with the process of both tickets and simultaneous demolition court dates for some of the nuisance properties. Two properties have notice dates that are about to run and court dates coming up. He reported that the Lake

hearing to revoke Lake Lot 139 was held. It is his recommendation that the Council authorize Connor to obtain a court order to remove anything that is there rather than a self-help remedy after the 60 day waiting period. Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to grant authorization to Connor to obtain a court order to remove anything that is remaining after the 60 day waiting period. Motion carried.

**CITY CLERK'S REPORT:**

Nothing to report.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Nothing to report.

**SAFETY CODE OFFICE:**

Report provided in last meeting packet. Connor noted that Kopp has been having additional success with nonjudicial movement. He has been working on some documents on the side to take care of some of these properties which will be a substantial savings. Kopp has been doing all of those in addition to the judicial ones he has been working on.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Barker reported that the Street Department has been busy taking care of water leaks and replacing water lines. Oiling of the streets will take place the first few weeks of September. Report of fire department training hours and calls for May and June 2023 provided in packet. Gottman noted that the police car that was to be used for the School Resource Officer has a blown motor. Ray will get pricing on a car and give that information to Gottman. This will be discussed at the next Council meeting. Barker suggested talking to the County and Illinois State Police. Lewey commended the

Cemetery staff on doing a great job keeping the Cemetery looking good. Lester said he has not heard back from Joe Kirk on the EIFS window coverings. Paslay reported that Vaughan has given her a list of contractors for the basement stairwell closure, and specs will be sent out this week. Stunkel reported a bid for Lake Dam repairs has been awarded. Paslay noted that a preconstruction meeting will be held. Workman said the shower house repairs are complete. Lester will look at the metal roof at the marina and make recommendations. Workman said there are no pole lights on the poles at the Lake. Paslay said this is on her to do list to prepare for next year. Paslay stated that Farmer's Market is Saturday, August 12, 2023. Cages will be hosting their 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Labor Day Bike Show on September 4.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:**

Barker asked about the status of the signage proposal prepared by Craig Martin Simon Design that was presented to the Tourism Committee. Gottman stated once an Economic Development Director and Tourism Director are hired, they will begin work on it.

Andy Lester distributed a map in the area of Jefferson Street/Rock Island/Clinton Streets. Steve Boren, who lives in that area (labeled #9 on the map), asked who is responsible for enforcing zoning. He stated his issue was that the lot next to his had grown up to the point where the weeds were 4' tall. Mr. Boren said his wife was told by 2 City officials that there is nothing they can do as it is actually zoned as agricultural. Boren stated as they started doing

further research, they found that it was mapped as single family residential. The Boren's then contacted their Ward Alderman, Andy Lester. Steve Boren asked whose responsibility is it to enforce these things? Is it the taxpayer or the City officials? Tammy Boren stated that Kopp told her the property was grandfathered in as agricultural. She feels if the property is grandfathered in, then the neighbors should have been notified. She states that she spoke with Andy Vaughan also. Steve Boren stated it is basically an open lot full of dirt piles and dead trees. He asked where does he find the definition of what is and what is not allowed in a single family residential lot. Paslay will give Boren's a hard copy of the City's municipal code that pertains to zoning. Lester said it is his impression that the Boren's are saying that Lots 10, 11 and 12 are not being used as residential. He said if there is an alleged misuse of the zoning, then the zoning personnel need to make that determination. It needs to comply with the zoning or the owner needs to request a zoning change. The owner has been directed to remove the dirt piles. Steve Boren and the owner of the property did speak prior to the meeting. The owner did tell Boren that he would remove the dirt piles this fall. Bowen stated if it's out there and you see it, why are we not doing something about it instead of waiting for the citizens to complain. Boren asked what was the process if a zone change were to be requested. Paslay stated that would entail an application process by whoever requests the zoning change. It then

goes to the Planning Commission after a public notice is published. The recommendation of the Planning Commission will be brought to the City Council for final vote.

Greg Starnes asked for clarification regarding the Lake Dam repairs. Paslay stated she will schedule a preconstruction meeting with the City's engineering firm. After that, the City should have a closer date of when the work will begin.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Lewey to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

---

City Clerk