

City Council  
Regular Meeting

May 15, 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.
- SWEARING IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS FROM APRIL 4, 2023 CONSOLIDATED ELECTION: City Clerk Huhn swore in Aldermen Bret Brosman and Russ Stunkel.
- ROLL CALL: Aldermen Stunkel, Hubler, Barker, Lester, Brosman, Bowen and Hobler were present. Lewey was absent.
- MOMENT OF SILENCE: A moment of silence was held for Larry Eason, former City of Vandalia Police Chief from 2007-April 2013; David Bowen, brother of Alderman Bob Bowen; and James "Jim" Atchley, former owner of The Sports Shop from 1977-1983.
- APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES DATED MAY 1, 2023: Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to approve the City Council meeting minutes dated May 1, 2023. Motion carried.
- APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES DATED MAY 8, 2023: Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to approve the City Council Special meeting minutes dated May 8, 2023.
- TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve the Treasurer's report for period ending April 30, 2023. Motion carried.

REGULAR BILLS:

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

SPECIAL BILLS:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to approve the special bills as submitted: Richland Land Improvement in the amount of \$12,133.78 for service fees; Fayette County Clerk and Recorder in the amount of \$13,000.00 for animal control; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$2,953.39 for electric bill; SCIRP & DC in the amount of \$5,000.00 for professional services; McDowell's Service in the amount of \$2,361.89 for service fees; Progressive Chemicals and Lighting, Inc., in the amount of \$3,687.30 for supplies; Ignition Graphix, Inc., in the amount of \$2,694.00 for lake signage; South Central FS in the amount of \$3,216.83 for gasoline; 120Water, Inc., in the amount of \$8,209.50 for technical services; Brenntag Mid-South, Inc., in the amount of \$6,846.15 for supplies; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$3,633.31 for water plant electric bill; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$7,370.36 for electric bill for sewer plant. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF 2023  
SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS:

The 2023 Small Business Awards were presented to: Female Owned Business of the Year: Allison Hall - Little Lambs; Community Involvement Business of the Year: Walt and Paula Barenfanger - Kaskaskia Supply; Small Business of the Year: Morgan Rolfe - Bud's Barbershop; Economic Impact Business of the Year: Drake Thompson - The Turning Leaf and Company.

ACCEPTANCE OF BUILDING  
AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES DATED  
MAY 8, 2023:

Motion was made by Lester and seconded by Hobler to accept the Building and Grounds Committee meeting minutes dated May 8, 2023.

APPROVE OR REJECT CHANGE  
ORDER NO. 4 FOR  
PAYNE/WAGNER PROJECT  
(DECREASE OF  
\$49,962.03):

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Hobler to approve Change Order No. 4 for Payne/Wagner Project (decrease of \$49,962.03). Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT PAY  
ESTIMATE NO. 9 FOR  
PAYNE/WAGNER PROJECT -  
\$64,919.14:

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Lester to approve Pay Estimate No. 9 for Payne/Wagner Project (\$64,919.14). Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT PAY  
ESTIMATE NO. 10 FOR  
PAYNE/WAGNER PROJECT -  
\$7,934.97:

Motion was made by Lester and seconded by Brosman to approve Pay Estimate No. 10 for Payne/Wagner Project (\$7,934.97). Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2023-5-15-A:  
AN ORDINANCE APPROVING  
DESIGN STANDARDS FOR  
BUILDING FACADES:

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Lester to approve Ordinance 2023-5-15-A: An Ordinance Approving Design Standards for Building Facades. Brosman suggested the Ordinance be changed to only encompass the area zoned as downtown commercial. After discussion, Barker withdrew his motion and Lester withdrew his second. Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Lester to revise the proposed façade Ordinance to cover only those places zoned downtown commercial.

Roll call: Lester, yea; Barker, yea; Hubler, yea; Bowen, yea; Hobler, nay; Stunkel, yea. Brosman, nay. Lewey was absent. Motion carried 5-2.

**ORDINANCE 2023-5-15-B:**  
**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING**  
**THE VANDALIA MUNICIPAL**  
**CODE AT TITLE II -**  
**ADMINISTRATION AND**  
**PERSONNEL:**

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Stunkel to approve Ordinance 2023-5-15-B: An Ordinance Amending the Vandalia Municipal Code at Title II - Administration and Personnel.

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

**AUTHORIZATION TO SEEK**  
**NEW BIDS FOR MICHEL'S**  
**FEED STORE SIDEWALK**  
**PROJECT:**

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Brosman to give authorization to seek new bids for Michel's Feed Store sidewalk project. Motion carried.

**AUTHORIZATION TO SEEK**  
**BIDS FOR ANNUAL SIDEWALK**  
**REPLACEMENTS:**

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to give authorization to seek bids for annual sidewalk replacement. Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Lee Beckman from Milano and Grunloh gave an update on ongoing/pending City projects.

**DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL**  
**VOTE ON GOLF CARTS AND**  
**SIDE BY SIDES ON CITY**  
**STREETS:**

Stacy Stewart, a Vandalia resident, spoke in favor of allowing golf carts within the City limits. He also spoke in favor of allowing side by sides. Connor stated Illinois State law does not permit any of these vehicles on state highways or interstate highways. The Ordinance would specify what types of roadways that could be crossed. Barker said these vehicles would need to be street legal. Connor stated that public safety cannot be jeopardized by the passage of any Ordinance which should be the Council's guiding principle. The City would have to notify IDOT of the crossings. Scott Workman spoke about motorized

bicycles, and his concern that they can ride on any street in Vandalia. He feels it would be more of a headache if the City limits the streets that a golf cart is allowed on. He said he would be for the golf carts but if it's limiting where the side by sides can ride, then he would be against it. Hubler said a lot of communities limit the streets. Connor said the crossings are places that the City has to identify where they can cross State highways. He also stated driver's licenses are required to operate a golf cart or side by side. Brosman said he would like to take a vote of the Council to see how much support there is before moving forward. Hobler asked if this affects the Lake. Connor said he didn't think the City could regulate the County patrolled streets. Gottman asked each Council member if they were in favor or not of moving forward with Connor drafting an Ordinance: Hobler, yea; Stunkel, yea; Brosman, yea; Hubler, yea; Bowen said his decision is based more on what the Ordinance is going to look like. He said the research he did showed 18,000 people are involved in serious accidents involving golf carts in municipalities each year; they are about 30% of the accidents that occur. He stated there were too many unanswered questions for him to say yes or no at this time. He did state he was willing to move forward to have Connor draft an Ordinance. Barker, yes. Lester said the motorized bicycles need to be addressed. He said, however, he is in favor of moving forward. Gottman said we will move forward and have Connor draft an Ordinance for the Council to review during a Work

Session. It will then be amended from that point. Connor advised the Council that any items of special consideration should be sent to Paslay or himself before Monday, May 22, so he can highlight those in the proposed Ordinance.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Gottman reported at the next Council meeting, Colin Ledbetter will be nominated to the Police Pension Board. Professional photos of the Council will be taken at the June 5 Council meeting. Gottman will be hosting the Jr. High state wrestlers at a luncheon next week. He and Paslay will be scheduling meetings to visit with the manufacturers in the community.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

Connor reviewed with Council regarding City's Aldermanic form of government. Council's function is legislative in nature. If the majority of a quorum of a public body meets (committees included), that triggers a meeting under the Open Meetings Act. If municipal business becomes a topic of conversation among a majority of the quorum, (in some instances that is going to be 2 Council members), that triggers a meeting. Meetings can be triggered in person or electronically.

Connor directed the attention of the Council to the Statehouse Briefing that contained a link regarding local government distributive funding. He encouraged all Council members to review. Brosman asked that the Statehouse Briefings be emailed directly to the Aldermen instead of scanned into the packet so they can actually use the links contained in

the briefing. Gottman will relay that request to Paslay.

**CITY CLERK'S REPORT:**

Huhn reported that the Clerk's office is now able to accept debit/credit cards for boat stickers, raffle licenses, building permits, etc. She is now working on being able to accept credit/debit cards for water deposits.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

None.

**SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL:**

Report provided in packet.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Barker thanked the Street crew for doing a great job during the recent storms. Gottman reported the new squad car is in. Bowen reported that he drove through the cemetery last week. He will be in touch with Sam Kerr, Cemetery Superintendent. Stunkel reported that a severe storm went through the Lake area. Several trees were uprooted and trailers sustained damage. Scott Workman asked if the mowing could be done more frequently than every 10 days. Gail Dugan, Lake Manager, will let Paslay know. Summer Fest 2023 is scheduled for Sunday, July 2. Fireworks will conclude the evening. Stunkel reported the Lake sign will be put in place soon. Lester asked Kopp the status of the burned out apartment complex on Jefferson Street. Kopp advised Lester to speak with Andy Vaughan, Building Official, regarding that.

**AUDIENCE/COUNCIL CONCERNS:**

Barker stated he would like to see an increase in Marlin Filer's salary. Gottman said that needs to be discussed with Paslay and the Personnel Committee. Barker will talk with Paslay about scheduling a meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With there being nothing further to discuss, motion was made Hubler and seconded by Hobler to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

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City Clerk