

**City Council  
Regular Meeting**

January 2, 2024  
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, Bowen, Barker and Hubler were present. Stunkel, Lewey and Hobler were absent.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES DATED  
DECEMBER 18, 2023:**

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to approve City Council meeting minutes dated December 18, 2023. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer's report for period ending December 30, 2023 was reviewed. No action required. Gottman commended Danielle Caruso, City Treasurer, for her work in securing better interest rates for several of the City's funds.

**REGULAR BILLS:**

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

**SPECIAL BILLS:**

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to approve the special bills as presented: Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$7,000.00 for sewer vac; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$2,712.36 for utility bill; Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$10,285.00 for fire truck; Nick's Tree Service in the amount of \$1,900.00 for tree removal; Mac's

Fire and Safety, Inc., in the amount of \$2,471.08 for fire hoses; City of Vandalia - Tourism in the amount of \$8,000.00 for Festival of Trees donation to SummerFest; Historical Vandalia, Inc., in the amount of \$4,445.33 for reimbursement; ProWire in the amount of \$2,747.75 for security cameras at park; IEPA in the amount of \$22,787.56 for drinking water project; Imco Utility Supply in the amount of \$1,868.00 for supplies; Core & Main in the amount of \$7,468.00 for supplies; Brenntag Mid-South, Inc., in the amount of \$10,445.19 for supplies; Hawkins, Inc., in the amount of \$2,021.50 for supplies. Motion carried.

**AMENDMENT REQUEST FROM  
BEAUTY MARK.:**

Sarah Hill, co-owner of Beauty Mark., requested the City Council consider increasing the number of cosmetic tattoo licenses. After discussion, motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to refer the request to the Zoning Board. Motion carried.

**ACCEPTANCE OF PLANNING  
COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES - DECEMBER 19,  
2023:**

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Hubler to accept the Planning Commission Meeting Minutes dated December 19, 2023. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE 2024-1-2-A: AN  
ORDINANCE AMENDING THE  
CITY OF VANDALIA ZONING  
DISTRICT MAP:**

Brosman stated he would like to see better definition of Tract 3, with the addition of "Parcel #18-14-16-404-003" to the description of that tract. Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Brosman to approve the Ordinance 2024-01-02-A: An Ordinance Amending the City of Vandalia Zoning District Map as amended.

Roll call: Brosman, yea; Barker, yea; Bowen, yea; Lester, yea;

Hubler, yea. Lewey, Stunkel and Hobler were absent. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2024-1-2-B: AN ORDINANCE ABATING THE TAX LEVY REQUIREMENTS OF ORDINANCE NO. 2016-9-19-D:

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Lester to approve Ordinance 2024-1-2-B: An Ordinance Abating the Tax Levy Requirements of Ordinance No. 2016-9-19-D.

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

APPROVE OR REJECT TRANSFER OF LAKE LOT #604 FROM TIFFANY WHITTEN, CAPE CORAL, FL TO ALISON PRIEST, HIGHLAND, IL:

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to approve the transfer of Lake Lot #604 from Tiffany Whitten, Cape Coral, FL to Alison Priest, Highland, IL. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2024-1-2-C: A RESOLUTION FOR IMPROVEMENT UNDER THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY CODE (SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS):

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to approve Resolution 2024-1-2-C: A Resolution for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code (Safe Routes to Schools). Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2024-1-2-D: A RESOLUTION FOR IMPROVEMENT UNDER THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY CODE (OCTOCHEM):

Motion was made by Bowen and seconded by Lester to approve Resolution 2024-1-2-D: A Resolution for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code (Octochem). Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2024-1-2-E: A RESOLUTION FOR IMPROVEMENT UNDER THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY CODE (RANDOLPH STREET):

Motion was made by Lester and seconded by Bowen to approve Resolution 2024-1-2-E: A Resolution for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code (Randolph Street). Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT BIDS FOR DEMOLITION ON LAKE NORTHSIDE LOT #139:

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Lester to approve bids for demolition of Northside Lake Lot #139 submitted by Robert Simmons, LLC in the amount of \$6,800.00.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Gottman reported a blood drive honoring Officer Colin Ledbetter will be held on January 9. As of today, the City has issued 26 non-highway vehicle stickers. Gottman stated he has received complaints regarding CTI who has been digging for fiberoptic cables. He has been in contact with the manager of CTI regarding these complaints. Gottman reported he is working with a local dealer who is looking to expand his business. Gottman stated he spoke with the owner of Rural King who is interested in leasing or selling the west warehouse of that property. Since the mini-excavator came in under budget, Gottman reported he and Paslay had talked to James Jackson about getting quotes to purchase a truck. Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Lester authorizing Jackson to obtain quotes. There were no objections.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

Connor stated he and Kopp have been busy getting paperwork complete to move projects along that are under consideration.

**CITY CLERK'S REPORT:**

Huhn reported she met with the regional representative from the Illinois State Archives. The records disposal certificate has been updated and a paper shred will begin later this winter.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Paslay was not present for meeting.

**SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL REPORT:**

Report provided in previous meeting packet.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Barker reported that the City did receive the mini-excavator that was ordered. Motion was made by Brosman

and seconded by Barker to post the vacancy of Water Plant Superintendent. There were no objections. Gottman thanked the police department for their assistance on several recent occasions. Gottman reported that he received one bid for filling in of the basement door and repairing the parking lot. Connor will review the contract the City has with the railroad. Bowen reported Economic Development Director interviews have been scheduled for January 8 at 4:30 and on January 15 at 5 p.m. via Zoom. He stated there are 2 more candidates that will be contacted.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:**

Bowen stated he would like all Committee meeting notices and agendas emailed to the Aldermen.

Discussion was held regarding Ordinances pertaining to placement of yard signs on City right of ways. Connor suggested a work session to address this issue.

**COUNCIL MOVES INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:38 P.M.:**

Gottman announced Council would be moving into Executive Session. Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to move into Executive Session at 7:38 p.m. under 5 ILCS 120/2 for acquisition of land and a personnel matter.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDS AT 8:39 P.M.:**

Executive Session ends at 8:39 p.m.

**REGULAR SESSION RECONVENED AT 8:40 P.M.:**

Mayor Gottman reconvened the regular Council meeting at 8:40 p.m. with a roll call: Lester, yea; Barker, yea; Hubler, yea; Brosman, yea;

Bowen, yea. Lewey, Stunkel and Hobler were absent.

**DISCUSSION:**

Gottman stated there was nothing to report out of Executive Session. He did state there is a company called Illinois American Water Company that purchases water and sewer plants, utilities, etc. Once the purchase is complete, the employees are then transferred to that company. Bowen was in favor of exploring options. Barker stated this would affect about every department in the City. Gottman stated he, Paslay and Lester met with representatives of Illinois American Water Company a few months ago to find out what they do. Connor said this is a trend of municipalities nationwide at this point, to privatize and outsource those utility services. He said the City should see this as exploration of what the economic impact is going to be on the City. Connor said it is the Council's responsibility to at least look at those numbers. Lester said the Council needs to gather the information first. Bowen said it is not going to be a decision that is made in the short term. It is going to take critical thinking and budget considerations. It was decided the Council would meet with the Department Heads and then the rest of the staff. Brosman stated he wanted to get as much information as possible so he could make the best decision for the citizens of the community. Lester stated he wanted to make sure the employees were aware that this would be an informational meeting with open discussion. It was decided that Gottman will reach out to area municipalities (Mayor or City Manager) who have gone through a transition such as this to address

the City employees at the employee meeting. Connor said it would be interesting to hear the perspectives from other communities. Meeting with the Department Heads and employees will be scheduled for January 9, 2023 at 2 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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City Clerk