

City Council
Regular Meeting
May 5, 2025
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 Lester, Hubler, Brosman, Barker, Lewey, Stunkel, and Bowen were present. Hobler was absent.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

A moment of silence was held for Susan Olson, sister-in-law of Alderman Russ Stunkel.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

A presentation was made by Bob Bowen to Mayor Ricky Gottman. Bowen announced that Gallatin Street from Water to Eighth Street will be named Ricky J. Gottman Way. Bowen thanked Gottman for his public service to the City.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY OF ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Ricky Gottman swore in Carla Huhn, City Clerk. Gottman also swore in Doug Knebel, Mayor. Huhn swore in Aldermen Lewey, Lester and Barker.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATE:

Pat Click from McKellar, Robertson, McCarty and Click updated the Council on the status of the employee health insurance. All employees received temporary insurance cards on April 30.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES DATED APRIL 21, 2025:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve City Council meeting minutes dated April 21, 2025. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer's report for period ending April 30, 2025 was reviewed. Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to file Treasurer's report for audit. Motion carried.

REGULAR BILLS:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Lewey to approve the regular bills as presented. Motion carried.

SPECIAL BILLS:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Lewey to approve the special bills as presented: Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$7,615.00 for street sweeper; Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$7,000.00 for sewer vac; Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$10,285.00 for fire truck; Mason's Masonry Restoration in the amount of \$3,200.00 for tuckpointing, caulk and paint at Interpretive Center; J & M Displays, Inc., in the amount of \$13,000.00 for fireworks; Fayette Septic in the amount of \$2,995.00 for holding tank; Alverson Sound, Inc., in the amount of \$3,850.00 for deposit for Summer Fest; Centraz Industries, Inc., in the amount of \$5,205.93 for supplies; Brenntag Mid-South, Inc., in the amount of \$22,095.90 for supplies; CedarChem, LLC in the amount of \$20,331.20 for supplies; Vandevanter Engineer, Inc., in the amount of \$3,425.50 for pump repair. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Beckman will be present at the next Council meeting. Paslay stated she and James Jackson will be meeting with IDOT on Tuesday regarding Randolph Street project.

**RESOLUTION 2025-5-5-A: A
RESOLUTION APPROVING AN
AGREEMENT FOR TECHNICAL**

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to approve Resolution 2025-5-5-A: A Resolution

SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE
BETWEEN THE CITY OF
VANDALIA AND TIMMERMAN &
COMPANY LTD. (ANNUAL
AUDIT) :

Approving an Agreement for Technical Services and Assistance Between the City of Vandalia and Timmerman & Company, LTD (Annual Audit).

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

FIRST READING OF LIQUOR
LICENSE APPLICATION FROM
TONNY'S CHINA BUFFET,
LLC:

Question was raised if a liquor license holder needs to be a citizen of the United States and reside in the City of Vandalia. First reading of liquor license application submitted by Tonny's China Buffet, LLC, was done. Possible action will be taken at the next Council meeting.

ORDINANCE 2025-5-5-B: AN
ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING
THE ISSUANCE OF COMBINED
WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE
SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS OF
THE CITY OF VANDALIA,
FAYETTE COUNTY,
ILLINOIS:

Connor said this Ordinance is required for Bond Counsel to underwrite bonds on the new water plant. The bonds are for \$15,500,000.00.

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Stunkel to approve Ordinance 2025-5-5-B: An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of Combined Waterworks and Sewerage System Revenue Bonds of the City of Vandalia, Fayette County, Illinois.

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

RESOLUTION 2025-5-5-C: A
RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE
EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS OF
APPOINTMENTS THROUGH
JUNE 16, 2025:

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Barker to approve Resolution 2025-5-5-C: A Resolution Extending the Employment Contracts of Appointments Through June 16, 2025.

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

RESOLUTION 2025-5-5-D:
A RESOLUTION APPROVING A
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
CITY OF VANDALIA,
ILLINOIS, AND MILANO &
GRUNLOH ENGINEERS, LLC
(ANNUAL LAKE DAM
INSPECTION):

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve Resolution 2025-5-5-D: A Resolution Approving a Professional Services Agreement Between the City of Vandalia, Illinois, and Milano & Grunloh Engineers, LLC (Annual Lake Dam Inspection).

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

RESOLUTION 2025-5-5-E: A
RESOLUTION APPROVING A
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
CITY OF VANDALIA,
ILLINOIS, AND MILANO &
GRUNLOH ENGINEERS, LLC
(CITY HALL WATERMAIN
PROJECT):

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Lester to approve Resolution 2025-5-5-E: A Resolution Approving a Professional Services Agreement Between the City of Vandalia, Illinois, and Milano & Grunloh Engineers, LLC (City Hall Watermain Project).

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

APPROVE OR REJECT BIDS
FOR LEAD SERVICE LINE
VAC PROJECT:

Brosman asked how the 110 properties listed were going to be selected. Paslay stated Jackson worked with Lee Beckman on creating maps in 3 different locations. Paslay will work with Jackson and the media in notifying homeowners.

Motion was made by Lester and seconded by Stunkel to approve bid submitted by NWN Cable Construction in the amount of \$41,250.00 for lead

service line vac project. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION FOR MAYOR
TO EXECUTE CONTRACT
DOCUMENTS FOR LEAD
SERVICE LINE VAC PROJECT
- NOTICE OF AWARD,
CONTRACT, NOTICE TO
PROCEED, AND LOBBYING
ADDENDUM:

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Brosman to give authorization for Mayor Knebel to execute documents for lead service line vac project. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT BIDS
FOR CITY HALL WATERMAIN
REPLACEMENT PROJECT:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Lewey to approve the bid submitted by Haier Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$146,191.00 for City Hall watermain replacement project. Motion carried.

NOTICE OF AWARD FOR CITY
HALL WATERMAIN PROJECT:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Lewey to authorize Mayor Knebel to execute Notice of Award for City Hall Watermain Project. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT BIDS
FOR RAW WATERMAIN AND
PRESSURE REDUCING
STATION:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve alternate bid submitted by Kamex in the amount of \$1,499,193.00 for raw watermain and pressure reducing station. Motion carried.

NOTICE OF AWARD FOR RAW
WATERMAIN AND PRESSURE
REDUCTION STATION:

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Stunkel to authorize Mayor Knebel to execute Notice of Award for raw watermain and pressure reduction station. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT BIDS
FOR SURPLUS PROPERTY AT
1319 W. ST. LOUIS
AVENUE:

Paslay stated at the last Council meeting she was directed to reach out to the two bidders on the 1319 W. St. Louis Avenue property due to a tie and offer them a second opportunity to resubmit a bid. One of the bidders declined and chose to withdraw his bid.

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Stunkel to approve bid submitted by Travis Blain in the amount of \$301.00 for the surplus property at 1319 W. St. Louis Avenue. Motion carried.

Paslay noted the property located on Jefferson Street was also on the same notice. This property was recorded as 1 lot and there are actually 2 lots. She directed those who inquired about that property that the City was not going to accept bids until it was corrected and then it would be rebid. The County has been contacted and they will correct it. Connor will then draw up a notice. Brosman asked Paslay to have the Jefferson property mowed.

APPROVE OR REJECT CHANGE
ORDER #1 FOR SAFE ROUTES
TO SCHOOLS PROJECT
(+14,223):

Motion was made by Lester and seconded by Stunkel to approve Change Order #1 for Safe Routes to Schools Project (+14,223). Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT PAY
ESTIMATE #1 FOR SAFE
ROUTES TO SCHOOLS
PROJECT:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to approve Pay Estimate #1 For Safe Routes to Schools Project. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT CHANGE
ORDER #1 FOR OSLAD
PROJECT AT VANDALIA LAKE
(+14,947):

Motion was made by Lester and seconded by Brosman to approve change order #1 for OSLAD Project at Vandalia Lake (+\$14,947) for updates to the shower house. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT BID
FOR PUMP REPLACEMENT AT
4TH STREET LIFT STATION:

Motion was made by Bowen and seconded by Stunkel to approve bid for pump replacement at 4th Street lift station submitted by Vandevanter in the amount of \$25,712.45. Motion carried.

FORMALLY ACCEPT OR
REJECT BID FOR SBLFCH

Motion was made by Bowen and seconded by Stunkel to formally

ALLEY ENTRANCE FROM
APRIL 21, 2025 MEETING:

accept bid for SBLFCH alley entrance in the amount of \$9,959.00. Motion carried.

2025-5-5-F: A RESOLUTION
APPROVING CONSULTING
SERVICES BETWEEN THE
CITY OF VANDALIA,
ILLINOIS AND TTHOMAN
DEVELOPMENT, LLC:

Knebel stated he would like to enter into a consulting agreement with TThoman Development, LLC (Todd Thoman) who would serve as a temporary bridge until a new Economic Development Director has been hired. Thoman reviewed his background in Economic Development. Knebel stated a new Director would not be hired until at the earliest, July or August.

Bowen stated he felt this hasn't followed normal practice as it should have gone to Committee to address the issues. He felt like this was dropped on the Council this past Friday and would like to table the matter for further review. He said this is not the way the government is supposed to work. Knebel said this position has been vacant for 3 years, and Thoman has tremendous experience. Brosman said he thinks Thoman is a well experienced expert that is willing to help the City until the position is filled. Knebel said this agreement could bridge a potentially 90 day window.

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Hubler to approve Resolution 2025-5-5-F: A Resolution Approving Consulting Services Between the City of Vandalia, Illinois and TThoman Development, LLC.

Roll call: Brosman, yea; Hubler, yea; Barker, yea; Lester, yea; Bowen, nay; Stunkel, yea; Lewey, yea. Hobler was absent. Motion carried 6-1.

AUTHORIZATION FOR
ENGINEERS TO SUBMIT A 3RD
GRANT FOR LEAD SERVICE
LINE PROJECT AND MAYOR
TO EXECUTE ANY DOCUMENTS
REQUIRED FOR SUBMITTAL:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to authorize engineers to submit a 3rd grant for lead service line project and for Knebel to execute any documents required for submittal. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-5-5-G: A
RESOLUTION APPROVING
RELEASE OF CLOSED
SESSION MINUTES AND
AUTHORIZING CONTINUING
RETENTION OF NON-
RELEASED MINUTES AND
AUTHORIZING THE
DESTRUCTION OF
ASSOCIATED AUDIO TAPES
OF CLOSED MEETINGS:

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Stunkel to approve Resolution 2025-5-5-G: A Resolution Approving Release of Closed Session Minutes and Authorizing the Destruction of Associated Audio Tapes of Closed Meetings.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Paslay, Lester and Dennis Grubaugh will be meeting with Johannes Construction on Wednesday, May 7 at 2:00 p.m. regarding Veterans Memorial Park wall. Hubler said since the school has purchased the Kanata Blanket property, he would like to rescind the City's obligation for a portion of the 120 acres. Thoman said the school district is 3 weeks away from the purchase of Kanata property. He said once the Kanata property has been purchased, the school will release the City of its obligation.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Knebel reported there will be a Department Head meeting on Tuesday and then will plan on meeting with employees after that. He will not be available for the May 19 meeting and asked the Council to reschedule to May 21.

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Lewey to move the May 19

Council meeting to May 21, 2025.
Motion carried.

Knebel said he met with the company that put together the City's Comprehensive Plan in 2019. He said there is a lot of good information in there and he would like to revisit that section by section.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Nothing to report. Stunkel asked what the status is of properties that need to be cleaned up in the City. Barker asked can the City give individuals a time frame to clean up properties and then issue citations; in particular a property located on a main thoroughfare. Brosman asked is there any way the process can be expediated. Paslay will talk to Kopp about this. Lewey said he would like to see Kopp at a meeting once a month to update the Council. Connor said he could put together a list with Kopp that would come to Council as a report. He asked the Council to send him any concerns the week before a Council meeting so that Connor can report at the following Council meeting. Bowen said it is the City's responsibility to the people in neighborhoods to not allow properties to become derelict. He said there are vacant lots and abandoned homes that are not mowed and have old furniture sitting in the yard. The City can ticket the property owner and still the yard is not cleaned up. He said it might not be the City's legal responsibility but it needs to be done. Connor said Kopp has been very successful in bringing houses down. Lester asked if the City could hold a Fall Clean-Up week in addition to the Spring Clean-Up week. Paslay said it was very costly, but she would reach out to LRS to see what the cost would

be. Gottman said in the past 4 years, Kopp has gotten 30 houses torn down.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

Huhn reported the position vacancy in her office has been filled by Seth Kerr, who will begin work on May 19.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Paslay stated a pump went out at the lagoon. This is the pump that affects how much water he can pump out, and with all of the rain, it is pumping out about half as much as he normally could. Gottman gave approval to purchase the pump, and it will be formally approved at the next meeting. Cost is \$19,455.00. Farmer's Market begins on June 14. Vendor applications are available on the Tourism FB page or at City Hall. She also stated that National Road has City-wide yard sales all along the National Road. This year the Interpretive Center has decided to participate in the City-wide garage sales from May 29 to May 31. They are going to have Treasures in the Trunk on May 31, where people can set up in the parking lot behind City Hall. She stated Summer Fest plans are progressing, with bands being confirmed and kids' activities being set up. Fireworks will be June 28. Public Hearing for the Appropriation Ordinance will be held on May 21 at 5:30 p.m.

SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL REPORT:

Report will be in next Council meeting packet.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Barker stated Streets have been trying to keep up with mowing and filling potholes. Brosman thanked the Council for approving replacement of the 4th Street lift station pump and the pump that went out at the lagoon. He will follow up

with Paslay on one of the water bill adjustment requests. Lewey complimented the Cemetery staff on maintaining the grounds. Stunkel reported that the Lake Committee met earlier. They recommended entering an agreement with ProWire to install Starlink at the Marina. The public would have WI-FI access at the Marina area. Discussion was held regarding if Starlink could be used seasonally.

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Lester to review details of the cost to purchase Starlink for the Marina with action to be taken at the next meeting. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding layout of the new electrical hookups at the campground. Workman handed out an amended layout, which decreases the number of hookups from 12 to 11 (includes ADA campsite). Brosman said it comes to the Council as a unanimous recommendation from the Lake Committee to pursue this change order. Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Barker to take action at the next Council meeting. Motion carried.

Stunkel said it was suggested at the Lake Committee meeting to have a tornado siren that could be heard at the campground. Chief Ray stated most people get their alerts over their phones. He said they are an outdoor alert system and some communities are doing away with them due to technology.

Workman said all of the upgrades are going well. The new kayak launch has been installed. He said he received a bid to have the volleyball fence

painted. Later on this week they are working on installing 2 horseshoe pits.

He also said he was interested in getting a quote from the OKAW class to construct metal benches that could be powder coated and then ask businesses to sponsor benches. He said it would look nice to have 5 or 6 benches placed around the Marina.

Hubler said the 6th Street Railroad crossing is getting worse. Paslay said it was her impression they were going to come back through and fix that crossing. She will continue to reach out.

Bowen said Economic Development applications are due May 9. He suggested possibly making the position a Mayoral appointment to expedite the process. Connor will have an Ordinance drawn up for vote at the next meeting. Huhn said she has received 8 resumes for this position.

Motion was made by Bowen and seconded by Barker to direct Connor to draft an Ordinance to make the position of Economic Development Director a Mayoral appointment. Connor will draft an Ordinance for presentation at the next meeting. Motion carried.

Hubler said he would like to hire a Tourism Director as soon as possible. Therefore, an amended motion was made by Bowen and seconded by Barker to direct Connor to draft an Ordinance making the position of Economic Development Director and the Tourism Director a Mayoral appointment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:

Barker asked Thoman if the City should start erecting signage at the 120 acres. Thoman said yes. Knebel said they can put together some kind of proposal and discuss some options.

Stacia Fields, owner of The Coffee Bean Espresso Shed, stated that she is in the process of getting a plaque of her business on the Interstate 70 Informational Signs at Exit 63 ramp. She stated this is costly and requested monetary consideration by the Council. Bowen asked if she would be interested in a low interest loan from the City, which Fields declined. The application she submitted to the State of Illinois has been approved. The cheapest option was \$1924.00 plus a \$660.00 annual fee for the fiscal year July 1 through June 30. Paslay said this has not been done in the past. Stunkel said if the City moved forward with her request, this would set a precedence and therefore her request was denied.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Lewey to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.



City Clerk