

**City Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**April 21, 2025**  
**6:30 p.m.**

<u><b>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:</b></u>	The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was given by all that were present.
<u><b>CALL TO ORDER:</b></u>	Mayor Gottman called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Vandalia City Council to order at 6:30 pm.
<u><b>ROLL CALL:</b></u>	Aldermen Lester, Hubler, Brosman, Barker, Lewey, Hobler, and Bowen were present. Stunkel was absent.
<u><b>OPENING PRAYER:</b></u>	Pastor Eddie Duke, Unity Baptist Church, offered opening prayer.
<u><b>MOMENT OF SILENCE:</b></u>	A moment of silence was held for Nelda Cearlock, former business owner.
<u><b>APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES DATED APRIL 7, 2025:</b></u>	Motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Lewey to approve City Council meeting minutes dated April 7, 2025. Motion carried.
<u><b>APPROVAL OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES DATED APRIL 14, 2025:</b></u>	Motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Barker to approve Special Council Meeting minutes dated April 14, 2025. Motion carried.
<u><b>TREASURER'S REPORT:</b></u>	Treasurer's report for period ending March 31, 2025 was reviewed. Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Brosman to file Treasurer's report for audit. Motion carried.
<u><b>REGULAR BILLS:</b></u>	Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to approve the regular bills as presented. Motion carried.

**SPECIAL BILLS:**

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to approve the special bills as presented: Sandberg Phoenix in the amount of \$2,988.00 for legal fees; Vaughn's General Contracting in the amount of \$1,999.41 for maintenance to building; Online Solutions in the amount of \$2,400.00 for code enforcement software; Chandler Brothers Construction in the amount of \$25,060.50 for sidewalk replacement; Sloan Implement Company in the amount of \$190,951.78 for boom mower; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$2,761.35 for electric bill; Ivy House Media Limited in the amount of \$6,950.00 for advertising; Kaskaskia College in the amount of \$2,227.54 for Lincoln Park pergola; Milano & Grunloh in the amount of \$2,955.00 for engineering fees for OSLAD grant; South Central in the amount of \$3,851.72 for gasoline; C and C Pumps & Supply in the amount of \$8,516.21 for pump repair; Kaskaskia Springs Water Company in the amount of \$1,769.10 for water; Liberty Process Equipment in the amount of \$4,042.21 for equipment; Kaskaskia Supply and Rental in the amount of \$2,150.00 for flag pole and flag for Veterans Memorial Park. Motion carried.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

Fairview Heights Mayor, Mark Kupsky, presented a proclamation on behalf of the Southwestern Illinois Council of Mayors to Mayor Gottman for his many years of public service.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Beckman provided a status update on pending/current City projects. He reported a preconstruction meeting for Randolph Street Upgrades project will be held on May 6. Motion was made by Bowen and seconded by Barker to award the bid to Precise

Construction in the amount of \$700.00/hour for Lake Dam upgrades. Beckman will verify the bid price with Precise Construction. There were no objections. Motion carried. Beckman suggested to vac every 3<sup>rd</sup> line regarding lead service line replacement which will give a representative sample of the area and then identify that there are no lead service lines. If there is a lead service line, they will do one on each side to see if there are any other lead service lines. Bid opening for that was last Monday. The City has a \$40,000.00 grant, and low bid came in at \$41,350.00. Beckman stated there was only 1 bidder. Completion of Safe Routes to School - Phase I is scheduled for end of May. Regarding the new water treatment plant, the plan was to do IEPA funding portion for the raw water line and non-steel items because of BABA (Build American, Buy American). After the bid opening, the EPA said if EPA money is put into this project, BABA is required for the entire project. Beckman said there is a waiver from the EPA that the City can get, so if the City can show the EPA that BABA costs more, then the City can possibly get that deducted. Beckman is working on the waiver. He said in addition we have 60 days holding on the contract, and that 60 days has passed. Due to potential tariffs, etc., prices have gone up. The contractor has committed to hold the bid until April 30, 2025. This results in an increase of \$100,000.00 in material costs. Beckman is working with the EPA on this, and he stated hopefully the EPA will have everything in line by April 30. Bid opening for the raw water main and pressure reducing station was held Monday, April 14.

Beckman has asked the low bidder for references which have not been received yet. This will be on the May agenda. City Hall water main replacement bid opening was Monday, April 14. There was a mix up in bid opening dates. Southern Illinois Building Association listed the bid opening as Tuesday, April 15 and BidDocs listed the bid opening date as Monday, April 14. Connor is working on getting clarification. ITEP sidewalk project is being reviewed at IDOT with anticipated bid opening in late Summer. The City received a \$30,000.00 grant for planning to have sewer constructed in 2 areas of the City that was identified. The CDBG watermain grant will be bid out in the next 30 to 60 days. Construction has started at the Lake. IEPA has indicated that announcements regarding the 319 Grant at Vandalia Lake will be made in the next few weeks. Applications for the watermain replacement project on Randolph Street are due in December. Approval to move forward will be needed at the next Council meeting. Regional Site Readiness Grant - the City received \$3M. The grant agreement has not been received yet. The City committed to \$750,000.00 for this. Beckman does not know if the commitment is solidified from the funds it has to come from. He believes the \$750,000.00 could come from EDP/TARP funds. If there is a potential client or business that would be interested in moving to the 120 acres, and would be eligible for EDP/TARP funds, the City could hopefully capitalize on any job creation or retention, and obtain money from the State of Illinois through the EDP/TARP program to leverage the \$3M.

APPROVE OR REJECT  
DONATION TO LOVE IS LOVE  
FESTIVAL FROM TOURISM  
COMMISSION:

Motion was made by Bowen and seconded by Brosman to approve a donation in the amount of \$2,920.00 for Love is Love Festival from the Tourism funds. Motion carried with Hobler voting nay.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR  
STAGE AND SOUND FOR  
SUMMERFEST - ALVERSON  
SOUND:

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Bowen to approve contract for Stage and Sound for Summerfest submitted by Alverson Sound in the amount of \$7,700.00. Motion carried with Hobler voting nay.

ACCEPTANCE OF TOURISM  
COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES DATED MARCH 5,  
2025:

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Barker to accept the Tourism Commission meeting minutes dated March 5, 2025. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF LAKE  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES DATED APRIL 7,  
2025:

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Lewey to accept the Lake Committee meeting minutes dated April 7, 2025. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-4-21-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:  
(TABLED)

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Lester to table resolution.

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

RESOLUTION 2025-4-21-A:  
A LOAN RESOLUTION FOR  
INCURRENCE OF  
INDEBTEDNESS OF THE  
PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A  
PORTION OF THE COST OF  
CONSTRUCTING THE WATER  
PLANT (\$9M):

Connor said the documents presented were provided by the City's bond counsel for the water plant project. He has reviewed the loan resolution and stated this is a necessary step toward financing.

Motion was made by Lester and seconded by Bowen to approve Resolution 2025-4-21-A: A Loan

Resolution for Incurrence of  
Indebtedness of the Purpose of  
Providing a Portion of the Cost of  
Constructing the Water Plant (\$9M).

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

**RESOLUTION 2025-4-21-B:**  
**A LOAN RESOLUTION FOR**  
**INCURRENCE OF**  
**INDEBTEDNESS OF THE**  
**PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A**  
**PORTION OF THE COST OF**  
**CONSTRUCTING THE WATER**  
**PLANT (\$5M):**

Motion was made by Brosman and  
seconded by Lester to approve  
Resolution 2025-4-21-B: A Loan  
Resolution for Incurrence of  
Indebtedness of the Purpose of  
Providing a Portion of the Cost of  
Constructing the Water Plant (\$5M).

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

**ORDINANCE 2025-4-21-C:**  
**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING**  
**SALARIES FOR FISCAL YEAR**  
**MAY 1, 2025 - APRIL 30,**  
**2026:**

Motion was made by Bowen and  
seconded by Barker to approve  
Ordinance 2025-4-21-C: An Ordinance  
Amending Salaries for Fiscal Year  
May 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026.

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

**ORDINANCE 2025-4-21-D:**  
**AN ORDINANCE MAKING THE**  
**ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR**  
**BEGINNING ON THE FIRST**  
**DAY OF MAY, 2025 AND**  
**ENDING ON THE THIRTIETH**  
**DAY OF APRIL, 2026:**  
**(TABLED)**

Motion was made by Barker and  
seconded by Lester to table the  
Ordinance in order for department  
heads to have the opportunity to  
review before Council approval.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Lester and seconded by Barker to approve the bid submitted by Johannes Construction in the amount of \$66,110.00 for repair of the Veterans Memorial Park wall.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Gottman reflected on the past 32 years of public service, both as Alderman and Mayor. He stated his appreciation to the public for electing him to these positions. He highlighted accomplishments that were achieved over those 32 years.

Gottman said at a previous meeting, it was decided to put 2 surplus properties out for bid (1319 W. St. Louis Avenue and 1607 W. Jefferson Street). He noted that the Jefferson property was removed from bidding due to the legal description the City had; there are 2 lots and not 1 lot as thought. There was a 2-way tie for the 1607 W. Jefferson Street property. He asked this property be put back out for bid. Paslay will go to the courthouse to get the Jefferson Street property corrected. Bowen felt it did not need to be opened up to the public and that the 2 bidders should be asked to submit another bid.

Motion was made by Bowen and seconded by Lester to notify the 2 bidders that there was a tie and to submit another bid before close of business on May 1, 2025 on the St. Louis Avenue property. There were no objections. Motion carried.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Nothing to report.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT: Huhn reported interviews are being conducted for the position in her office. She also reminded those present to have their Statement of Economic Interest forms turned in to the County Clerk by April 30.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Paslay stated that Scott Workman has been in contact with the kayak launch company (part of the OSLAD grant). They have informed Workman that the kayak launch may get installed this week. Paslay asked to add this bill to the bills that were previously approved but not to exceed \$8,500.00 in the event they get that installed this week. Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Brosman to approve payment not to exceed \$8,500.00 for the kayak launch installation. There were no objections. Motion carried.

SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL REPORT: Report provided in Council packet.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS: Jackson reported they have been cleaning up from the recent storms. He stated that he has been approached by Dyke Marble from the hospital. With all of the construction at the hospital, the hospital is putting a sidewalk across the alley. The curb and gutter that is there is not in very good shape. The hospital is asking the City to either pay for the new sidewalk or do the work. Marble provided an estimate to Jackson in the amount of \$9,959.00. Marble said the elevation of the sidewalk will be raised so there will be a tremendous amount of water on the north side of the alley. Jackson said if they put a 4' sidewalk across there and nothing else and



it's oil and chip up to it, the heavy traffic will deteriorate the sidewalk. The City would then be replacing the sidewalk because now the sidewalk would be a City sidewalk since it's on City easement. Motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Lester to pay \$9,959.00 for the new sidewalk, curb and gutters at the hospital.

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

Lewey stated that Sam Kerr, Cemetery Superintendent, reported there are 3 trees that will need attention in the near future. Paslay reported that the Lake is tentatively set to open on April 28. Huhn reported she has received 6 applications for the Economic Development Director. She is finishing up interviews for the open position in the Clerk's office and will make a decision in the next week. Bowen provided an update from Dana Leskera regarding the former Liberty Theater.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:**

Jerry Swarm thanked Mayor Gottman for his many years of service to the City. He said the Interpretive Center would like to do a polar plunge-type fundraising event at the Lake in January. There were no objections.

**COUNCIL MOVES INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:09 P.M.:**

Gottman announced that the Council would be moving into Executive Session. Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Bowen to move into Executive Session at 8:09 p.m. under 5 ILCS 120/2 to discuss possible litigation.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDS  
AT 9:05 P.M.:

Executive Session ends at 9:05 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION  
RECONVENED AT 9:06 P.M.:

Gottman reconvened the City Council meeting at 9:06 p.m. with a roll call: Hobler, yea; Brosman, yea; Hubler, yea; Bowen, yea; Lester, yea; Barker, yea, Lewey, yea. Stunkel was absent. Motion carried.

Connor reported that Gottman has directed him to file a suit with standard notice on Tuesday morning against Austin Holdings, LLC to bring Central High Apartment building into compliance with City Ordinance code.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Barker to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m.



City Clerk