

City Council
Regular Meeting
June 2, 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 Knebel called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Vandalia City Council to order at 6:30 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Aldermen Lester, Hubler, Brosman, Lewey, Barker, Stunkel, Hobler and Bowen were present.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

A moment of silence was held for Robert "Bob" DePaolo, Sr., a former business owner. A moment of silence was also held for Jack Johnston, former City Attorney.

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

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer's report will be provided in next Council packet.

REGULAR BILLS:

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

SPECIAL BILLS:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve the special bills as presented:
DePaolo's Floor Covering in the amount of \$1,959.40 for flooring;
Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$6,713.38 for sewer vac;
Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$7,615.00 for street sweeper;
Land of Lincoln in the amount of \$10,285.00 for fire truck;

Precise Construction in the amount of \$44,602.40 for Lake Dam repairs; Lake Contracting, Inc., in the amount of \$90,457.60 for campground upgrades/OSLAD grant; Beelman Ready Mix in the amount of \$6,975.00 for concrete; Ritchey Painting in the amount of \$2,220.00 for painting at Lake; WJ Scott Company, Inc., in the amount of \$1,610.00 for annual inspection; Charlie Pryor and Mary Nash in the amount of \$37,117.25 for TIF reimbursement; Lee's Above and Beyond Tree Service in the amount of \$1,600.00 for tree removal; NWN Cable Construction in the amount of \$41,250.00 for Lead Service Line replacement; C and C Pumps & Supply in the amount of \$1,853.55 for equipment maintenance; Brenntag Mid-South in the amount of \$17,461.50 for supplies; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$4,447.70 for electric bill at water plant; Gateway Truck and Refrigeration in the amount of \$1,504.68 for annual service; Kohnen Concrete Products, Inc., in the amount of \$2,410.00 for sealant; Vandevanter Engineer, Inc., in the amount of \$2,548.00 for equipment maintenance; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$10,033.70 for electric bill at sewer plant. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:

Donna Blair requested that any historical displays at the Tourism Center not be destroyed or moved. Knebel said there were no plans to destroy any historical displays. Paslay will discuss this with Art Connection. Brosman said the City has some items that need to be better stored than where they are currently located. Paslay stated the City is gifting display cases to the museum.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Lee Beckman will be at the next Council meeting.

**REQUEST FROM BRAD BOWMAN
OF VANDALIA CAPITOL, LLC
TO SEND ZONING AMENDMENT
REQUEST TO PLANNING
COMMISSION FOR REVIEW:**

Paslay stated this has been previously sent to Planning requesting allowing indoor storage units in the former Kroger building. Planning recommended it back to Council where it was declined. Connor suggested sending it back to Planning and Zoning. Hubler stated he is not in favor of storage units in the former Kroger building. Paslay said the Council has the final vote. Connor said the difference this time is we do not have a specific applicant. The requestor is asking if indoor storage units would be allowed in Downtown Commercial. Lester said he is opposed to this, and stated the property owners have not maintained the property properly. He said this is one of the better retailer areas downtown in regard to parking.

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to send Zoning amendment request submitted by Brad Bowman of Vandalia Capitol, LLC to Planning Commission for review.

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

**APPROVE OR REJECT PAY
ESTIMATE #1 - OSLAD GRANT
(\$90,457.60) :**

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve pay estimate #1 - OSLAD Grant in the amount of \$90,457.60. Motion carried.

**APPROVE OR REJECT PAY
ESTIMATE #1 - LEAD
SERVICE LINE PROJECT
(\$41,250.00) :**

Paslay stated the City has applied for another grant for the lead service line project in the amount of \$40,000. Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Hobler to

approve pay estimate #1 - Lead Service Line Project in the amount of \$41,250.00. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT PAY ESTIMATE #3 - SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (\$223,321.39):

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Brosman to approve pay estimate #3 - Safe Routes to School in the amount of \$223,321.39. Motion carried.

Pasley said that IDOT will put a pause on reimbursements and billings since their budget year is coming up on July 1. James Jackson has requested that they change from Class A4 rip rap to Class A3 and increase the quantity. Paslay is asking for Council approval to move forward. It would be a net change of \$4,182.90.

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve the change order in the amount of \$4,182.90. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON 2025-2026 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE MEETING MINUTES:

Motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Brosman to accept the Public Hearing on 2025-2026 Appropriation meeting minutes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-6-2-A: A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CASH RENT FARM LEASE BETWEEN THE CITY OF VANDALIA AS LESSOR AND MEYER FARMS, AS LESSEE:

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Hobler to approve Resolution 2025-6-2-A: A Resolution Approving a Cash Rent Farm Lease Between the City of Vandalia as Lessor and Meyer Farms, as Lessee.

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

GOLF CART/SIDE BY SIDE ORDINANCE DISCUSSION:

Per the last Council meeting, Brosman asked to revisit the Golf Cart/Side by Side Ordinance that has been in place for a year. He

suggested the City consider expanding the routes. Brosman said he would like to open up Randolph Street and St. Louis Avenue to golf carts and side by sides. He would also like to see a sign at the entrances to the City stating that the City is a golf cart/side by side community. He said this would allow the City to remove all of the golf cart/side by side crossing signs. After discussion, motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to refer the matter to the Public Safety Committee. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Andy Lester updated the Council on the progress of the Veterans Park Memorial wall. He said work on the wall finish will begin this week. They will put a cap on the wall after that is done. Paslay will request bids for sidewalk work that will be placed along the building. Knebel asked about the status of the pavilion. Lester said the pavilion needs to be installed to make it complete. Barker will reach out to American Legion Commander Bruce Braswell.

Mayor Knebel stated that he would like to revisit the comprehensive plan on an ongoing basis. It was decided to schedule a work session. Paslay will copy and deliver the comprehensive plan to the Aldermen.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Knebel stated there had been a lot of discussion on videoconferencing Council meetings. It was decided to have Connor draft an Ordinance for the next Council meeting for one way video conferencing.

Knebel asked if the Council would consider combining the Planning and Zoning Committees into one

committee. Connor stated that these committees could be combined. He said the committee could serve as an Advisory Board. Brosman was in support of the change. Connor will draft an Ordinance for consideration by the Council at the next meeting.

Discussion turned to plans for the Tourism Center building. Knebel said it is great real estate but there needs to be a plan for that building. Lester said there was termite damage and the HVAC system would need to be replaced. He also said it is a handicapped accessibility challenge. The exterior needs a lot of work done. Brosman said it is not financially salvageable. Bowen asked if it was better to have a pavilion and picnic area there instead of a building. Lester said many towns do not have a tourism center. Barker said it needs to have a historical look. Brosman said Tourism has changed dramatically since the Tourism Center was built. He said the City would have the expense of manning the Tourism Center, utilities, etc., and he said there are expenses that he does not think are worth it. He did not feel the need for a building but was in favor of a picnic area. Barker suggested placing a kiosk in the picnic area. Paslay said the Art Connection uses the building on a weekly basis. It was decided to wait until the Economic Development Director and Tourism Director are hired before making any decisions.

Knebel said he would submit a list of possible Economic Development Committee members at the next Council meeting. He said he, Paslay and Todd Thoman reviewed applications for the ED Director

position. They did have a preliminary meeting with one of the candidates earlier today to gauge their interest. He said the meeting went well. Knebel said later this month he will schedule a Personnel Committee meeting. Thoman said this individual is very interested. Knebel said he wanted the Council involved in the decision making process.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Connor stated it was his understanding that the property in need of clean up a few weeks back has actually been cleaned up. He said there is a sentencing hearing coming up on that property, and if there were no objections, he would accept the standard fine plus court costs and be concluded with it. There were no objections. He said the Donato case is almost wrapped up. Barker asked the status of fencing the solar farm in on Main Street. The drainage has not been fixed yet. Connor said that still needs to be done. Discussion turned to the Central High Apartments. Connor stated that the defendant was served previously and did not respond. Defendant said his lawyers were handling the matter. Connor said the owner of the building undertook repair work, but does not know the status of that.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Knebel stated that the City has received the signed grant agreement for the Site Readiness Project. Paslay stated they found some prehistoric and historic artifacts on the 120 acres that will require the City to pass a Preservation Covenant at the next meeting.

**SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL
REPORT:**

Report will be provided in next Council packet. Knebel asked Kopp to attend the next Council meeting.

**STANDING COMMITTEE
REPORTS:**

Barker reported that the Streets Department has been working on patching potholes. They are watching a water leak on Randolph Street. They are catching up on mowing. Bowen said quite a bit of mowing has been done on the west end of town. He asked if these properties could be mowed monthly, at least. Barker said he would check with Jackson.

Paslay said the Randolph Street construction project that was delayed in May has been tentatively set to begin on June 16, 2025.

Knebel said the City has received some additional inquiries about the water concerns on Shelley and Thistle Drive. Knebel stated the City does not have the luxury of time. A Water and Sewer Committee meeting will be scheduled to address this.

Chief Ray reminded everyone to lock their vehicles and do not leave valuables in cars.

There is a bid opening on Tuesday, June 3 at 2 p.m. at City Hall for the Telecommunications Center.

Lewey asked when do the flowers need to be removed at the Cemetery. Paslay will check with Sam Kerr and have it announced on local media.

Stunkel reported on the Lake Committee meeting held before the Council meeting. Vandalia Christian Academy will be having concession stands at the beach house. The City has not heard from Allen Owen

regarding the Boat Races at the Lake in September. Paslay will reach out to him. Revised layout for full hook ups is at IDPH and we are waiting for their approval. Huhn will call those who have not picked up their lake lot number signs. Dam repair work is completed. The Dam inspection will be held in July, and the City will wait on recommendations based on that. Electronic gates will be installed at both entrances that will require a key code to enter. Paslay stated SummerFest is set for June 27 and 28, with fireworks being set for June 28 at dusk. Wild Foam Adventures will be there on Saturday. The City Clerk's office will be revamping the Lake lot list process, and once that takes shape, Huhn will present it to the Council. The Lake Committee agreed to get a survey done in reference to the area south of 185. Workman noticed that somebody put a road in at the end of the water, so they could have access to their fields. Stunkel estimated 10 to 15 acres of City property are being farmed by somebody else. Bids will be sought for directional signs at the Lake.

Chief Ray asked about the Alcohol Prohibited sign on the campgrounds. Workman said the reason this was brought up is SummerFest has a beer garden. Connor said there was an Ordinance that was worked on with IML to make sure the City does not do anything that would cost the City coverage under the City's insurance policy. Connor said the City only allows alcohol during certain limited periods of time that are part of a larger event. Paslay will get clarification from RMA.

Todd Thoman said last week he had very positive meetings with Liberty Gas Utilities and Southwestern Electric regarding services to the Industrial Park. Knebel said the Industrial Park will be very marketable soon. He said the name of the Industrial Park needs to be decided soon along with signage. Railroad, Economic Development and Tourism Commission will work on a name.

Paslay stated that Farmer's Market is June 14. Grand Levee will be held on June 14 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Love is Love Pride Party will be held on June 13 and 14. Weekends at Charters Patio kicks off this weekend.

Lester asked if the City was getting sales tax from food trucks and Air BnB. Paslay will check with the City Treasurer. She will also reach out to Air BnB.

Knebel noted that Senator Jason Plummer will be the guest speaker at the Chamber meeting on Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

Lewey said he checked with Greenville and Pana, and those municipalities require building permits to be displayed. He asked why the City does not require that. Paslay said the City has the building permits on file at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Hubler to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Caia Huhm

City Clerk