

City Council
Regular Meeting
August 18, 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 Brosman, Barker, Hubler, Bowen, Lester and Stunkel were present. Lewey and Hobler were absent.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

A moment of silence was held for Dean Bowen, former Vandalia business owner and former Vandalia firefighter.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES DATED
AUGUST 4, 2025:**

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve City Council meeting minutes dated August 4, 2025. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to file the Treasurer's report for period ending July 31, 2025 for audit. Motion carried.

REGULAR BILLS:

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

SPECIAL BILLS:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to approve the special bills as presented: Sandberg Phoenix in the amount of \$5,711.64 for legal fees; Stombaugh Heating and Air, Inc., in the amount of \$3,465.00 for maintenance; Fayette County Treasurer in the amount of

\$3,366.26 for Administration real estate taxes; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$2,606.55 for electric bill; Peckham Guyton Albers in the amount of \$4,045.00 for consulting services; Coe Equipment, Inc., in the amount of \$2,110.62 for equipment maintenance; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$2,682.65 for electric bill; Holz Tool Supply, Inc., in the amount of \$1,898.44 for supplies; Discover Downstate IL in the amount of \$2,630.00 for advertising; Beelman Logistics, LLC in the amount of \$19,440.37 for supplies; Four Mile Trucking and Services in the amount of \$5,895.20 for supplies; G & H Marine, Inc., in the amount of \$1,754.80 for maintenance; South Central FS in the amount of \$7,948.36 for gasoline; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$10,625.43 for electric bill; Fayette County Treasurer in the amount of \$7,730.50 for Lake real estate taxes; Bryan Hosick in the amount of \$258,921.24 for TIF reimbursement; South Central FS in the amount of \$6,268.34 for gasoline; COE Equipment in the amount of \$2,110.62 for equipment maintenance; Brenntag Mid-South, Inc., in the amount of \$17,968.20 for supplies; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$15,044.41 for electric bill at water plant; Water Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$2,300.00 for equipment maintenance; Municipal Equipment Company in the amount of \$3,368.71 for equipment maintenance; Newterra Corporation, Inc., in the amount of \$3,371.91 for supplies; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$21,560.77 for electric bill; Vandevanter Engineer, Inc., in the amount of \$2,154.25 for pump repair; Sandschafer Electric in the

amount of \$2,194.74 for maintenance.
Motion carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND
CONCERNS:**

Stunkel reported he rode around the City with the Code Enforcer. The former Bunyard's building has been demolished. Stunkel said he was asked about having Summer Fest on the 4th of July weekend in 2026. Paslay said area communities have celebrations on the 4th of July weekend and stated attendance was better this year at Summer Fest with the fireworks the weekend before the 4th of July.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Lee Beckman updated the Council on upcoming and current City projects. He said the contractor ran into some soft soil on the Randolph Street project. The City has been hauling away the dirt and hauling rock back in. The project will be done next week. He suggested sealing the joints and cracks in the Lake dam next year. This will be discussed at the next Lake Committee meeting. He reported there will be a bid opening for the Lead Service Line Replacement project on August 28, 2025 at 10:15 a.m. Beckman mentioned there is a company coming to Centralia that does lead service line identification without digging. Beckman and Jackson will be going to Centralia to meet with that company. If this method proves acceptable, he stated we will probably change the specifications to allow identification through non-excavation. Beckman stated Safe Routes to School project is substantially complete. There is a seeding guarantee until April 2026, so if there is any erosion or issues, Beckman wants to be informed. Preconstruction meeting was held for raw water main and

pressure reducing station. He said now would be the time to address the railroad (bore, jack and case those crossings because of the rail). Beckman said this is not compromising the rail by any means. Preconstruction meeting was held on July 8, 2025 for the City Hall water main replacement. Work is scheduled to begin tentatively in August. Preconstruction meeting for the new water plant was held. The ITEP project is at IDOT. Beckman is hoping for a January letting. We are waiting on the NOFO for the unsewered IEPA grant. The low bidder for the watermain grant for Jefferson Street from First through Fifth Streets was Korte and Luitjohn in the amount of \$1,993,409.50. The City was not successful in obtaining the 319 Grant. Stunkel stated Lake siltation is not getting any better. There is one particular cove that needs attention. Knebel said there is no water in that cove. Stunkel said the City needs to make a decision and move forward with this. This will be discussed at the next Lake meeting. Knebel said it is in the City's best interest to address this sooner rather than later. Randolph Street watermain replacement project has been postponed until 2026. The Regional Site Readiness Grant has a completion date of February 2027. This will be bid out in March or April. Bid opening for the sidewalk replacement on the north side of town will be held on August 28 at 10 a.m.

Jackson said he met with Dustin Murray today regarding heavy rains pushing sand and silt into the Lake. Murray said it is continuing to erode faster and faster, and there

is a cemetery in that area that is also in danger. It was decided that Beckman and Jackson will go out to the site and make recommendations after that.

APPROVE OR REJECT CHANGE
ORDER #4 FOR SAFE ROUTES
TO SCHOOL PROJECT
(+\$806.51):

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Stunkel to approve Change Order #4 for Safe Routes to School Project (+\$806.51). Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT PAY
ESTIMATE #5 FOR SAFE
ROUTES PROJECT
(\$37,719.64):

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Stunkel to approve Pay Estimate #5 for Safe Routes Project (\$37,719.64). Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT PAY
ESTIMATE ## FOR RANDOLPH
STREET PROJECT
(\$272,660.86):

Motion was made by Lester and seconded by Stunkel to approve Pay Estimate #3 for Randolph Street project (\$272,660.86). Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT CHANGE
ORDER #2 FOR RANDOLPH
STREET PROJECT
(+ \$13,137.36):

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Brosman to approve Change Order #2 for Randolph Street project (+\$13,137.36). Motion carried.

DISCUSS LOW BREAKS -
RANDOLPH STREET
(ENGINEER):

Beckman said there is a section of the Randolph Street project that did not pass the core sampling tests. According to the contract, this section is to be torn out and replaced. The contractor stated if the City leaves this section as is, the City will not have to pay for any of it. Beckman said this has to be approved by IDOT as it is a matter between IDOT and the contractor. After discussion, motion was made by Lester and seconded by Brosman to leave that particular section in place pending IDOT approval. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT BIDS
FOR WATER LINE
REPLACEMENT PROJECT -
JEFFERSON STREET-FIRST TO
FIFTH:
(TABLED) :

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to table this until after the Water/Sewer Committee meeting. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF LAKE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
- AUGUST 4, 2025:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to accept the Lake Committee meeting minutes dated August 4, 2025. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF TOURISM
COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES - JULY 9, 2025:

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Stunkel to accept the Tourism Commission meeting minutes dated July 9, 2025. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2025-8-18-A: AN
ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF
VANDALIA THAT PROPOSES
THE APPROVAL OF A
BUSINESS DISTRICT PLAN
FOR THE PROPOSED W.
RANDOLPH STREET AND
VETERANS AVENUE BUSINESS
DISTRICT AND FIXING A
TIME AND PLACE FOR A
PUBLIC HEARING DATE ON
THE PLAN AND DESIGNATING
THE BUSINESS DISTRICT:

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Brosman to approve Ordinance 2025-8-18-A: An Ordinance of the City of Vandalia that Proposes the Approval of a Business District Plan for the Proposed West Randolph Street and Veterans Avenue Business District and Fixing a Time and Place for a Public Hearing Date on The Plan and Designating the Business District. The Public Hearing has been set for September 8 at 5 p.m.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Lester stated the wall at Veterans Memorial Park is done. The mural will be placed in a couple of weeks. Discussion turned to installing a sidewalk along the wall. The sidewalk will be put on hold until Spring. Lester and Barker will look at pavilion options. Knebel stated the comprehensive plan will be reviewed in sections by the Economic Development Commission.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Knebel reported he signed the aggregate agreement with Homefield Energy effective December 2025 through May 2027 at a rate of 0.1176 per kilowatt hour, which is roughly where it has been. Mailings to opt out will be sent out from Homefield. Knebel thanked the Beautification Committee for cleaning up the green space between City Hall and Burtschi Bros.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Stunkel asked Connor the status of 2 houses on Fourth Street. Connor said there is 1 heir that the City is working around. He believes those 2 houses will be able to come down in September. Barker asked about the dilapidated home on Sixth Street and Bowen asked about the home on Edwards Street. Bowen said the City has an obligation to ensure the safety of our citizens and how this impacts the City overall. Kopp, Paslay and Knebel will meet and provide an update at the next Council meeting. Kopp will also be invited to the next Council meeting. Connor said he intends to come back with more progress next time on both of those properties. Connor said the City can pay somebody to secure the buildings and the cost be placed on the property owner. Connor said that the Edwards Street property and the Sixth Street property are priorities.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Paslay stated she and Workman will be going to Centralia Lake to see how they set up the boat races. She has two confirmed food trucks for the boat races at the Lake. On September 4, the boat racers will set up camp at the Lake. On September 5, testing will be done

from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday, racing will be from 12 Noon until 5 p.m. She stated as a requirement of IML/RMA, she will have a Return to Work Ordinance for consideration at the next Council meeting. Streets meeting scheduled for August 26 at 12 Noon. Building and Grounds meeting scheduled for 5 p.m. on Monday, August 25, followed by Water/Sewer Committee meeting scheduled for 6 p.m.

**SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL
REPORT:**

Report provided.

**STANDING COMMITTEE
REPORTS:**

Jackson said the Randolph Street project has kept the Streets Department busy. Stunkel asked if the Car show could be held in September due to the hot weather in August. Knebel said there was a great crowd at the Car show. Paslay stated she is going to be contacting a group from Eastern Illinois to do Cemetery mapping for South Hill and Fairlawn, which is required for the City to have. Stunkel said when a building permit is issued for the Lake, the Lessee will be requested to post the building permit on the property. He stated that he has reached out to Conxxus high speed internet to see if they would entertain ideas and options for high speed internet for the campgrounds. Hubler said the City has bent over backwards for Mr. Donato and the solar farm on Main Street. He felt that Donato has not held up his end of the agreement. Knebel directed Connor to put Donato on notice that mowing, drainage and fencing around that solar farm needs to be done with a response and a plan submitted to the City in 14 days. Lester asked if the short line railroad has paid

anything for the railroad cars. Knebel said there are conversations regarding the short line that are in the very early stages. Huhn reported 18 new Christmas displays have been purchased for Festival of Lights. Bowen stated that he has been getting calls from citizens regarding water quality on Tower Street. Jackson stated the hydrants were flushed on the day the complaint was made.

COUNCIL MOVES INTO
EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:18
P.M.:

Knebel announced that the Council would be moving into Executive Session. Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to move into Executive Session at 8:18 p.m. under 5 ILCS 120/2 to discuss personnel matters.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDS AT
8:49 P.M.:

Executive Session ends at 8:49 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION
RECONVENED AT 8:50 P.M.:

Regular session reconvened at 8:50 p.m. with a roll call: Stunkel, yea; Brosman, yea; Lester, yea; Bowen, yea; Hubler, yea; Barker, yea. Hobler and Lewey were absent. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Bowen to hire Amber Daulbaugh as Economic Development Director/Tourism Director for the City of Vandalia.

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

Daulbaugh said she was excited and thanked the Council for the opportunity to return to the City of Vandalia.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Stunkel to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. Motion carried.

Caule Hulm

City Clerk