

City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, October 20, 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 Barker, Hubler, Hobler, Brosman, Bowen and Stunkel were present. Lester and Lewey were absent.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

A moment of silence was held for Herb Woolsey, former Vandalia business owner.

INTRODUCTION OF ATTORNEY:

Ryan Connor introduced his new associate, Monica Pechous, who will be filling in for Connor at Council meetings occasionally. She has begun working on a couple of City projects.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES DATED
OCTOBER 6, 2025:**

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to approve City Council meeting minutes dated October 6, 2025. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Knebel said at the six-month mark, he would like to see a more detailed report as we think about next year's budget.

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to approve the Treasurer's report for period ending September 30, 2025. Motion carried.

REGULAR BILLS:

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

SPECIAL BILLS:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to pay the special bills as presented: Caselle, LLC in the amount of \$7,439.00 for support fee; IML in the amount of \$184,180.92 for IML/RMA fees; DC Concrete and Construction in the amount of \$6,800.00 for sidewalk replacement; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$2,082.76 for electric bill; Ed Roehr Safety Product in the amount of \$8,322.50 for PD equipment accessories; Andy's Auto Body in the amount of \$21,486.65 for repairs; Earth Planter in the amount of \$8,042.00 for flower pots; Milano and Grunloh in the amount of \$4,862.25 for Randolph Street project; Vandalia Asphalt Service in the amount of \$119,912.99 for chip trucks; Nyhart in the amount of \$5,100.00 for Actuarial services; Vandalia Asphalt Service in the amount of \$9,398.07 for CA-6 at Lake; Midwest Marine Construction in the amount of \$59,000.00 for rip rap; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$3,111.51 for utility bill at Lake; Milano and Grunloh in the amount of \$2,192.50 for Industrial Park fees; South Central FS in the amount of \$8,227.69 for gasoline; Milano and Grunloh in the amount of \$23,946.78 for water plant inspection fees; Core and Main in the amount of \$3,620.33 for supplies; Brenntag Mid-South, Inc., in the amount of \$18,577.60 for supplies; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$11,059.59 for electric bill at water plant; Milano and Grunloh in the amount of \$2,960.00 for engineering fees; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$9,008.53 for electric bill at sewer plant; Vandevanter Engineer, Inc., in the amount of \$2,340.00 for pump installation. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND
CONCERNS:

Bowen stated there is a monument of Tom Higgins at the VCC grounds that he would like to have relocated to a location in the City such as Veterans Memorial Park. Higgins was in multiple battles, and served as Sergeant at Arms at the Vandalia State House. Paslay and Knebel will do research on this.

Shane Bowen stated that he would like Council consideration to stop people from riding motorized scooters and bicycles on downtown sidewalks. He also requested Council consideration of placing stop signs on Gallatin Street at Fourth and Sixth Streets. This will be forwarded to the Streets Committee. Knebel said he has concerns regarding pulling out onto Gallatin from Fourth Street. He said when cars are parked there, it is hard to see cars traveling down Gallatin Street. This will also be reviewed with the Streets Committee.

Discussion turned to the street lighting downtown. Barker said he talked to individuals at the IML conference regarding options. The lightbulbs that were replaced on Fourth Street are not much brighter. This will be addressed at the Streets Committee meeting.

Ben Frazier, CEO of Family YMCA of Fayette County, distributed the 2024 Annual Report for the Y. He discussed the traffic problem they are encountering, particularly on the weekends. He said the Y does not have a quantity issue regarding parking. The issue is they have a large number of people on the Y grounds on the weekends, particularly on a Saturday. He said they have done all they can to

mitigate the situation. After much discussion, it was decided to refer the matter to Streets Committee.

Scott Workman introduced Matt Kabbes and Fred Nuxholl to the Council. Kabbes gave an overview of the Lake siltation at one of the coves. He said they use a big float boat that has a 6' wide tiller head on the front that chews everything up, runs it through a 6" pump and pipeline into a giant bag. It is a tube that lets all of the clean water run out, but leaves the sediment and silt in the bag. Nuxholl said they do a lot of small boat dock areas. He said the area on the Lake that is being looked at is dry right now for the most part. He said they can get approximately 3 ½ to 4' of water in the dry areas. They cannot go any deeper than the original hard pan. They can only get the silt that has been put in there. Kabbes said the silt bags can be opened after 10 to 12 weeks, leveled out in areas and seeded. A lot of times it can begin growing grass in 5 or 6 days. It can also be hauled off. He said it can be used as a dry dam to slow that material down and basically create a silt basin in that low area to let it settle out before it got to the Lake again. He said as far as permitting, it is a joint application that would go to Army Corps of Engineer, IDNR and IEPA. The process could take several months. Knebel said this project is going to require a bid. He said this is going to be a Spring of next year project but did not want to wait until Spring to begin. Kabbes was projecting 2 large bags would need to be used. Bowen said that is not the only cove that is having issues. He said this is the one we have

talked about the most. Workman said there is siltation around the entire Lake. Bowen asked how many sites are there where people are having a hard time getting their boats in and out. Workman said probably 4 coves on the south side and there are also coves on the north side that need addressed. Bowen said Beckman needs to be involved. Knebel said this would need to be phased in. Bowen said this needs to be done the right way. Beckman will work with Kabbes on putting specs together.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Lee Beckman updated the Council on pending and ongoing City projects. The paperwork for the Randolph Street upgrade project has been finalized. Walk through was done and there were no items found. This project is substantially complete. Workman is working with companies on the Lake Dam upgrades. Work on the lead service line replacement project began today. This will take approximately 2 weeks to complete. Beckman said they are vaccing down and physically inspecting every third service line. If they find lead, then they identify one on each side. Huhn will send out a Text My Gov to those neighborhoods where work is being done. She will get the neighborhoods affected from Paslay. The contractor has a seeding guarantee for Safe Routes to School until next Spring. Preconstruction meeting and funding is in place for the raw water main and pressure reducing station. Preconstruction meeting for City Hall water main replacement has been held with construction starting later this month or November. Groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new water treatment plant. Foundation is going in. Dirt work is done. Beckman gave

Joe Simpson, the new water plant operator, a set of plans and specs for review. Removal of lime will have to be done on an annual basis. Construction is set for Spring 2026 for the ITEP sidewalk project. Bid opening done for CDBG watermain grant. Preconstruction meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 22 at 1:30 p.m. Construction is to start in approximately 2 weeks. OSLAD project is essentially complete. Randolph Street watermain replacement project has been put on hold until 2027, pending any changes. Design has started on the Regional Site Readiness Grant project. Beckman said early second quarter 2026 is possibly when the project will be bid out. Shelley/Thistle/Morning Glory DCEO project has been sent to the EPA. Once the NOFO comes out in the first quarter of 2026, that will be ready to be submitted. There is a preconstruction meeting scheduled for the sidewalk replacement project along Veterans Avenue on Wednesday, October 22 at 1:15 p.m. on site. At 2:00 p.m. on that day, there will be a meeting with the new water plant filter supplier. In regard to the lighting downtown, Beckman suggested contacting the lighting company and get a higher lumen light. Once a lumen has been chosen, then the City could do a lighting study which will need to be submitted to Springfield before doing any replacement. Beckman is going to revisit this with the lighting company.

**ACCEPTANCE OF LAKE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DATED OCTOBER 6, 2025:**

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to accept the Lake Committee meeting minutes dated October 6, 2025. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT CHANGE
ORDER #2A FOR RANDOLPH
STREET PROJECT -
+\$44,324.92:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve Change Order #2A for Randolph Street project (+\$44,324.92). Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT PAY
ESTIMATE #2 FOR WATER
TREATMENT PLANT -
\$1,437,508.80:

Paslay stated this approval was for the annual maintenance fees for telemetry equipment at the sewer plant.

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Hubler to approve Pay Estimate #2 for Water Treatment Plant - \$1,437,508.80. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-10-20-A:
A RESOLUTION APPROVING
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
CITY OF VANDALIA,
ILLINOIS AND HACH:

Motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Stunkel to approve Resolution 2025-10-20-A: A Resolution Approving Agreement Between the City of Vandalia, Illinois and Hach.

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

ORDINANCE 2025-10-20-B:
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING
THE EXECUTION OF THE
IML/RMA MINIMUM/MAXIMUM
CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT:

Paslay stated this authorization was for the City's risk management coverage through IML.

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Stunkel to approve Ordinance 2025-10-20-B: An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of the IML/RMA Minimum/Maximum Contribution Agreement.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Economic Development Commission meeting has been set for Wednesday,

October 29, 2025 at 12 Noon at
Kaskaskia College.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Knebel reported IDNR will cover the cost of the watershed grant that the City applied for since the Lake is the primary water source. He said a team from U of I will be on the Lake for a week, and in three weeks they will submit their report to us. This report will give the City everything from the depth to the thickness of the sediment. They will scan the entire Lake. Knebel attended the Firemen's Appreciation Dinner on Saturday night. He expressed his appreciation for our Firemen. Knebel stated he was contacted by a citizen regarding the lack of lighting on the curve on Orchard Street near the high school. Paslay said she has contacted Ameren to see if anybody from there would come out and look at street lighting and give recommendations. Knebel suggested an alternative to livestreaming the Council meetings such as Facebook Live, etc. in lieu of Zoom.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Connor reported he received a positive response from Donato's attorney. Work began today on a fence around the solar farm on Main Street. The 2 houses on Fourth Street have been demolished. There is still some lien work and property work to do. Summons has been served on the Zimmerman property on 6th Street. Each defendant (there are 5) has 30 days to answer the summons from the date of service.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Paslay reported City-wide, there is an electrical aggregation that is offered to the citizens. The City also has one for the City buildings.

The City is not eligible to use that aggregation as the City is too large of a user. The contract renewal for the City buildings is coming soon. She said with all of these, they give you a rate and it needs to be signed by the end of the day. She was asking Council for authorization for Knebel to sign that agreement when the time comes. Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Stunkel to give Knebel authorization to sign an aggregation agreement as soon as the rates are presented. Motion carried.

Paslay said she has been contacted by a business that offers cosmetic tattooing. This individual is looking to add body art. Paslay said the City has it as a Special Use only in Downtown Commercial, General Commercial and Light Industrial. Currently, no more than 4 licenses total is allowed. Paslay asked for permission to send this to the Planning Commission for consideration. It would come back to the Council for a final vote.

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to send this matter to the Planning Commission. Motion carried.

Paslay stated she is applying for the Brownfield Grant again once it is released. She has narrowed down key places in the community and talked to the property owners.

She said tax levy time is coming up soon. The auditor sent her information that she is reviewing and she will have recommendations for that at the second meeting in November.

Downtown Trick or Treat is this Saturday. Storytime will kick off at 10 a.m. at the Library with trick or treating beginning at 10:30 a.m. Costume contest will be held at 12:30 p.m. at Charters Patio. Trick or Treat at the Lake Campgrounds is set for Friday, October 24 from 5 until 8 p.m.

Festival of Trees will be held on Friday, November 7, 2025.

She stated that Andy Lester informed her that Chad Warner will help develop a fertilizing or weed control plan at Veterans Memorial Park. He is donating his time.

SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL:

Report in packet.

**STANDING COMMITTEE
REPORTS:**

James Jackson stated they are finishing up oiling streets and alleys this week. Barker thanked Lester for the several hours he spent working on the sidewalk along the building at Veterans Memorial Park.

Dennis Grubaugh asked about finishing the walls on his 3 buildings. Kopp has reached out to contractors. Paslay will follow up with Kopp.

Workman said last Monday a diver came to the Lake and dove down by the water intake. The intake itself is 10' from the bottom of the Lake. There was a little bit of algae and moss built up along the intake itself. He recommended cleaning that once a year. The diver swam the entire length of the Dam. He said it looked like crushed concrete was laid down first and then they poured the Dam on top of it. The deepest void was about elbow-length. The

vegetation was removed. Workman stated a company came out today to look at it and give recommendations. Knebel said this could potentially be considered an emergency situation since the water pool is low and cracks would be exposed. If this is done, the dollar amount would be limited. He said this would require 2/3 of the Council approval. He pointed out just because those cracks are exposed currently, the window is limited and the window may close between now and then. Workman said this company has been recommended by the City engineers.

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Stunkel to authorize Knebel to approve emergency work on the Dam.

Barker said it would be difficult to put a dollar amount on this. Knebel said because we expect something from this company this week and prior to the next meeting, do we want to entertain waiving the bid requirements on an emergency basis. He proposed if we do that, we limit the dollar amount not to exceed a certain amount. Knebel said he would prefer a dollar amount be put on this. Connor said the City will need to consider setting a "do not exceed" amount and leave a determination with the Mayor as to whether or not he is going to enter into that contract. He said if the City wants to do something before the next meeting, competitive bidding will have to be waived tonight. Connor said another thing the City could do is not put a cap on it and give sole power to the Mayor. The Mayor will have to decide when he gets that contract if it is a good contract or not. Connor said

if this is the route the Council takes, he suggests putting a policy in place in the future so the City does not repeat this problem but also does not miss seizing an opportunity. Bowen expressed his concern about not putting this out for bids. He said the City needs to be more proactive.

An amended motion was made by Barker and seconded by Stunkel to give Knebel emergency power to award the contract to White Cap without a spending cap, and leave the determination with the Mayor as to whether or not he is going to enter into that contract.

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

Stunkel said he would like to add 3 compartment sink to the beach house so concessions can be offered to beach goers. Workman has been approached by an individual who is interested in renting the beach house next Summer for concessions. Bowen said he would like to bid this out or get a Request for Proposal.

Motion was made by Bowen and seconded by Stunkel to proceed with getting an RFP for concessions at the beach house. Motion carried.

Hubler reported \$87,159.93 has been spent out of the Tourism budget Year to Date. Hubler stated in the past, the City has required a 2-day event to use hotel/motel tax monies. Knebel said he inquired about this at the IML conference, and he was not able to confirm that. Connor will look into this for

clarification. He stated the Tourism Commission is looking into signage options. This will be a Spring project. Tourism Grant guidelines have been discussed by the Commission. This would establish guidelines for those people when asking for Tourism money. Summer Fest 2026 is being planned. Daulbaugh said the Council had agreed upon a date previously, but would like to reconsider moving Summer Fest to the weekend of July 4 to coincide with the Country's 250th Birthday celebration. Daulbaugh would like to have it on the 4th of July. She would like the date set as soon as possible so she can start securing bands, etc. Stunkel and Bowen were in favor of this. Discussion was held regarding getting corporate sponsorships to help offset the cost of the fireworks. Paslay will pass the fireworks information along to Daulbaugh.

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Bowen to move Summer Fest 2026 to the 4th of July weekend. Motion carried.

Workman stated boat races will be held at the Lake on August 28, 29 and 30, 2026.

Workman stated the Lake will close on Sunday, October 26, 2025. He was commended on a great Lake season.

**COUNCIL MOVES INTO
EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:30
P.M.**

Knebel announced that the Council would be moving into Executive Session. Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hubler to move into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. under 5 ILCS 120/2 to discuss personnel and land acquisition matters.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDS AT 9:15 P.M.:

Executive Session ends at 9:15 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENED AT 9:16 P.M.:

Regular session reconvened at 9:16 p.m. with a roll call: Hobler, yea; Bowen, yea; Brosman, yea; Stunkel, yea; Hubler, yea; Barker, yea. Lester and Lewey were absent. Knebel stated there was nothing to report out of Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Barker to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. Motion carried.

Caulla Huhn

City Clerk