

City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, September 22, 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, Lewey, Lester, and Stunkel were present. Hobler was absent.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES DATED
SEPTEMBER 2, 2025:**

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve City Council meeting minutes dated September 2, 2025. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer's Report for period ending August 31, 2025 was reviewed. Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Lewey to file report 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:

Paslay stated she would like to add a bill for approval in the amount of \$43,795.84 to FNB Community Bank for TIF reimbursement (Joiner-Bowen Company). Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hubler to approve the amended special bills as amended: FNB Community Bank in the amount of \$43,795.84 for TIF reimbursement; Text My Gov in the amount of \$4,600.00 for software management fees; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$2,629.34 for electric bill; Global Tech Systems, Inc., in

the amount of \$12,638.79 for PD equipment accessories; SDS Technology in the amount of \$1,524.44 for supplies; Fayette County Treasurer in the amount of \$26,000.00 for animal control; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$2,701.75 for electric bill; Mac's Fire and Safety, Inc., in the amount of \$2,773.64 for equipment; Rural Med EMS in the amount of \$2,250.00 for boat races at Lake; Historical Vandalia, Inc., in the amount of \$5,281.59 for Historical Vandalia reimbursement; Christmas Done Bright in the amount of \$11,592.00 for Christmas displays; South Central FS in the amount of \$6,145.97 for gasoline at Lake; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$4,006.91 for electric bill; Milano and Grunloh Engineers in the amount of \$2,005.00 for engineering fees; South Central FS in the amount of \$5,872.53 for gasoline at garage; Milano and Grunloh in the amount of \$24,000.00 for engineering fees; Core and Main in the amount of \$7,168.12 for supplies; Vandalia City Garage in the amount of \$4,828.00 for maintenance to equipment; C and C Pumps & Supply in the amount of \$1,525.00 for maintenance to equipment; Milano and Grunloh in the amount of \$25,573.08 for engineering fees; Brenntag Mid-South, Inc., in the amount of \$19,074.20 for supplies; Hawkins, Inc., in the amount of \$2,630.50 for supplies; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$2,747.72 for electric bill; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$7,126.69 for electric bill; John Deere Financial in the amount of \$2,020.98 for equipment maintenance; \$5,500.00 for equipment maintenance; Homefield Energy in the amount of

\$9,389.47 for electric bill. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:

Lester stated there was a washout situation off of Fillmore Street. He talked to James Jackson. He said it is starting to get pretty close to the street. Jackson said he has the materials to do it. Lester stated he would like a reasonable timeframe to get this completed.

Dana Leskera, owner of the former Liberty Theatre, stated the Liberty Theatre Foundation is holding a fundraiser where interested people can purchase a star on the Vandalia Walk of Fame that will be located on the sidewalk at the front of the theatre. She said they will not be installed for a couple of years but will begin selling these now upon City approval. She said her Foundation will pay for the sidewalk and the installation of it.

Discussion was held regarding the water line that is going into the building. Brosman said he hopes that would be addressed before installing the Walk of Fame. Leskera agreed and stated that it would make sense to address the water line when sidewalk is removed. Each star is \$2500.00. She estimates that she can fit 40 to 50 of the stars but will get a firm count after she talks to the architecture firm. She also stated there is a Fly Me to the Moon fundraiser set for October 2 at the Vandalia Country Club. Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to approve Leskera's request. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Lee Beckman updated the Council on pending and ongoing City projects. He stated that Randolph Street is scheduled to open sometime this

week. The joints on the Dam will need to be sealed, possibly by the City. Stunkel said every year the Dam needs maintenance. He said a preconstruction meeting for the Lead Line Service Replacement could be scheduled for this week. The City should be able to get the Lead Service Line inventory complete. Seeding is under warranty until Spring for Safe Routes to School project. Raw water main and pressure reducing station project has been awarded. The paperwork is being completed. Preconstruction meeting was held on August 7. Bid has been awarded for the City Hall Water Main Replacement project. Construction to begin in October or November. Dirt work is complete on the new water plant. A groundbreaking ceremony has been set for Wednesday, October 1 at 10 a.m. The ITEP project is at IDOT. This is the sidewalk project that takes off from the end of Safe Routes to School to Wal-Mart and down Main Street. The NOFO is not out yet for the Unsewered IEPA grant. OSLAD project is close to completion. We are waiting on the 600 amp subpanel, which should be here on Thursday. We are still waiting on a contract from Fayette Water. Stunkel said he talked to Gary Washburn about dry dams. Washburn said it would cost about \$35,000 to do the worse cove at the Lake. Beckman said a budget is needed to see how much the City wants to spend. The Randolph Street Watermain replacement project has been postponed until 2026 funding application. Regional Site Readiness grant is in process. The 2025 DCEO Project for Shelley/Thistle/Morning Glory has been finalized and permit has been sent off. The NOFO from DCEO is not out yet. Work will start

in 30 days for the sidewalk replacement project on Veterans Avenue. Preconstruction meeting will be held in the next couple of weeks.

PRESENTATION BY MIKE
ANDREAS OF ANDREAS
CONSULTING ALONG WITH A
REPRESENTATIVE FROM
HEARTLAND CONSERVANCY:

Mike Andreas of Andreas Consulting introduced himself to the Council. He stated he has done a lot of watershed planning during his career. He has worked with HeartLands Conservancy to do watershed planning, and also with Karen Sanders of the Soil and Water Conservation District. He explained there are 2 phases of watershed planning, with having a plan being the most important component. It is important to have a watershed plan developed that specifies what you need to do, when, what best management practices you are going to apply, and costs. This sets the groundwork for doing implementation. The next step is to take components out of it that you want to apply and apply for the 319 Grant to actually build the practices. Heartland has a 97% success rate in getting grants approved through the EPA. He said in the meantime, the City could be proactive and start doing little things around the Lake (such as dry dams, ponds, etc.). Kevin Schroeder stated Gary Washburn has already contacted Matt Kabbes in Effingham. Kabbes can take 200' from the end of the cove, get it 6' deep and take the silt out, put it in 60' long bags, and fill in all of the way to JD Vieregge's house. Kabbes is going to come to Vandalia next week. Kabbes estimated the cost to be \$35,000. Karen Sanders said any soil that is removed from the Lake needs to be tested for contaminations to make sure it can be put back into the land as fill. She said the bags are eventually going to decompose.

Knebel said he would reach out to Kabbes to find out what the scope of work looks like and what it is going to cost.

John O'Donnell from HeartLands Conservancy introduced himself to the Council. His company has a lot of experience in watershed planning. He said the cost for the planning process would be between \$70,000 to \$80,000. He said IEPA likes to see community involvement, talking to landowners and the municipalities within the watershed on what the issues are. O'Donnell said this is a 1 to 2 year process. The grant application is due October 5. This would need to be applied for under the Soil and Water Conservation District, and O'Donnell would assist in writing the grant. He said the cost would be around \$5,000 to assist Sanders in writing the grant. Knebel said if we can eventually get 319 money at a 60/40 match, our \$200,000 becomes \$500,000. Stunkel said we need to start doing something. We have people who cannot get their boat out and they live by the lake. Sanders said you can still do the small things, but you have to wait on the bigger items once the grant is received. Knebel said he is looking at the bigger picture and for the City to continue to maintain the Lake, the City is going to need 319 grant funds. Andreas said the erosion on Vieregge's property is what put it in the Lake, and the erosion on his property needs to be stopped. O'Donnell said if a private landowner whose land is eroding and sediment is going into the Lake, IEPA will pay 60% and the landowner will pay 40%. O'Donnell said he could put together a grant

application and have it submitted by the October 5 deadline.

Motion was made by Bowen and seconded by Barker to authorize HeartLands Conservancy to move forward with submitting the grant application to fund the watershed study.

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

WATER AND SEWER RATES:

Brosman stated that a Work Session was held prior to the Council meeting. It was the consensus at the Work Session to approve water rate increase by 20.04% and sewer rate increase by 7.54% effective October 1, 2025.

**ROAD CLOSURE REQUEST
SUBMITTED BY KAREN AND
JOHN BECKER, THIS-N-THAT,
FOR WITCHES NIGHT OUT
OCTOBER 11, 2025:**

Motion was made by Bowen and seconded by Hubler to approve Road Closure request submitted by Karen and John Becker, This-N-That, for Witches Night Out October 11, 2025 from 12 Noon until 10 p.m. - Fifth Street from Main Street to Madison Street. Motion carried. Paslay will reach out to those businesses in the vicinity to make them aware of road closure.

**RESOLUTION 2025-9-22-A: A
RESOLUTION FOR INTERIM
FINANCING WITH PEOPLES
STATE BANK FOR WATER
TREATMENT PLANT:**

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Brosman to approve Resolution 2025-9-22-A: A Resolution for Interim Financing with Peoples State Bank for Water Treatment Plant.

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

APPROVE OR REJECT PAY ESTIMATE #1 FOR WATER TREATMENT PLANT (\$869,586.30):

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Bowen to approve Pay Estimate #1 for Water Treatment Plant (\$869,586.30). Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-9-22-B: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF VANDALIA AND JOSEPH SIMPSON:

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Brosman to approve Resolution 2025-9-22-B: A Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Employment Contract Between the City of Vandalia and Joseph Simpson.

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

ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF DAVID JONES AS BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICIAL:

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Stunkel to accept the resignation of David Jones as Building and Zoning Official. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2025-9-22-C: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SALARIES FOR FISCAL YEAR MAY 1, 2025 - APRIL 30, 2026:

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Stunkel to approve Ordinance 2025-9-22-C: An Ordinance Amending Salaries for Fiscal Year May 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026.

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

ACCEPTANCE OF LAKE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES DATED SEPTEMBER 2, 2025:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Bowen to accept the Lake Committee Meeting minutes dated September 2, 2025. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES DATED SEPTEMBER 2, 2025:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Lewey to accept the Public Safety Meeting minutes dated September 2, 2025. Motion carried. Huhn will email the draft Solicitor's Ordinance to the Aldermen for review prior to the next Council meeting.

ORDINANCE 2025-9-22-D: AN
ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING
AND DESIGNATING THE WEST
RANDOLPH STREET AND
VETERANS AVENUE BUSINESS
DISTRICT AND APPROVING
THE WEST RANDOLPH STREET
AND VETERANS AVENUE
BUSINESS DISTRICT PLAN
WITHIN THE CITY OF
VANDALIA, ILLINOIS:

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Lewey to approve Ordinance 2025-9-22-D: An Ordinance Establishing and Designating the West Randolph Street and Veterans Avenue Business District Plan Within the City of Vandalia, Illinois.

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

ORDINANCE 2025-9-22-E: AN
ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING
AND IMPOSING CERTAIN
BUSINESS DISTRICT TAXES
IN THE CITY OF VANDALIA
WEST RANDOLPH STREET AND
VETERANS AVENUE BUSINESS
DISTRICT:

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Lewey to approve Ordinance 2025-9-22-E: An Ordinance Establishing and Imposing Certain Business District Taxes in the City of Vandalia West Randolph Street and Veterans Avenue Business District.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Lester said the Veterans Memorial Park wall is finished. He is checking on prices for lighting. Paslay will reach out to ADS Electric. Knebel said he would like to have a meeting with the Economic Development Commission in October. The comprehensive plan will be part of that discussion.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Knebel reported he attended the IML conference in Chicago with Paslay, Barker and Daulbaugh.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Connor reported he is finishing up on projects (deeds, transactional documents). A second lease transfer has been completed at the Lake. He is continuing to push Mr. Donato on his obligations under the settlement

agreement. Paslay will follow up on the fencing of the solar panels.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

Huhn reported she is looking into a new utility payment program that will move toward digitizing City Hall. She plans to have a proposed agreement at the next Council meeting for discussion and possible approval. Huhn reported that a draft Ordinance will be available for discussion and consideration regarding revising the current Lake Lot list process, upon recommendation of the Lake Committee. Brosman asked about being able to look at engineering projects online. Paslay will work with Beckman's staff on this.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Paslay reported she attended IML and was also a speaker at the Clerk/Treasurer's roundtable.

SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL:

Report provided in packet.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Jackson said they will begin oiling and rocking streets this week. He stated 500 tons of salt have been ordered and 300 tons are in storage. He said the salt storage shed has some holes in it and he is checking on that. Brosman said a pump had to be changed out at a lift station. The pump was under warranty. Ribbon cutting for the new water treatment plant has been scheduled for October 1, 2025. Stunkel said go carts, electric bikes and dune buggies have been seen driving on the streets in his Ward. Jake Bowling said the Police Department would look into it. Paslay will hopefully have the spec to paint the Senior Citizens building available at the next Council meeting. Workman said the boat races were successful. Automatic gates were ordered.

Brosman stated the Lake is, from the City's point of view, a water source. The Lake is an asset for the greater community. He reminded the Council to look at the bigger picture and not just be focused solely on one residential cove. He said the erosion at the cove by Dustin Murray needs to be addressed also. What used to be Lake is now an island with 20' tall trees on it. He hopes the study will look at the big picture. He did state that he wants all of the residents to be taken care of and looks forward to Vieregge's ravine getting resolved. Daulbaugh stated she is getting reacquainted with TIF and learned a lot at the TIF seminars at IML. She said Olde Tyme Christmas is in the forefront for her. She is having a lot of meetings with different committees. She identified a couple of other people to join the Economic Development Commission. She is revamping the business directory.

Bowen said he visited Casey, Illinois. He said it is a beautiful little community. He said the Casey community is a great example. He said one of our challenges is to get people off of I-70 and visit Vandalia.

Motion was made by Bowen and seconded by Lester for the City to purchase a star on the Vandalia Walk of Fame in front of the former Liberty Theatre building in the amount of \$2,500.00 from the City of Vandalia. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Hubler to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Carla Hubler

City Clerk