

City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, November 17, 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, Brosman, Bowen, Lester, and Stunkel were present. Hobler and Lewey were absent.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

A moment of silence was held for Steve Hites, former member of the City's Planning Commission; Jerry McDowell, a former business owner; and Kylie Toberman.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES DATED
NOVEMBER 3, 2025:**

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve City Council meeting minutes dated November 3, 2025. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Knebel stated the Treasurer's report includes not only the normal revenue reports but also the revenue report by fund as well as expenditures.

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve the Treasurer's Report for period ending October 31, 2025. Motion carried.

REGULAR BILLS:

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

SPECIAL BILLS:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to pay the special bills as presented: Sandberg Phoenix in the amount of \$5,181.87

for legal fees; Timmermann and Company in the amount of \$30,000.00 for audit fees; Civic Plus, LLC in the amount of \$2,191.72 for annual fees; TThoman Development, LLC in the amount of \$2,000.00 for consulting fees; Andy's Auto Body Collision in the amount of \$7,281.00 for repairs; Discover Downstate Illinois in the amount of \$9,315.00 for advertising fees; Tiger Lily Flower Shop in the amount of \$1,697.00 for Festival of Trees reimbursement; Andy Craig Excavation in the amount of \$2,500.00 for repairs; Milano and Grunloh in the amount of \$6,040.00 for engineering fees for Industrial Park; South Central FS in the amount of \$5,033.55 for gasoline; Milano and Grunloh Engineers in the amount of \$28,850.19 for engineering fees for water plant project; C and C Pumps and Supply in the amount of \$5,043.34 for maintenance fees; Vandevanter Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$1,774.60 for pump repairs; Municipal Equipment Company in the amount of \$2,246.12 for supplies. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:

None.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Beckman updated the Council on upcoming and ongoing projects. He stated the paperwork is at IDOT for the Randolph Street project. Workman is working with the supplier on Lake Dam upgrades. Knebel said the City is asking for clarification on some of the information that was received from the vendor. The vac work has been completed on the lead service line replacement. The City received 3 grants for \$40,000 each. The City is able to access \$20,000 of each of those grants for \$60,000. The

remaining \$20,000 for each grant will not be eligible until after the lead service line inventory is completed and submitted. Beckman stated a box located on the south side of Sunset Car Wash needs to be raised 18" to make the sidewalk a more gradual slope. Paslay will reach out to the company. Work on the raw water main and pressure reducing station has begun. Work on the City Hall Water Main replacement project will begin in January, weather dependent. Work on the new Water Treatment Plant is progressing well. Letting for the ITEP sidewalk project will be next Spring with construction to begin in Summer 2026. Beckman stated there are no outstanding issues on the OSLAD project. DCEO application will be submitted for the Randolph Street Watermain Replacement project in late 2026/early 2027. Regional Site readiness project is moving ahead. The next NOFO is out. It is the same (80/20). The City is constructing about 50% of the infrastructure, going south and back west with the proposed road, water and sewer. Rolling applications will be accepted after November 30. Beckman said this would continue the street all of the way west of the township road and bring it back south. He said this NOFO has been raised from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000. He said they are wanting to do a certain number of these grants per DCEO region.

Motion was made by Bowen and seconded by Barker to proceed with submitting the application.

Roll call: Lester, yea; Hubler, yea; Stunkel, yea; Brosman, yea; Bowen,

yea; Barker, yea. Hobler and Lewey were absent. Motion carried.

Beckman said the NOFO for the 2026 DCEO project area at Shelley/Thistle/Morning Glory should be out in January. The City already has the EPA permit. Preconstruction meeting for the sidewalk replacement on Veterans Avenue has been done. Work will begin in early December, weather dependent. Beckman would like to discuss the approach for the siltation issue at the Lake. Currently, a team from the U of I is performing surveys on the Lake. Paslay will coordinate a call with the U of I team and Beckman.

PRESENTATION OF FY 2025
AUDIT - TRICIA ELAM:

Tricia Elam from Timmermann and Company presented the findings from the FY 2025 audit. She stated the books were in good order. Total revenues this year were \$5.6 million compared to \$5.3 million last year. Total expenditures were \$5.5 million. The General Fund balance is \$9.1 million. She reviewed expenditures by individual departments. The Recreation fund had total revenues of almost \$400,000. Total expenditures were \$440,923 for a loss of \$42,000. There is still over \$1.1 million dollars in the Recreation fund. The Cemetery fund had a loss of \$52,000. Total revenue in the Water and Sewer fund is \$2,857,928. Operating expenses were \$2.8 million compared to \$2.4 million last year. Water and Sewer fund has a balance of \$11,624,396. She stated that the bottom line of the Police Pension fund is approximately \$7.2 million which is an increase of \$600,000 from last year. She said overall the City is in good financial health.

ENERGY TRANSITION PHASE
II GRANT DISCUSSION:

Public meeting was held earlier.

RESOLUTION 2025-11-17-A:
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY
OF VANDALIA, ILLINOIS, IN
SUPPORT OF THE ILLINOIS
AMERICA 250 CELEBRATION:

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Stunkel to approve Resolution 2025-11-17-A: A Resolution of the City of Vandalia, Illinois, in Support of the Illinois American 250 Celebration.

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

RESOLUTION 2025-11-17-B:
A RESOLUTION APPROVING A
MASTER SERVICE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE CITY OF
VANDALIA, ILLINOIS AND
PAYIT:

Huhn stated PayIt would replace the current utility payment program that her office utilizes for payment of utility bills, licenses, etc. She noted the convenience and ease this new program would afford customers. Connor has reviewed the agreement. This would become effective January 1, 2026.

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to approve Resolution 2025-11-17-B: A Resolution Approving a Master Service Agreement Between the City of Vandalia, Illinois and PayIt.

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

APPROVE OR REJECT BID FOR
REPLACEMENT OF RADIOS FOR
THE VANDALIA POLICE
DEPARTMENT - \$24,915.60:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve bid submitted by GTSi in the amount of \$24,915.60 for replacement of portable radios for the PD. Bowen asked if the radios could be reprogrammed to make available for use by EMA or another agency. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT BID FOR
EXTRICATION FOR THE
VANDALIA VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT - \$45,801.60
(WILL BE PAID WITH HAZEL
SIMMA KELLY FUNDS):

Paslay said this equipment is from the same company the current set is with, which would allow for compatibility.

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve bid submitted by Dinges Fire Company in the amount of \$45,801.60. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT BIDS
FOR CEMETERY MOWER:

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Stunkel to approve bid submitted by Chancellor Outdoor Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$10,119.25 for a cemetery mower. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT PAY
ESTIMATE #1 FOR LEAD
SERVICE LINE PROJECT
(\$68,750.00):

Motion was made by Lester and seconded by Brosman to approve Pay Estimate #1 for lead service line project (\$68,750.00). Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT PAY
ESTIMATE #3 FOR THE WATER
TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT
FROM GRUNLOH BUILDING,
INC. (\$670,392.90):

Motion was made by Lester and seconded by Stunkel to approve Pay Estimate #3 for the water treatment plant project from Grunloh Building, Inc., (\$670,392.90). Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT CHANGE
ORDER #3 FOR THE OSLAD
GRANT PROJECT AT VANDALIA
LAKE - INCREASE OF
\$693.52:

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Stunkel to approve Change Order #3 for the OSLAD grant project at Vandalia Lake - Increase of \$693.52. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT PAY
ESTIMATE #4 FOR THE OSLAD
GRANT PROJECT AT VANDALIA
LAKE - \$132,562.03:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve Pay Estimate #4 for the OSLAD grant project at Vandalia Lake - \$132,562.03. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Daulbaugh will comment on the Comprehensive Plan in her report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Knebel reported he attended the ribbon cutting and open house of the SBL/FCH Medical Center. He also

expressed his gratitude to the Police Officers who were involved in handling the tragic event that occurred over the weekend.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Connor reported there are a couple of old Ordinance violations from 2016 and 2017. Referral to a collection agency when all efforts to collect have been exhausted was discussed. This case has been set for hearing on December 10.

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Lester to proceed with referring this to a collection agency. Motion carried. Connor will present the agreement for consideration at the next Council meeting.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

Huhn stated trash guidelines have been mailed to all water customers. Stunkel asked Huhn the status of the Lake Ordinance language changes. Paslay said she has almost completed review of those. Stunkel asked Huhn the status of the revised Lake lot list process on the North side. Huhn said Connor has been working on that. Connor will have it for review at the next Council meeting.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Paslay reported the brick walls are finished on the CEFS building, and work began today on the 6th Street Pub building. Paslay stated the City was required to levy for Police Pension at \$379,216, and this year the City actuary is recommending levying at \$509,539 for an increase of \$130,323. She said gaming funds could be contributed to keep the pension fund where it should be. Gaming revenue was \$294,204.79 from May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025. She noted Danielle Caruso, Treasurer, has secured very good interest rates

on the City accounts at local banks which have resulted in an increase. Paslay recommended that the City levy 0% again this year, and the City will cover the Police Pension fund increase with gaming revenues and interest the City has been receiving over the last year.

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker that the City levy 0% this year, with the City using gaming revenues and interest the City earned to cover the Police Pension fund increase. Motion carried.

Paslay will prepare the tax levy for the next meeting.

SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL:

Report provided in packet.

**STANDING COMMITTEE
REPORTS:**

Barker reported that the Streets Department will be picking up leaves over the next few weeks. Huhn will send out a Text My Gov to alert the citizens. A Streets meeting will be held after Paslay contacts the company regarding downtown lighting. Brosman encouraged Council members to drive by the new water plant site. He said he also met with the new Water Plant Superintendent and said that meeting went well. Chief Ray stated there was a county-wide sex offender check two weeks ago with very good compliance with only minor violations. He asked for discussion on gasoline powered bikes and electric scooters. State law requires municipalities to allow scooters to be ridden on the streets or prohibited. He said you are required to be 18 years of age to ride a scooter. Connor said his associate has begun working on something comprehensive for all of those types of bikes and modes of

transportation. This will be presented at a Council meeting in December. Ray said his preference would be to prohibit gas powered bikes. Law states electric bikes have the same rights as bicycles but the noise complaints and safety concerns could be a start. Bowen said this is the only mode of transportation for some people. He said the City should be focused on those individuals who refuse to be compliant versus this is the way it is going to be for everybody. Ray thanked the Police Officers for quick resolution to the tragic situation that occurred over the weekend. Lester said that Paslay is getting information to him regarding hail damage to the City buildings. Stunkel said Allen Tucker inquired about the status of placing boat slips near the handicapped fishing dock. Paslay will discuss with Workman and then will reach out to Tucker. Knebel said there has been concern from a couple of Lake residents about leaves being blown into the Lake. Connor has rendered an opinion on this. He stated leaves or any type of yard waste cannot intentionally be put into the Lake. Notification of Connor's findings will be sent to Lake residents on Tuesday. Hubler stated that OTC was a big success. Daulbaugh said there will be an EDC meeting on Wednesday, November 19 at 12 Noon to discuss the housing component of the Comprehensive Plan. Plans are underway to help promote Small Business Saturday. She pointed out the information that was in the Council packet regarding Placer AI. She had a phone call with Jordan regarding this. He was able to provide attendance numbers for OTC. She said there is a lot of

information that Placer AI could pull which would provide Daulbaugh an opportunity to help potential businesses who are interested in possibly opening a business in Vandalia. This would allow Daulbaugh to pull from these numbers and give that potential business this information. Daulbaugh will email a report she received to the Council members. Jordan will join via Zoom at the next Council meeting. The cost for this is \$12,000 a year. Council thanked Daulbaugh and the OTC Committee for their hard work on a successful OTC. Paslay will advertise the Zoning Official position that is currently open.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Stunkel to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried.

Carla Huhn

City Clerk