

City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, January 19, 2026
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, Brosman, Hobler, Stunkel, and Lester were present. Bowen, Hubler and Lewey were absent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:

Stunkel encouraged Council members to stop by Hosick Motors and tour the new facility. Brosman asked about final bills on the former Abe Clymer property. Paslay stated she would get a final total to the Council at the next meeting. Knebel said additional conversations will be held regarding that property.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Lee Beckman updated the Council on ongoing and pending projects. Randolph Street project paperwork is being completed. Specs and bids will be needed for Lake Dam upgrades. Work is completed for lead service line replacement. The City has received three grants. The City will receive 50% for each grant. Once the current project that Korte-Luitjohn is doing is completed, the City will be able to finish the lead service inventory, submit it to the EPA and then the City will be reimbursed for the other 50% for all 3 grants (total of \$60,000.00). Safe Routes to School is essentially complete. Beckman continues to work on getting a handle raised on the northeast

corner of Fillmore and Sunset Drive. Raw water main and pressure reducing station are under construction. Work on the City Hall water main replacement is substantially complete. The contractor has a 1 year guarantee on everything. Water treatment plant is under construction. Building should arrive in February. ITEP project is still currently at IDOT being reviewed. This should be a 2026 construction project. Unsewered IEPA grant is not out yet. Work continues on the CDBG watermain project. Work is substantially complete for the OSLAD grant. 2026 Randolph Street watermain replacement has been moved to 2027 DCEO application project. Regional Site Readiness project is moving along. Anticipate bidding that out in March. The second application for Regional Site Readiness project was submitted. Elm Street and Carlyle Road project could be a future DCEO grant or funded by the EPA. DCEO project for Shelley/Thistle/Morning Glory is anticipated to be submitted this year. Permit is in hand. Sidewalk replacement project will begin in April, weather pending. Paslay is working on scheduling a meeting for lake siltation.

APPTGY PRESENTATION:

A representative from Apptegy gave a presentation via Zoom regarding ways the City could consolidate communications and make information more accessible to residents through a mobile app and the City website, both of which Apptegy can help facilitate. Knebel stated the City has continued to discuss the importance of sharing information in the most effective manner possible. He noted that a proposal will be presented to the Council at the next

meeting. Typical implementation time is approximately 6 to 9 weeks.

**GEOHERMAL GRANT
DISCUSSION:**

Kyle Smith and Jason Masters with Supplied Energy gave a presentation via Zoom regarding geothermal grants. They provided information on a State-sponsored geothermal community loop project. Phase I of the project consists of a feasibility study, and they are seeking to partner with a municipality interested in geothermal energy. They indicated the City is in a very favorable position within the State for this opportunity.

The feasibility study is due February 13, 2026, and there is no cost or obligation to the City for the study. If the grant is awarded, participation in the study does not require the City to move forward with implementation. The next step would be the preparation of a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by Supplied Energy, which would require Council approval. Supplied Energy would prepare and submit the grant application with approval from the City.

Knebel suggested since the item was on the agenda, the Council could take action to move forward with the MOU, subject to review by Connor and subsequent Council approval.

After discussion, a motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Hobler to move forward with the MOU, subject to review and approval by Connor. Motion carried.

**ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT
NOTICE FROM POLICE**

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Stunkel to accept retirement notice from Police

OFFICER DARRELL GLORE -
05/16/2026:

Officer Darrell Glore, effective May 16, 2026. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO FILL THE
POSITION TO BE VACATED BY
OFFICER DARRELL GLORE:

Motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Brosman to authorize filling the position to be vacated by Officer Darrell Glore. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Brosman to approve items listed on the Consent Agenda as follows: Minutes from the Regular Council meeting dated January 5, 2026; Statement of Balances through December 31, 2025; YTD Budget Report through December 21, 2025; Streets Committee Meeting minutes dated January 5, 2026; Planning and Zoning Commission Minutes from January 7, 2026; Tourism Commission Meeting minutes dated December 10, 2025; Economic Development Commission Meeting minutes dated January 14, 2026; Regular Bills; Special Bills as follows: Sandberg Phoenix in the amount of \$14,279.00 for legal fees; Placer Labs, Inc., in the amount of \$10,000.00 for technical services; Julie, Inc., in the amount of \$4,183.75 for technical services; Mac's Fire and Safety, Inc., in the amount of \$3,119.39 for fire equipment; SCIRP & DC in the amount of \$2,500.00 for DCEO project grant writing; South Central FS in the amount of \$2,181.80 for gasoline; City of Vandalia, Illinois in the amount of \$2,067.18 for postage; Core and Main in the amount of \$4,699.00 for supplies; Brenntag Mid-South, Inc., in the amount of \$12,675.45 for supplies; Hawkins, Inc., in the amount of \$2,431.00 for supplies; Municipal Equipment Company in the amount of \$7,657.27 for equipment; Omnisite Corporation in the amount of \$4,550.00 for

outside services; Pay Estimate No. 1 for Kamex, Inc., for Raw Water Main and Pressure Reducing Station Project - decrease of \$19,055.75; Pay Estimate #1 for Kamex, Inc., for Raw Water Main and Pressure Reducing Station Project - \$556,830.00; and Pay Estimate #5 for Grunloh Building, Inc., for water treatment plant - \$907,928.10; Resolution 2026-1-19-A: A Resolution Authorizing Road Closure for Annual Grand Levee Event. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Knebel said the Economic Development Commission continues to review the Comprehensive Plan.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Knebel stated it is his hope that all of the various bodies within the community, including the City, School District, Park District, County, YMCA, and SBH/FCH, can collaborate under the concept of a regional growth alliance. A meeting to discuss this concept in greater detail is scheduled for February 10, 2026, at the YMCA.

Paslay and Knebel met with Alex Benishek, who is preparing a proposal for consulting services. Knebel stated the proposal will be submitted to the Council at the first meeting in March.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Connor reported there is one remaining piece of property currently on the docket. He stated the City is awaiting additional information regarding the 6th Street property, which is expected by the end of this week. He will now focus on projects that are ongoing.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

Huhn stated the new lake lot list process will go into effect on May 1, 2026. Huhn will send out notices

to Lessees first week of March reflecting the change.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Paslay reported the City has gotten a new email system effective today. She will upgrade the department head's and Aldermen's emails tomorrow.

SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL:

Report provided in packet.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Jackson reported they are keeping up with the water projects going on. Leaf truck is broken. Once it is repaired, they will take the leaf truck back out. He stated the salt supply is stocked. Barker has not heard from Dave Paul from Sternberg regarding the lighting on Gallatin. Paslay will follow up with him tomorrow. The first Lake Committee meeting of the year will be held on April 6, 2026. Daulbaugh reported she attended a data center webinar. EDC listened to a presentation by Michael Carter, who discussed data centers at the January meeting. TIF Joint Board review meeting will be held on Thursday, January 22. America's 250th Celebration meeting was held last week. Knebel said there has been a lot of discussion regarding data centers. He encouraged Aldermen to attend the EDC meetings. Knebel said first negotiation discussions were held prior to the Council meeting regarding the Laborers and Dispatchers union contracts.

Shane Bowen addressed the Council. He is sponsoring a chicken and beer dance to benefit Got Your 6 support dogs who help Veterans with PTSD at the Moose on March 14, 2026 at 12 Noon. He also discussed Vandalia Pickers Market which will run concurrent with Farmers Markets. The

Farmers Market has been moved to 5th Street next to City Hall. He will be asking Tourism Committee for money to help cover advertising for these events. A Resolution for the road closure will be presented to the Council at the next meeting.

**COUNCIL MOVES INTO
EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:00
P.M.:**

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to move into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDS AT
8:33 P.M.:**

Executive Session ends at 8:33 p.m.

**REGULAR SESSION
RECONVENED AT 8:34 P.M.:**

Regular session reconvened at 8:34 p.m. with a roll call: Stunkel, yea; Brosman, yea; Lester, yea; Barker, yea; Hobler, yea. Bowen, Hubler and Lewey were absent. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Knebel stated there was nothing to report out of Executive Session.

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Lester to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. Motion carried.

Carla Huhn

City Clerk