

City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, January 5, 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, Hubler, Brosman, Bowen, Lester, and Lewey were present. Hobler and Stunkel were absent.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Barker to approve items listed on the Consent Agenda as follows: Minutes from the Regular Council meeting dated December 15, 2025; Minutes from the Economic Development Commission Meeting of November 19, 2025; Minutes from the Tourism Commission meeting of November 12, 2025; Minutes from the TIF Advisory Committee Meeting of November 24, 2025; Treasurer's Report for Period ending 12/31/2025; Regular Bills; Special Bills as follows: Wollin Masonry and Construction in the amount of \$4,750.00 for masonry work; Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$7,615.00 for street sweeper; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$2,785.09 for electric bill; Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$10,285.00 for fire truck; Morton Salt in the amount of \$9,243.54 for bulk salt; Heartlands Conservancy in the amount of \$3,045.00 for professional fees; FNB Community Bank in the amount of \$12,255.28 for TIF reimbursement (Joiner-Bowen);

Milano and Grunloh Engineers in the amount of \$9,087.50 for industrial park engineering fees; Interstate Billing in the amount of \$1,598.65 for supplies; Milano and Grunloh Engineers in the amount of \$4,981.25 for engineering fees; Dinges Fire Company in the amount of \$44,669.65 for rescue equipment; Chancellor Outdoor in the amount of \$10,119.25 for lawn mower for cemetery; Lewis Heating and Cooling in the amount of \$3,505.00 for equipment maintenance; Milano and Grunloh in the amount of \$18,357.13 for engineering fees for water plant; Brenntag/Robinloc in the amount of \$14,032.10 for supplies; Hawkins, Inc., in the amount of \$2,032.00 for supplies; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$6,256.23 for electric bill for water plant; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$11,258.38 for electric bill for sewer plant. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:

None.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Lee Beckman will be at the next Council meeting.

ORDINANCE 2026-1-5-A: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AN ORDER FORM AGREEMENT WITH PLACER LABS, INC., FOR LOCATION ANALYTICS PLATFORM SERVICES:

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Brosman to approve Ordinance 2026-1-5-A: An Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the City to Enter Into an Order Form Agreement with Placer Labs, Inc., for Location Analytics Platform Services.

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

ORDINANCE 2026-1-5-B: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to approve

**VANDALIA, FAYETTE COUNTY,
ILLINOIS, AUTHORIZING TAX
INCREMENT FINANCING
ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION
WITH A REDEVELOPMENT
PROJECT:**

Ordinance 2026-1-5-B: An Ordinance of the City of Vandalia, Fayette County, Illinois, Authorizing Tax Increment Financing Assistance in Connection with a Redevelopment Project.

Jimmy Bone, owner of Rock Bottom Tires, introduced himself to the Council and stated that he is requesting a 100% tax abatement for 3 years. The TIF Advisory Council has recommended instead a 70% property tax abatement for up to ten years, not to exceed the life of the TIF.

Bone reported that his business is rapidly expanding. He currently offers tire sales and oil changes, but the new building will allow him to add additional services, including work on semi-trucks. He noted that he is investing in top-of-the-line equipment for the facility.

Bone shared that customers travel from Edwardsville, Effingham, Centralia, and Pana to use his services, and that the business generated \$30,000 in sales tax revenue last year. He also stated that he plans to construct an additional building in the next few years dedicated solely to servicing semi-trucks.

After discussion, Brosman withdrew his original motion and Barker withdrew his second.

Motion was made by Lester and seconded by Bowen to approve 100% tax abatement of the property taxes for 3 years.

Roll call: Lester, yea; Lewey, yea; Bowen, yea; Hubler, yea; Barker, yea; Brosman, nay. Hobler and Stunkel were absent. Motion carried 5-1.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Knebel stated the Comprehensive Plan is being reviewed by the Economic Development Commission.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Knebel noted that Paslay had received an email from a couple from Carmel, Indiana, expressing appreciation for the community and for Officer Redman's assistance when their car was stranded. Knebel thanked Connor and his team for their work in getting the donation agreement for the Kroger building completed before year-end.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Connor stated that a default order was entered on the Diamond Hands property located on Edwards Street.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

Huhn stated her office has been busy selling boat and side by side stickers. They have also been busy with camping lot and subdivision renewals.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL:

Report provided in next Council packet. Paslay stated Kopp boarded up 1421 N. Seventh Street. She also stated that the Verlin Elam property located on the corner of Coles and Randolph Streets will belong to the City effective February 1. It will then be boarded up and demolished.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Barker reported that the Streets Department has been working through a list of priority projects. Crews are working on water lines to the new Quality Diesel truck repair

shop. Barker reviewed items discussed at the Streets Committee meeting held prior to the Council meeting. Regarding lighting improvements along Gallatin Street, the City is awaiting a presentation from Dave Paul of Sternberg outlining recommendations to enhance lighting in that area. Connor is preparing a draft Ordinance addressing electric bikes and scooters, with a Work Session scheduled for February 2, 2026. Yellow striping to indicate no-parking spaces along Gallatin Street will be completed.

Brosman encouraged Aldermen to drive by the new water treatment plant to view the progress, and Paslay noted the building is expected to be delivered next Monday. Chief Ray stated that testing for a patrolman position will be held on February 7, 2026. Lester reported he is continuing to investigate hail damage to City buildings.

Daulbaugh reported that the Site Readiness Grant was submitted on December 31, 2025. She also announced that a meeting regarding the City's 250th Birthday Celebration will be held on January 12 at 2:00 p.m. at City Hall, and that Abraham Lincoln impersonator Fritz Klein will be giving a presentation at the State House on February 7, 2026.

Bowen reported that a Personnel Committee meeting has been scheduled for January 19, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations. Paslay will compile manuals containing current contracts and all materials needed to assist with decision-making. He also reflected

that more progress has been made over the past year than in his previous two years on the Council, and expressed his appreciation to Knebel for his commitment to the City.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Lewey adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Motion carried.

Carla Huber

City Clerk