

**City Council**  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, February 17, 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, Stunkel, Bowen, Brosman, Hubler, and Lester were present. Lewey and Hobler were absent.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

A moment of silence was observed for Judy Kaiser, a former City of Vandalia employee.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:**

Stunkel said Darrin and Amy Newsom are remodeling the building they purchased last year on the North side of town. He also thought the Civic Advancement Group meeting that was held last week was a big success.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Lee Beckman updated the Council on ongoing and pending projects. Lake Dam upgrades is up to the Council. This will be kept on the agenda. He said the lead service line inventory is completed. Beckman said he received an email for the pay estimate which was \$10,000 over the contracted amount. Korte-Luitjohan records state that they did 13 more lead service lines than the City's records. Jackson and Beckman will sort out the 13 additional that they have on their pay estimate. 113 lead service lines were identified. There is a seeding guarantee on the Safe Routes to School project. Paslay is

working with the telecommunications company regarding the telecommunications box that needs to be raised on the corner of Sunset and Fillmore. Progress is being made on the raw water main and pressure reducing station project. Haier will be back in the Spring to finish up any leveling work that needs to be done as a result of the City Hall Watermain Replacement project. Good progress is being made on the new water treatment plant. The building has been delivered. Bid opening this Summer with construction planned for the Fall on the ITEP sidewalk project. NOFO will be out in the late Spring for the unsewered IEPA grant project. Construction is underway on the CDBG watermain project which is East of Kennedy Boulevard. Lake campground improvements are substantially complete. Congresswoman Mary Miller has grant funding available, so the City will be applying for those funds for the Randolph Street watermain replacement project. The deadline for this funding is March 30, 2026. Advertising for the Regional Site Readiness project will be done in March/April. Beckman would like to meet to discuss drainage at this site. The NOFO is out for the 2025 DCEO project area (Shelley/Thistle/Morning Glory). Grants are going to be for \$1.5 million dollars. Deadline to apply is July 2026. Work will begin on the sidewalk replacement project on Veterans Avenue pending weather. The City has applied for the Regional Site Readiness Grant #2. City should hear by the end of the month if the application was successful. Beckman discussed Lake siltation with the State. Dry dams were discussed. Knebel said we are applying for the

319 Grant for the watershed study. Beckman said the question is how are we going to take the silt out and where are we going to bring it. Knebel said we have been talking about this for a long time. We are now at an action point. There are two projects: Cleaning it out and stopping the silt from coming in. Beckman said there are 3 or 4 ways to stop the silt. Beckman said when we do this, we want to get as much silt out as we can. He said the majority of the silt is coming in at the mouth and believes that very little silt comes in from the side. Brosman said we will need to get easements for access. Beckman said he can do a design which will give the limits of the water that will back up past the coffer dam. We will then get easements before proceeding. Water backup would be temporary during rain events because the design would eventually allow everything to run out. Beckman said he will get an estimate for this work. He also suggested EPA funding. Beckman will talk to contractors. Knebel will email the study from the State to the Aldermen.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Bowen to move Item I (Approve or Reject Lake Hydrant bids), Item J (Approve or reject flooring bid for Vandalia Police Department), and Item N (Approve or Reject Pay Estimate No. 1 from Haier Plumbing and Hearing, Inc., for City Hall Watermain Project - \$107,482.68) out of the Consent Agenda and into New Business. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Bowen to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: City

Council Minutes dated February 2, 2026; Regular Bills; Special Bills as follows: Pitney Bowes in the amount of \$1,573.46 for postage; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$2,451.15 for electric bill; Arndt Municipal Support in the amount of \$5,600.00 for consulting services; TVC Tech, Inc., in the amount of \$2,540.12 for technical support; TThoman Development, LLC in the amount of \$2,000.00 for consulting fees; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$2,857.10 for electric bill; Hosick Motors, Inc., in the amount of \$2,425.86 for vehicle maintenance; Morton Salt in the amount of \$18,398.26 for road salt; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$1,830.70 for electric bill at Lake; Wild Foam Adventures in the amount of \$2,148.00 for SummerFest; South Central FS in the amount of \$3,645.00 for gasoline; Core and Main in the amount of \$6,004.92 for supplies; Brenntag Mid-South, Inc., in the amount of \$17,889.60 for supplies; Hawkins, Inc., in the amount of \$1,631.00 for supplies; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$10,919.71 for electric bill at water plant; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$32,809.05 for electric bill at sewer plant; ADS Electric in the amount of \$9,158.76 for maintenance fees; Treasurer's Report for period ending January 31, 2026; Streets Committee meeting dated February 2, 2026; Personnel Committee meeting minutes dated February 2, 2026; Tourism Commission Meeting minutes dated January 14, 2026; 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration meeting minutes dated February 9, 2026; approval of Pay Estimate #2 to Korte and Luitjohan Contractors, Inc., for the Watermain Project East of Kennedy in the amount of

\$105,733.29; approval of Pay Estimate #2 for Kamex, Inc., for raw water main and pressure reducing station in the amount of \$185,989.83; approval of Pay Estimate No. 6 from Grunloh Building, Inc., for water treatment plant project in the amount of \$1,331,044.20. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION FOR CITY CLERK TO HIRE A PART-TIME CLERICAL EMPLOYEE:

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Stunkel to give Carla Huhn authorization to hire a part-time clerical employee in the City Clerk's Office. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR DENY REQUEST BY VANDALIA CAR CRUISE COMMITTEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,000.00:

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Stunkel to approve request submitted by Vandalia Car Cruise Committee in the amount of \$4,000.00. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR DENY REQUEST BY NATIONAL ROAD INTERPRETIVE CENTER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$600.00 FOR LECTURE AND 2 NIGHTS LODGING AT A LOCAL HOTEL:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve request by National Road Interpretive Center in the amount of \$600.00 for lecture and 2 nights lodging at a local hotel. Event will be held on October 10, 2026. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR DENY REQUEST BY ALAN OWEN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,000.00 FOR BOAT RACES AT VANDALIA LAKE AUGUST 28-30, 2026:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve request by Alan Owen in the amount of \$6,000.00 for boat races at Vandalia Lake August 28-30, 2026. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT PAY ESTIMATE #2 TO KORTE AND LUITJOHAN CONTRACTORS, INC., FOR LEAD SERVICE LINE PROJECT:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to approve pay estimate #2 to Korte and Luitjohan Contractors, Inc., for lead service line project in the amount of \$68,750.00. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT LAKE HYDRANT BIDS:

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Lester to approve Lake hydrant bid submitted by Edwards

Plumbing and Septic in the amount of \$6,804.25. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT  
FLOORING BID FOR VANDALIA  
POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Lester to approve the flooring bid for the Vandalia Police Department submitted by Laack Flooring Innovations, Inc., in the amount of \$8,307.96. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT PAY  
ESTIMATE NO. 1 FROM HAIER  
PLUMBING AND HEATING,  
INC., FOR CITY HALL  
WATERMAIN PROJECT -  
\$107,482.68:

Motion was made by Lester and seconded by Stunkel to approve Pay Estimate #1 from Haier Plumbing and Heating, Inc., for City Hall Watermain Project in the amount of \$107,482.68. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Brosman stated he would like the City to consider a stormwater management study as part of the Comprehensive Plan. Knebel will follow up with Lee Beckman. Knebel also noted that follow up items will be included under Unfinished Business beginning at the next Council meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Knebel stated the Lincoln's Birthday celebration was a big success. He also noted that FOL Trivia Night was also a big success. Knebel thanked the Aldermen for attending the Civic Advancement Group relaunch. He stated the next step for the group will be to apply for funding that is available from Congresswoman Mary Miller.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Connor reported that RMA is handling a claim involving the City involving a motor vehicle accident. He stated effective July 1, 2026, all COVID-era alcohol plans that were put in place will become permanent (for example, Door Dash for package liquor, Cocktails to Go). Connor will revise the current City Ordinance to reflect that change. He

also noted that he is working on contracts that Daulbaugh has given him for Summer Fest. Bowen expressed his concern regarding the fence around the solar farm on Randolph Street. Daulbaugh, Paslay and Knebel will discuss with Donato's representatives. Connor will look at the agreement.

**CITY CLERK'S REPORT:**

Huhn reported that she is continuing to look into a financial management and utility billing software package. She has a meeting with the third company next week.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Knebel reported Paslay is working on advertising the Building Official position.

**SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL:**

Kopp reported he has 3 demo permits filed with IEPA. Demo is scheduled to start March 2, 2026.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Barker stated that he, Paslay and Knebel met with JJ Kane Auction Service regarding surplus property. The City will give them a list of surplus property. This will be more efficient than handling it through the City Clerk's office. JJ Kane Auction Service will take 5% off of the top after everything is sold. Jackson reported the Streets Department worked on a water leak and sewer break. He said they will begin replacing dead water meters as weather permits. Shane Bowen asked the status of the road closure request for Picker's Market. The Resolution for road closure has not been passed as of yet. Joe Simpson said water plant construction is progressing. Ray stated they have narrowed the field of Police Officer candidates to 5 with background checks being done. April 6 is the deadline to enter the Academy.

Lester said he would like to move forward on hail damage/storm repair on City buildings. He would like to request bids by location. Lester will work with Paslay on this. Stunkel stated there was a Lake Committee meeting. Paslay will develop an RFP for concession stands at the beach house. An Ordinance will be presented at the next Council meeting to charge \$40.00 per night for the new camping lots at the Marina. He also stated that the Lake lot list on the North side will no longer be in existence beginning May 1. Selling of improvements will be between the Purchaser and the Seller. The City Council will still have final approval before transfer of a Lake lot. An Ordinance reflecting these changes will be presented at the next Council meeting. Hubler stated there is excitement surrounding Tourism right now. Daulbaugh said the FOL Trivia night was a big success, with over \$10,000 raised. She stated the theme for OTC is Stars, Stripes and Holiday Lights. She stated there will be a Data Center webinar on February 24 at 12 Noon. This will be held at City Hall. Aldermen were encouraged to attend. SCIRP/DC has a digital map for the TIF district. There will be a link to see if you are in a TIF district. He also noted the City has ordered shirts with a new City logo. If anybody is interested, we can place a group order. Knebel encouraged everybody to come to the EDC meeting tomorrow. Bowen, Paslay and Knebel will be meeting tomorrow to begin contract reviews.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Brosman to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

*Caia Huber*

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City Clerk