

City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 2, 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, Hobler, Stunkel, Bowen, Hubler, Lewey and Lester were present. Brosman was absent.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Stunkel to approve Consent Agenda as follows: City Council Minutes dated January 19, 2026; Regular Bills; Special Bills as follows: Sandberg Phoenix in the amount of \$9,854.00 for legal fees; Ray O'Herron in the amount of \$1,810.32 for Police equipment; Axon Enterprise, Inc., in the amount of \$44,120.42 for Police equipment; Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$7,615.00 for street sweeper; ADS Electric Corporation in the amount of \$3,220.97 for replacing camera; Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$10,285.00 for fire truck; W J Scott Company, Inc., in the amount of \$4,271.65 maintenance at Lake; Milano and Grunloh Engineers in the amount of \$70,301.25 for engineering fees for Industrial Park; Milano and Grunloh Engineers in the amount of \$126,003.78 for engineering fees for water plant; Brenntag Mid-South, Inc., in the amount of \$3,087.30 for supplies; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$4,241.67 for electric bill for water plant; USA BlueBook,

Inc., in the amount of \$2,971.00 for supplies; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$16,459.18 for electric bill at sewer plant; Personnel Committee Minutes dated January 19, 2026; Annual Joint Review Board Minutes (TIF #1) dated January 22, 2026; Annual Joint Review Board Minutes dated January 22, 2026; Pay Estimate #1 from Korte and Luitjohan Contractors, Inc., for the DCEO Watermain Project East of Kennedy Blvd. - \$367,724.29. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:

Stunkel commended the Streets Department on a great job in getting the snow plowed from the recent snowstorm. He also commended them on fixing water leaks during the recent storm.

Suzanne Gathe addressed the Council and stated she has been working with several individuals experiencing homelessness in the area. She expressed appreciation to the community for its financial support but noted that the resources currently being used are nearly exhausted.

Ryan Scott, Director of the Fayette County EMA, then addressed the Council regarding EMA's efforts to assist. He explained that in the past, individual municipalities were responsible for operating their own warming shelters; however, many lack the manpower to staff them. As a result, EMA has developed a shelter list. Current warming centers include the First United Methodist Church Family Center, Magnus Hall in St. Elmo and fire departments in St. Peter, Ramsey, Brownstown, and Farina. Scott explained that individuals in need of shelter should contact Sheriff's Dispatch,

which will then notify him. EMA staff will be paged to staff the warming centers as available, with hours varying based on staffing schedules.

Chris Smith also addressed the Council, stating she has been delivering supplies to individuals experiencing homelessness. She noted that her home is currently being used as a collection point and emphasized the urgent need for additional resources.

Gathe added that the manager of a local hotel has expressed willingness to open rooms for shelter. Mayor Knebel stated he would reach out to the hotel manager.

Knebel thanked Gathe and Smith for bringing this to the public's attention.

Shane Bowen, owner of The Bulk Plant Resale shop, asked if the Council would consider installing a sample of a new streetlight in front of his building. Barker stated they were probably going to install them at 2 intersections on Gallatin Street.

Steve Knebel, President of the Fayette County YMCA, updated the Council on future projects at the Y. He also stated the Grand Raffle is set for March 21 at the Y.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Lee Beckman will be present at the next Council meeting.

**ORDINANCE 2026-2-2-A: AN
ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF
VANDALIA, FAYETTE COUNTY,
ILLINOIS, AUTHORIZING TAX
INCREMENT FINANCING**

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Stunkel to approve Ordinance 2026-2-2-A: An Ordinance of the City of Vandalia, Fayette County, Illinois, Authorizing Tax

ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH A REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT (REQUESTING EXTENSION) - DARRIN AND AMY NEWSOM:

Increment Financing Assistance in Connection with a Redevelopment Project (Requesting Extension) - Darrin and Amy Newsom.

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

ORDINANCE 2026-2-2-B: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF VANDALIA, FAYETTE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AUTHORIZING TAX INCREMENT FINANCING ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH A REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT (REQUESTING EXTENSION) - VANDALIA LIBERTY THEATRE FOUNDATION, LTD):

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Lewey to approve Ordinance 2026-2-2-B: An Ordinance of the City of Vandalia, Fayette County, Illinois, Authorizing Tax Increment Financing Assistance in Connection with a Redevelopment Project (Requesting Extension) - Vandalia Liberty Theater Foundation, LTD.

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

ACCEPT RESIGNATION SUBMITTED BY RICK RADLIFF FROM TOURISM COMMISSION:

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Stunkel to accept resignation submitted by Rick Radliff from Tourism Commission. Motion carried.

APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF TIM WEIHRAUCH AND JENNIFER RICHARDS TO THE TOURISM COMMISSION:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve appointments of Tim Weihrauch and Jennifer Richards to the Tourism Commission. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT BIDS FOR TWO (2) PICKUP TRUCKS FOR STREET/PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Stunkel to approve two (2) pickup trucks for Street/Public Works Department submitted by Hosick Motors, Inc., in the amount of \$88,692 total; (\$44,346 x 2 trucks). Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT
DEMOLITION BIDS FOR THREE
PROPERTIES: 1026 W.
EDWARDS STREET; 1603 W.
RANDOLPH STREET; AND 1421
N. 7TH STREET:

Trent Smith, a local contractor, addressed the Council regarding his concerns about not being notified of bid opportunities. Barker stated that he wants to ensure all bidders have the opportunity to participate in the future. Knebel said the issue has been corrected, the bidder list has been updated, and Smith's company has been added. Lester noted that one bidder submitted a single line item covering all three properties and expressed interest in discussing the possibility of offering that option in the future. Knebel will discuss the matter with Zac Kopp.

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Stunkel to approve demolition bid submitted by Robert Simmons, LLC in the amount of \$4,800.00 for the demolition of the property at 1025 W. Edwards Street; Barker Trucking and Excavation in the amount of \$6,850.00 for demolition of the property at 1603 W. Randolph Street; and Robert Simmons, LLC in the amount of \$5,200.00 for demolition of the property at 1421 N. Seventh Street. Motion carried with Alderman Lewey voting "aye".

RESOLUTION 2026-2-2-C: A
RESOLUTION APPROVING
TECHNICAL SERVICES
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
CITY OF VANDALIA,
ILLINOIS AND APPTGY
(WEBSITE AND APP):

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Barker to approve Resolution 2026-2-2-C: A Resolution Approving Technical Services Agreement Between the City of Vandalia, Illinois, and Apptegy (website and app).

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

**RESOLUTION 2026-2-2-D: A
RESOLUTION APPROVING
CONSULTING SERVICES
BETWEEN THE CITY OF
VANDALIA, ILLINOIS, AND
ARNDT MUNICIPAL SUPPORT,
INC (STRATEGIC PLAN):**

Jim Arndt, owner of Arndt Municipal Support, addressed the Council regarding his services. He stated that he would work with City officials, community stakeholders and department heads to develop a strategic plan for the City. He outlined his proposed scope of services.

Motion was made by Bowen and seconded by Lester to approve Resolution 2026-2-2-D: A Resolution Approving Consulting Services Between the City of Vandalia, Illinois and Arndt Municipal Support, Inc. (Strategic Plan).

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Comprehensive plan is being reviewed by the Economic Development Commission.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Knebel invited the Council to a meeting with the Civic Advancement Group on Tuesday, February 10 at 6 p.m. at the Family YMCA. He stated the Civic Advancement Group is an existing entity that is being repurposed. This will be a coalition of the City, County, School District, YMCA, Park District, Sarah Bush Lincoln/Fayette County Hospital and Chamber of Commerce. All stakeholders are moving toward the same purpose of improving the quality of life in the community.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Connor reported we were nearing the end of some of the demolitions taking place.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

Huhn stated that Statement of Economic Interest forms will be

mailed out in the next couple of weeks, with a due date of April 28, 2026. She announced she is working with an accounting software company to evaluate a potential software change that would improve customer convenience and usability. She will continue to provide updates as progress is made.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S
REPORT:**

Nothing to report.

SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL:

Report will be provided in next Council packet.

**STANDING COMMITTEE
REPORTS:**

Ted Miller reported they have been removing a lot of snow. He said there have been a couple of water main breaks and frozen meters. Miller has compiled a surplus property list that he will give to Huhn on Tuesday. Barker recommended looking at using an auction service for the surplus property instead of the current process. Barker will give the information to Paslay that he picked up at IML. Connor said Paslay can create an Ordinance. Chief Ray stated interviews for police officers have been scheduled for Saturday, February 7. Lester is waiting on a determination from insurance regarding hail damage to some of the City buildings. Connor and Paslay will discuss. Stunkel stated a Lake Committee has been scheduled for February 17 at 4:30 p.m. Bowen pointed out an RFP is needed for concession stands at the beach house. Lewey suggested that a 14 day limit be set on the full hookups. Knebel said that the revised Lake Ordinance language should be completed by March 31 for May 1 implementation. Connor will email Paslay and Huhn what is needed. Hubler stated he met with

Todd Thoman and Amber Daulbaugh. Hubler said he is concerned that Tucker Willms has not begun construction on the acres he purchased from the City. Barker said we need to include claw backs in agreements. The City has not received a letter of intent on data centers. Knebel said the letter of intent starts the conversation with the public. He said there is a lot to be learned, but until the City receives the letter of intent, it is only speculation. Daulbaugh has attended 2 webinars on data centers that she forwarded to the Council. She has left a message with the City Administrator at Rantoul to discuss data centers. She encouraged the Council to reach out to municipalities that have data centers and get their thoughts. TIF Joint Review Board meeting was held with the annual review of TIF 1 and TIF 2. A TIF education meeting for the Council has been set for February 17 at 5:30 p.m. Lincoln's Birthday Celebration will be held on Saturday, February 7 at 2 p.m. at the Statehouse. FOL Trivia Night is being held at 5 p.m. that night. Bowen stated Personnel met prior to Council and gave Huhn authorization to hire a part-time employee for the Clerk's office. Bowen, Paslay and Knebel will discuss contract negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Stunkel to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Motion carried.

Caia Huhn

City Clerk