

City Council
Regular Meeting
March 16, 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 Bowen, Lester, Hubler, Stunkel, Brosman, and Barker were present. Lewey and Hobler were absent.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

A moment of silence was held for Walton Foster, grandson of City employee Bruce Boaz, Jr., and Catherine Riggins, wife of Lake employee Greg Riggins.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:

Joe Darnell addressed the Council regarding cover crop seeding. He explained that he owns a 40-acre farm near the Lake and has made significant efforts to prevent soil erosion from his property into the Lake. Photographs he provided were reviewed during his presentation. He said cover crops slow the water down so that the sediment filters out of it and settles in.

Darnell noted that the City of Hillsboro offers a free winter cover crop program for farmers and explained how the program operates. He expressed that implementing a similar program between the City of Vandalia and property owners including farmers around the Lake would be beneficial in keeping the sediment out of the Lake. He said the first step is to get control of

the sediment that is going in before the City cleans out the Lake.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Lee Beckman updated the Council on ongoing and upcoming City projects. He reported there are no new updates on the Lake dam upgrades. Beckman stated a discrepancy was identified in the number of service lines for the lead service line project. Three additional service lines were completed beyond the approved contract amount. A second pay estimate and change order will be submitted at the next Council meeting. Once finalized, Jackson will have the necessary information to complete the lead service line inventory. After submission, the City will be reimbursed the remaining 50% of the grant, totaling \$60,000. Construction on the raw water main project is progressing. The City Hall water main replacement project is substantially complete, with concrete replacement remaining. Construction of the water treatment plant is ongoing, with the facility expected to be operational by the end of the year. Beckman noted the existing pumps are undersized due to the river intake and raw water main not yet being completed. While functional, they do not meet the required capacity. He is working with the contractor to incorporate properly sized pumps into the project and expects to provide an update within 30 days. Beckman stated the existing ground storage tank at the Country Club will eventually be taken out of service due to functionality concerns. The ITEP sidewalk project is currently at IDOT, with a summer bid opening anticipated and construction planned for the fall. One easement is still being secured. The sidewalk project

will run from Kaskaskia College to Wal-Mart, down Randolph Street, along Sunset, Randolph to Coles, Coles to Main Street, and Main to downtown. The City has completed the planning grant for the unsewered IEPA project, which includes the south end of town and the subdivision on Clinton Street. The Notice of Funding Opportunity provides for 100% construction funding. The OSLAD project is substantially complete, with minor re-tilling and reseeding remaining. An application has been submitted through Congresswoman Mary Miller's office for the Randolph Street watermain replacement project. An award announcement is expected in the coming weeks. The City plans to advertise for the Regional Site Readiness grant in March or April. Easements are being secured for ditch cleaning, with construction anticipated this summer. It has been announced that applications for the 2026 DCEO project area will open in July, with funding increased from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000. Additional areas have been identified for inclusion in the application (Shelley/Thistle/Morning Glory), with construction tentatively planned for 2027 or 2028. The City submitted an application for Regional Site Readiness Grant #2 in December 2025 and is awaiting notification of award. Beckman reported he is working with contractors to obtain bids for addressing lake siltation, including conventional methods versus the use of silt bags. He will present three to four options at the April 20 Council meeting. The project could be advertised this spring, with construction beginning this summer.

Beckman stated a citywide drainage study would be costly and recommended focusing on specific problem areas for a more cost-effective approach.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to approve the following items on the Consent agenda: Council meeting minutes dated March 2, 2026; Regular Bills; Special Bill as follows: Terracon Consultants, Inc., in the amount of \$3,600.00 for Terracon project; TThoman Development in the amount of \$2,000.00 for consulting fees; ADS Electric in the amount of \$12,950.00 for maintenance to stop lights; Ameren in the amount of \$2,789.02 for electric bill; Banner Fire Equipment, Inc., in the amount of \$2,943.75 for maintenance to fire equipment; Historical Vandalia, Inc., in the amount of \$5,062.05 for Heritage reimbursement; Treasurer State of Illinois in the amount of \$264,265.52 for MFT capital improvement; Harrison Sound in the amount of \$2,350.00 for Summer Fest; Elite Event Servies in the amount of \$2,450.00 for Summer Fest; South Central FS in the amount of \$1,625.57 for gasoline; American Geospatial in the amount of \$6,270.00 for cemetery mapping; CSX Transportation, Inc., in the amount of \$6,030.00 for engineering fees; COE Equipment, Inc., in the amount of \$4,500.00 for equipment maintenance; Brenntag Mid-South, Inc., in the amount of \$7,190.96 for supplies; Hawkins, Inc., in the amount of \$3,117.28 for supplies; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$2,762.59 for electric bill at water plant; Certified Balance and Scale in the amount of \$2,366.00 for supplies; CedarChem, LLC in the

amount of \$21,924.00 for supplies; Vandevanter Engineer, Inc., in the amount of \$2,402.76 for maintenance; Treasurers Report for period ending February 28, 2026; Tourism Commission meeting minutes dated February 11, 2026; 250th Birthday Celebration meeting minutes dated March 9, 2026; Pay Estimate No. 7 for Grunloh Building, Inc., for Water Plant Project (\$1,134,209.14); Pay Estimate No. 3 for Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc., for Watermain Project (\$190,656.00); Change Order No. 3 for Baxmeyer Construction for Randolph Street Project (increase \$152.00); Pay Estimate No. 2 for All Service Contracting Corp. for Water Plant Project (\$475,000); and RFP for Lake Concessions. Motion carried.

UPDATE ON DOWNTOWN
LIGHTING - JASON
CARPENTER (ADS ELECTRIC
COMPANY):

Steve Barker distributed a map of downtown street lighting provided by Jason Carpenter. He explained the yellow line represents lighting levels proposed by Sternberg Lighting Company, while the green line reflects levels Carpenter tested prior to changing out the bulbs. Measurements showed 1.43 at 6 feet from the light, 0.75 at 14 feet, and 0.31 at 20 feet, demonstrating the increase in lighting after the bulb changes.

Barker noted the lights on Gallatin Street differ from those on side streets, as they do not have the same built-in deflector at the top. He also referenced the proposal sheet outlining costs associated with replacing bulbs, noting some fixtures will require new heads.

Carpenter plans to attend a future meeting to provide additional information. Knebel encouraged

Aldermen to drive through the area to observe the lighting differences.

Shane Bowen expressed concern about increased brightness impacting upstairs apartments. Barker responded that there have been numerous complaints about the dimness of downtown lighting, and the Council is working to address those concerns.

CITY-WIDE CLEANUP WEEK:

Paslay noted that City-Wide Clean Up Week has been set for May 11-15, 2026. Stunkel said he noticed a lot of trash behind the former Wellness Center building.

APPROVE OR REJECT BID FOR LINING AND TEMPORARY BYPASS OF MAIN STREET LIFT STATION:

Mike Anderson stated the concrete is falling off of the Main Street lift station walls. It costs \$26,000.00 to line it and then the City has to pay a different company to bypass it, for a total of \$40,000.00. He said the quote was not a firm quote, but it was close.

Motion was made by Bowen and seconded by Barker to approve the bid submitted by Spectra Tech for lining of the Main Street Lift station, and bid submitted by C and C Pump Rentals for temporary bypass. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2026-3-16-A: A RESOLUTION APPROVING CONSULTING SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF VANDALIA, ILLINOIS AND AMERICAN GEOSPATIAL:

Paslay stated this bid was for cemetery mapping which will be required by the State in the next 4 to 5 years.

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Stunkel to approve Resolution 2026-3-16-A: A Resolution Approving Consulting Services Between the City of Vandalia, Illinois and American Geospatial.

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

ACCEPTANCE OF LETTER OF RETIREMENT FROM POLICE DISPATCHER AUDREY TURNER:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to accept the letter of retirement from Police Dispatcher Audrey Turner. Motion carried with Hubler voting "aye".

ORDINANCE 2026-3-16-B: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VANDALIA TOURISM COMMISSION:

Motion was made by Bowen and seconded by Brosman to approve Ordinance 2026-3-16-B: An Ordinance Amending the Vandalia Tourism Commission.

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

APPROVE OR REJECT APPOINTMENT TO VANDALIA TOURISM COMMISSION:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve the appointment of Amy Gaffney to the Tourism Commission. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT SERVICE CONTRACT FOR K & S SOUTHERN MIDWAYS:

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Stunkel to approve service contract submitted by K & S Southern Midways in the amount of \$25,000.00 for carnival for Summerfest. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT SERVICE CONTRACT FOR HARRISON SOUND:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Bowen to approve contract submitted by Harrison Sound in the amount of \$2,350.00 for lighting, stage and sound for Summerfest. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT QUOTE FROM ELITE EVENTS:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve quote submitted by Elite Events in the amount of \$4,900.00 for inflatables for Summerfest. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT LIVE
MUSIC PERFORMANCE
AGREEMENT FROM LADY
LIBERTY:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hubler to approve the live music agreement submitted by Lady Liberty in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Summerfest. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT MUSIC
PERFORMANCE CONTRACT FROM
SCOTTEEROCK SOLO SHOW:

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Stunkel to approve music performance contract from Scotteerock Solo Show in the amount of \$500.00 for Summerfest. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT
CONTRACT WITH KRS UPROAR,
INC.:

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Stunkel to approve contract with KRS Uproar, Inc., in the amount of \$6,500.00 for Summerfest. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT
ENGAGEMENT CONTRACT WITH
TRIBUTE:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve contract with Tribute in the amount of \$2,000.00 for Summerfest. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT
CONTRACT WITH NEON RODEO:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hubler to approve contract with Neon Rodeo in the amount of \$2,800.00 for Summerfest. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT
FIREWORKS DISPLAY
AGREEMENT WITH J&M
DISPLAYS:

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Stunkel to approve fireworks display agreement with J & M Displays in the amount of \$20,000.00. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT
APPOINTMENT OF TY MCNARY
TO THE POLICE PENSION
BOARD:

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Brosman to approve appointment of Ty McNary to the Police Pension Board. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2026-3-16-C: AN
ORDINANCE AMENDING THE
VANDALIA MUNICIPAL CODE
AT TITLE 11 - LAKE

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve Ordinance 2026-3-16-C: An Ordinance

ORDINANCE (LAKE LOT LIST):

Amending the Vandalia Municipal Code at Title 11 - Lake Ordinance.

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

REQUEST FROM DUFFY AND ASSOCIATES, INC., DBA DISCOUNT TOBACCO TO TRANSFER CURRENT CLASS J LIQUOR AND GAMING LICENSES LOCATED AT 925 NEW YORK DRIVE TO 625 W. GALLATIN STREET:

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Stunkel to approve request submitted by Duffy and Associates, Inc., DBA Discount Tobacco, to transfer current Class J Liquor and Gaming Licenses Located at 925 New York Drive to 625 W. Gallatin Street. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Paslay has reached out to Metro Communications regarding the telecom box on the NE corner of Sunset and Fillmore. Application has been submitted to Congresswoman Mary Miller for funding for the Randolph Street watermain replacement project. Knebel has reached out to Anthony Donato's representative regarding solar farm fencing. Connor has reviewed the solar farm agreement. Lester stated he has been doing some review on the hail and storm damage to the City buildings. Connor stated he is working on the amended liquor ordinance post-COVID.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Knebel reported that the Y Grand Raffle is this weekend.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Connor stated he will begin working with Small Town Solutions. He has a couple of easements that need to get done. He reported he has received multiple documents from Kopp pertaining to the recent demolition activities.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

Huhn reminded the Aldermen that their Statement of Economic Interest forms are due April 28. She stated

she will have a proposed contract with Civic Systems for approval at the next Council meeting. She has received 12 to 15 applications for the part-time position in her office.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Paslay reported she will begin working with Apptegy on the new City website and mobile app on Tuesday. Strategic planning meetings for the elected officials will be held on April 13 from 1 until 4 p.m. and April 27 from 1 until 4 p.m. at Kaskaskia College. Strategic planning for the department heads is on March 26 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The strategic plan will give the City more of a working plan for 4 to 5 years. The City has been chosen in IDOT District 7 to be a part of the Community Travel Plan. Kickoff meeting soon. Budgets will be given to department heads this week with budget meetings planned the following week. A Council work session will be scheduled before the next Council meeting. Knebel stated there is going to be a lot of community input in the next 4 to 6 months about what the direction the City is going.

SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL:

Report provided in packet. Knebel stated three houses have been demolished since the last Council meeting. Paslay will let Kopp know about the lack of straw placed on the ground where the house was demolished on Edwards Street.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Jackson reported Streets has been tackling water issues that have come up since the recent heavy rain. They have also been cleaning up leaves. Joe Simpson stated he, Steve and Jeff will be attending a ClariCone class on Tuesday. Ray stated that

Tanner Swain has been hired as a City Police Officer. He will be sworn in on April 6. He will then begin Academy in Belleville on May 18 with graduation on September 4. Workman stated he had to replace the padlocks on the Marina concession stand. He is working with Ryan Scott, EMA Director, on getting the Lake staff CPR-certified. There is a new Facebook page for the Lake. He will be asking the County if there are any community members that need community service hours. Daulbaugh stated Summerfest plans are well underway. She will be launching sponsorship levels for Summerfest. She encouraged those in attendance to volunteer time to help make it a success. There are 7 Farmer Markets planned for this year beginning in May. On July 8, there will be a Reading of the Declaration of Independence at the State House. This is another opportunity to commemorate and celebrate the nation's 250th birthday. Grand Levee is a 2 day event, with the ham and beans dinner being held on Friday night sponsored by Historical Society. Paslay is going to develop a mini-savenger hunt for kids. Bowen reported he, Paslay and Ray continue to work with the locals on contract negotiations.

COUNCIL MOVES INTO
EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:08
P.M.:

Knebel announced that the Council would be moving into Executive Session. Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to move into Executive Session at 8:08 p.m. under 5 ILCS 120/2 to discuss sale or acquisition of land.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDS AT 9:02 P.M.: Executive Session ends at 9:02 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENED AT 9:04 P.M.: Regular session reconvened at 9:04 p.m. with a roll call: Stunkel, yea; Brosman, yea; Lester, yea; Bowen, yea; Hubler, yea; and Barker, yea. Lewey and Hobler were absent. Motion carried.

Knebel reported no action would be taken out of Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Lester to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Motion carried.

Carla Huhn

City Clerk