

City Council
Regular Meeting
April 20, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:

Stunkel said today was opening day at the Lake. Kyle Smith from Supplied Energy reported the City was successful in obtaining a geothermal grant. He said community engagement will be key. Jamie Hoffman thanked the City for the opportunity and stated he was looking forward to the formal agreement and then beginning Phase I of the project. Smith said this is a grant for a feasibility study for geothermal energy network. The intent is to initiate a geothermal system into a municipality. He said any manufacturing facility that has a lot of "off heat" needs, we will be able to recapture that and use it in a different form. Homeowners and businesses can expect a range of 50% savings on their overall energy bills. Smith said they will start working on the design and feasibility study. He said it will be very important to get the community involved. Hoffman said they have a plan to include using apprenticeship programs for job creation. Smith said they will

be going to commercial facilities to find out what their heating and cooling loads are.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Knebel announced the City was successful in obtaining a grant that was sponsored by Congresswoman Mary Miller. This grant will be used for the Randolph Street watermain replacement project, if approved by the Washington DC Appropriations Committee.

Lee Beckman stated that the lead service line replacement project will be completed once the waterline project currently being performed by Korte-Luitjohan is completed. Several areas along the Safe Routes to School sidewalks require reseeding, and the contractor has been notified. Beckman reported that the raw water main and pressure-reducing station project is progressing well. Pavement repairs remain to be completed for the City Hall water main replacement project. Construction of the new water treatment plant continues to progress well. Beckman noted that a request for additional funding has been submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). Prior to receiving this funding, the City must amend its debt ordinance. Beckman stated that he will work with the City's attorneys to prepare the ordinance, which will be presented at the May 18 meeting for review and approval.

There is a water plant construction meeting tomorrow with the local media being invited to tour the facility. Letting is scheduled for June 12 for the ITEP sidewalk with possible construction this fall. The easement for Kaskaskia College will

be presented to their board next week. Beckman stated he hopes to hear something by late Spring on the unsewered IEPA grant. He said the CDBG watermain project east of Kennedy Boulevard is progressing well. Estimation of completion is three months. Randolph Street watermain project could be potentially funded by Congresswoman Miller. Beckman said he assumed the City would want to go for 20% leverage to the IEPA. He said the sooner we get this in the funding queue the better. The plan is to advertise the Regional Site Readiness grant #1 project in 1-2 months. The City is waiting on an easement to be signed. This will dictate the road design if it will be an elevated street or ground level. Beckman put together a 5 and 10 year strategic plan that includes current and future projects and how they will be funded. This plan will be modified and changed as funding is secured, denied, etc. Upgrading the wastewater treatment plant is one of the bigger projects that is on the horizon. Application for the DCEO project area (Shelley-Thistle-Morning Glory) will be submitted in August. Sidewalks on Veterans Avenue should be nearly complete at the end of this week pending weather. The City has not heard anything regarding the Regional Site Readiness Grant #2 that was applied for in December 2025. Beckman said he has looked at 3 ways to get the silt out of the Lake. One option was putting H pile up the cove, dewatering the cove and digging it out with track hoes. It is expensive to do this. The second option was the possibility of using a track hoe on a barge; however, this is not a good way to monitor digging. The

third option would be removing the silt, pumping it into a bag along with a lot of water and then dewater out of the bag over time. There were 2 or 3 options for preventing the silt getting into the Lake, from a concrete retaining wall to the use of dirt berms/dam using a different series of pipes. He said this will back the water up into the cove or creek area during the detention time, so easements will be needed from the affected landowners. He said it will still be a lawn area, but eventually the silt will settle out, accumulate, and that will need to be maintained. Different options regarding berms were discussed. One option would involve removing the silt by pumping water and sediment into a bag, using a dirt berm with piping to detain the water, and allowing the silt to settle out before the water is released. Once the silt is settled out, the water will go into the Lake. Beckman would like to put together a timeline as getting easements could be a lengthy process. Beckman will email the list of affected landowners to Connor. He said he will put together specifications that will be sent out. Beckman said there may be 2 sections: Section A for silt removal and Section B for the berm.

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to authorize Beckman to begin the bid process and put together a timeline. Motion carried.

Knebel said once we receive the bids, the City will determine if additional coves will be addressed in the future. Paslay will notify the affected landowners of the Lake

Committee meeting on May 4 at 4:00 p.m.

Beckman stated in order to move forward with addressing the drainage concerns along Mattes Avenue, he will need to contact a plumber to perform a camera scope inspection to determine the source of the problem.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Paslay stated she would like to add 2 bills to the Special Bills: Global Tech Systems, Inc., in the amount of \$24,915.60 for police radios and ProWire in the amount of \$705.60 for internet to the Interpretive Center and equipment for livestreaming at City Hall.

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Bowen to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: Council Meeting minutes dated April 6, 2026; Regular Bills (April 20, 2026); Special Bills (April 20, 2026) as amended: Ritchey Painting in the amount of \$3,040.00 for painting at Public Safety building; Precision Concrete in the amount of \$62,800.00 for sidewalks on Veterans Avenue; Hosick Motors, Inc., in the amount of \$44,346.00 for new truck; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$2,729.11 for electric bill; Mac's Fire and Safety, Inc., in the amount of \$7,720.41 for fire equipment; Global Tech Systems, Inc., in the amount of \$1,536.00 for radio maintenance; Milano and Grunloh Engineers in the amount of \$9,895.00 for Industrial Park engineer fees; South Central FS in the amount of \$7,813.32 for gasoline; Milano and Grunloh Engineers in the amount of \$9,101.25 for water main engineering fees; Milano and Grunloh Engineers in the amount of \$38,075.93 for inspection fees; City of Vandalia City

Treasurer in the amount of \$2,018.69 for postage; Hosick Motors, Inc., in the amount of \$44,346.00 for new truck; Ditch Witch Sales, Inc., in the amount of \$5,600.00 for supplies; Coe Equipment, Inc., in the amount of \$14,396.00 for supplies; Carpenter Electric in the amount of \$16,873.95 for maintenance to equipment; Hawkins, Inc., in the amount of \$1,633.00 for supplies; Ameren in the amount of \$7,858.57 for electric bill; C and C Pumps & Supply in the amount of \$14,494.00 for supplies; Spectra-Tech, LLC in the amount of \$24,745.00 for maintenance to equipment; Municipal Equipment Company in the amount of \$3,392.27 for maintenance to equipment; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$11,385.58 for electric bill; Treasurer's Report for period ending March 31, 2026; Tourism Commission Meeting minutes dated March 11, 2026; Pay Estimate No. 1 for Precision Concrete and Construction for Veterans Sidewalk project in the amount of \$62,800.00; Pay Estimate No. 4 from Kamex, Inc., for the raw water main and pressure reducing station in the amount of \$491,651.35; Pay Estimate No. 4 for Korte and Luitjohan Contractors, Inc., for CDBG watermain replacement project in the amount of \$59,350.54; Change Order No. 3 from Grunloh Building, Inc., for the water treatment plant project (increase of \$18,238.64); Change Order No. 8 from Grunloh Building, Inc., for water treatment plant project in the amount of \$2,183,353.20; Pay Estimate No. 6 for Baxmeyer Construction for Randolph Street project in the amount of \$152.00. Motion carried.

**FIRST READING OF JACK
FLASH CLASS M1 LIQUOR
LICENSE:**

Dave Logan and Jackie Wortman from Wortman Holdings were present. Logan stated they are requesting to transfer their current Class B liquor license (beer and wine where motor fuel is sold) to an M1 (gas station/pour) liquor license at Jack Flash. Action will be taken at the May 4, 2026 Council meeting.

**RESOLUTION 2026-4-20-A: A
RESOLUTION APPROVING
CONSULTING SERVICES
BETWEEN THE CITY OF
VANDALIA, ILLINOIS AND
THE REDICOOL COMPANY:**

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Stunkel to approve Resolution 2026-4-20-A: A Resolution Approving Consulting Services Between the City of Vandalia, Illinois and the Redicool Company.

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

**CONFIRMATION OF AWARD OF
BOAT SLIP CONSTRUCTION:**

Bowen said he felt plans submitted by the contractor should be signed off by the engineering firm. He would like to minimize the liability to the City. He also wanted to know what the contractual requirements were. Paslay stated she is working with Connor and Allen Tucker on the contract which will be presented to the Council for review and approval.

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to approve the bid for boat slip construction submitted by Midwest Marine Construction. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Knebel stated the next strategic plan meeting for the elected officials has been set for April 27 from 1 until 4 p.m. at Kaskaskia College. Paslay and Knebel are meeting with a Donato Company representative on Wednesday where they will be discussing future plans and reset the relationship. Paslay

and Lester will meet for clarification on hail damage and storm repair on City buildings. Monica Pechous stated that she and Connor are working with Huhn and Paslay on amending the liquor ordinance post COVID. They hope to present the amended Ordinance at the next Council meeting. Knebel said in June 2025, the City passed an Ordinance regarding alcohol consumption on public right of ways. He said now that patio season is getting ready to start, businesses are asking for clarification. Pechous will touch base with Huhn on this. She stated this is included in the comprehensive update. Once this is done, Knebel will meet with liquor license holders.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Knebel reported the CEO trade show is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at VCHS. Rotary Club will be celebrating its 100th anniversary on Thursday, April 23 from 6 until 8 p.m. at 8th Day Venue. The Fayette County Health Department will be celebrating 50 years on April 30 from 4 until 6 p.m. Knebel stated he toured the new Old Capital 911 Center last week. He also stated that he will not be present for the May 18 Council meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Pechous reported she is working with Paslay on the Lake concessions agreement.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

Huhn reported the Statement of Economic Interest forms are due by April 28, 2026. She also stated her office will be closed on Thursday, April 23 for a staff off-site training day. Her office will go live with the new payment system on June 17. She also reported she has

mailed out gaming and liquor license renewal applications.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Paslay reported the demolition of the house on 6th Street is scheduled for next week. She has posted 4 job vacancies within the City. The new City website and mobile app are moving along.

SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL:

Report provided in packet.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

James Jackson reported the Streets Department has been working on rock removal from some of the oiled roads from last year. They began angling back the bank south of the beach at the Lake to allow boat parking.

Brosman said there was a Water/Sewer Committee meeting prior to the Council meeting. The committee recommended approving a Water Customer Agreement form between the City, landlords and tenants.

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to approve the Water Customer Agreement.

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

Paslay reported the Main Street lift station has been lined and is back in service.

Chief Ray said the Old Capital 911 Center is set to open for business with the City Dispatchers moving in this week. The County Dispatchers will be moved in by the end of the month. Signage will be placed in front of the building.

Lester said he and Paslay discussed the roof on the house that is under contract for deed near the water plant. Paslay will discuss this with Connor and Pechous.

Knebel did tour the 2nd floor of the Public Safety building. He encouraged the Aldermen to take a tour of the building.

Stunkel said Workman purchased oriental grass to plant along the road at the second entrance to the Lake. This will be planted on the side of the road near the new campsites. Speed bumps were discussed on the road at the second entrance. Paslay will work with Workman on that. Workman is waiting on Ameren to put up a pole for electricity for the automatic gates at the second entrance.

Workman said the new full hookup campsites are fully booked for the week of 4th of July. CJ Schilling donated 11 new fire rings for the new campsites. OKAW built new picnic tables for those sites also.

Amber Daulbaugh stated small business award winners will be announced at the Council meeting on May 4. There is a hiring event set for May 1 at Kaskaskia College. There are 15 businesses registered with 76 jobs available. She is finalizing sponsorships for Summer Fest. The next EDC meeting is scheduled for April 29 at 12 Noon at Kaskaskia College. The first Farmer's Market is scheduled for Saturday, May 9. Bob Bowen stated that contract negotiations continue with the Laborer's Union.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Barker to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Motion carried.

Carla J. Huber

City Clerk