

City Council
Regular Meeting
May 4, 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 Brosman, Lester, Hobler and Stunkel were present. Barker, Bowen, Hubler and Lewey were absent.

SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS PRESENTATION:

Amber Daulbaugh announced the Small Business Award winners: Stombaugh's Heating and Cooling - Small Business of the Year award; Peoples State Bank - Community Involvement Business of the Year award; Shelly Ledbetter - Female Business Owner of the Year award; Fayette County Senior Citizens Center - Non-Profit Agency or Group of the Year award; Hosick Motors - Economic Impact Business of the Year award.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:

Knebel stated that May has been recognized as Older Americans Month. He presented the Fayette County Senior Citizens Center with a Proclamation.

David Dyer distributed a handout describing an opportunity to Buy a Giant Abraham Lincoln that he thought would be a good addition to the City. Knebel said this would be discussed at the next Strategic Plan meeting.

ROLL CALL #2:

Aldermen Bob Bowen arrived at the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Roll call was taken: Stunkel, yea; Hobler, yea;

Lester, yea; Brosman, yea; Bowen, yea. Barker, Hubler and Lewey were absent.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Knebel stated there was a typographical error on the Infrastructure Tax form that was in the packet. A corrected version was distributed at the meeting. He also pointed out this was the first month the City had received the grocery tax.

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hubler to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: City Council minutes dated April 20, 2026; Regular Bills; Special Bills as follows: Sandberg Phoenix in the amount of \$9,733.50 for legal fees; Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$7,615.00 for street sweeper; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$2,668.56 for electric bill; Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$10,285.00 for fire truck; J & M Displays in the amount of \$20,000.00 for fireworks display; K & S Southern Midway in the amount of \$10,000.00 for carnival; Zimmerman's Greenhouse in the amount of \$2,000.00 for plants; RMK Contracting and Plumbing in the amount of \$1,860.00 for maintenance; Joiner Bowen Company, Inc., in the amount of \$5,049.93 for TIF reimbursement; Brenntag Mid South, Inc., in the amount of \$13,513.46 for supplies; Hawkins, Inc., in the amount of \$2,032.00 for supplies; amended Treasurer's Report for period ending April 30, 2026; Personnel Committee Meeting minutes dated April 20, 2026; Water and Sewer Committee Meeting minutes dated April 20, 2026; Economic Development Commission meeting

minutes dated April 29, 2026. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Lee Beckman will be at the next City Council meeting.

ORDINANCE 2026-5-4-A: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL TAX LEVY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON THE FIRST DAY OF MAY 2025 AND ENDING ON THE THIRTIETH DAY OF APRIL 2026:

Knebel stated the levy as presented has been corrected. The correction did not increase the tax levy.

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to approve Ordinance 2026-5-4-A: An Ordinance Amending the Annual Tax Levy for the Fiscal Year Beginning on the First Day of May 2025 and Ending on the Thirtieth Day of April 2026.

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

ORDINANCE 2026-5-4-B: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE TWELFTH MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF VANDALIA AND THE LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA, THE SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL ILLINOIS LABORERS' DISTRICT COUNCIL AND LABORERS' LOCAL 1197:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to approve Ordinance 2026-5-4-B: An Ordinance Approving the Twelfth Memorandum of Agreement Between the City of Vandalia and the Laborers' International Union of North America, The Southern and Central Illinois Laborers' Local 1197.

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

ORDINANCE 2026-5-4-C: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A CERTAIN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF VANDALIA, ILLINOIS, AND VANDALIA POLICE TELECOMMUNICATORS REPRESENTED BY ILLINOIS FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE LABOR COUNCIL MAY 1, 2026 - APRIL 30, 2030:

Motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Stunkel to approve Ordinance 2026-5-4-C: An Ordinance Approving a Certain Agreement Between the City of Vandalia, Illinois, and Vandalia Police Telecommunicators Represented by Illinois Fraternal Order of Police

Labor Council May 1, 2026 - April 30, 2030.

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

ORDINANCE 2026-5-4-D: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SALARIES FOR FISCAL YEAR MAY 1, 2026 - APRIL 30, 2030:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to approve Ordinance 2026-5-4-D: An Ordinance Amending Salaries for Fiscal Year May 1, 2026 - April 30, 2030.

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

ORDINANCE 2026-5-4-E: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VANDALIA MUNICIPAL CODE AT TITLE V BUSINESS LICENSES AND REGULATIONS AT SECTION 5.08.070 NUMBER OF LICENSES (INCREASE M1):

Knebel stated this Ordinance would allow Wortman Holdings, LLC D/B/A Jack Flash to transfer their Class B license to a Class M1 license.

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Brosman to approve Ordinance 2026-5-4-E: An Ordinance Amending the Vandalia Municipal Code at Title V Business Licenses and Regulations at Section 5.08.070 Number of Licenses.

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

ORDINANCE 2026-5-4-F: A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF VANDALIA, ILLINOIS AND PGAV PLANNERS, LLC:

Knebel said this agreement with PGAV Planners will assist the City in exploring the options for a possible third TIF district with consideration being given to this being a residential TIF.

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to approve Ordinance 2026-5-4-F: A Resolution Approving an Agreement for Services

Between the City of Vandalia,
Illinois and PGAV Planners, LLC.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Elected Officials will be having a Strategic Plan meeting on Monday, May 11 from 1 until 4 p.m. at Kaskaskia College. Hopefully the completed strategic plan will be presented to the Council in June. Knebel reported that he and Paslay met with a representative with the Donato Group regarding fencing around the solar farm on Randolph Street. Knebel said the agreement called for Donato to put fencing up and to also address drainage. There is also language about maintaining the growth of vegetation within the solar farm. The Ordinance that was passed by the Council did not give specifics about the fencing blocking out the view. Bowen said this was all discussed at a prior meeting on how the solar farm looked. He recalled specific discussion about blocking the view of the solar farm. Knebel said those conversations with Donato will continue. Knebel will find out the date the solar farm went live on Randolph Street. Workman asked is there a height requirement on the vegetation at the solar farm. Connor said that is still subject to the City's vegetation Ordinance. Knebel will talk to Zac Kopp about that. Lester expressed concern regarding drainage. Donato indicated they did preliminary work regarding drainage. Connor said the intention was that they would build sufficient drainage structure. He did not know if that was continuing or not. The goal was

to mitigate standing water. David Dyer said the road is elevated relative to the solar farm so if you want to block the view of the solar farm, the City would need to plant trees that would grow 20' high. He said he has received complaints about drainage and mosquitoes around the solar farm. He has sent the Donato group a note to ask them to address the drainage issue on behalf of Mosquito Abatement District. Knebel said if a solar farm is using their own electricity, then it is taxed as equipment so there is no property tax, but if they are selling the electricity to the grid, then it is an improvement on the property and would be assessed accordingly. He said he would invite the Fayette County Supervisor of Assessments to the next Council meeting. Dyer said the Mosquito Abatement District met recently. He encouraged the housing of bats around the community to help with mosquitoes. Knebel will have the Vandalia Country Club reach out to Dyer about installing a bat house. Lester asked if there were drainage plans for the solar farm on Randolph Street. Paslay will look into this. Paslay said bids for EIFS report on the Sewer Plant are due Friday, May 8. Connor said the post-COVID liquor ordinance amendment will be presented to Council before July 1, 2026.

Discussion turned to consumption of alcohol on City streets. Connor explained that, under the way the Ordinance is currently structured, street shutdowns for events require a permit to be issued. The design of that is to make clear that the City is not altering anything about the ordinary course of how liquor is

consumed either on private property or public rights of way. The goal is to delineate if you are purchasing liquor from an establishment, you are free to move about and permitted to access any of those spaces where the permitted activities take place. Sometimes people bring their own alcohol, and you are not allowed to do that on property owned or controlled by the City or right of way. Connor said the City is trying to make clear what is permitted under the permits that we issue for liquor purveyors and what people can do on private property when attending events. Knebel said when the streets are shut down, the City will issue a permit that will list the multiple dates. That allows the establishment (Copper Penny) to sell liquor and that alcohol to be consumed on the City street, which should suffice for RMA. RMA has said if you do not have a permit and streets are shut down for concerts, etc., there is a question if you can consume alcohol. The permit will allow Amy Gaffney (Copper Penny) to serve alcohol. Her insurance would cover it. Question was asked how this affects those who bring their own alcohol. Connor said generally speaking, you are not allowed to consume alcohol from your house on a public right of way. You can expect that those areas will be policed in the same way they have previously. Connor said the permits would describe the space where an event is occurring. He said what is occurring on other private property is of no consequence to the City. RMA has asked the City to address the parts of these Ordinances that affect the City's property. He said the steps that we take and Ordinances we draft in conjunction with RMA, are

designed to provide the maximum protection to the City that is possible while still engaging in conduct the City has determined that it will engage in. Connor said if our Ordinance allows the consumption of alcohol on our rights of way or property controlled by the City, when that alcohol sale is unregulated, it is unlikely the City would have coverage. What the City has designed is a situation where we satisfy the conditions that were laid out to us by RMA and have access to the conduct that the City was attempting to allow simultaneously.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Knebel reported that elected officials will be attending a Strategic Plan meeting on May 11. He noted he presented a Motorcycle Awareness Month proclamation to ABATE over the weekend. He had a lunch meeting with Karen Dyer, CEO of SBL/FCH. Second floor expansion of the new medical office building has been budgeted for this year. Knebel met with George Evans from Kaskaskia College. Knebel will try to set up a meeting with Evans and Dyer along with the OKAW program to see if there is any collaboration for some of the occupational health programs that OKAW offers. He also had a phone call with the Deputy Governor of Illinois promoting the City's application for the Site Readiness Grant #2 and Opportunity Zones. He also told the Deputy Governor the story of Vandalia. Knebel is working to schedule a meeting in Vandalia with the Deputy Governor. He noted Danielle Caruso has achieved the status of Certified Illinois Treasurer designation. He stated today marks his 1 year anniversary as Mayor. He stated he

is excited about the direction that the City is headed. Knebel will not be present at the May 18 Council meeting. Motion was made by Lester and seconded by Hobler to cancel the May 18 meeting. Motion carried.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Connor said he is whittling down the follow up list and hopes to have it completed by the next meeting in June.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

Huhn reported the go live date for the new payment portal will be June 20. Moving to the Cloud will take place on June 17 with staff training taking place on June 18 and 19. She noted that she hired Randy Fiscus for the part-time position in her office.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Paslay said she has been holding off on the budget as the Council will be making some recommendations on capital improvements at the Strategic Plan meeting. Work session will be held before the first meeting of June and then the Appropriations Ordinance will be presented to the Council for approval. She is meeting with Alex Benishek on Friday for fast-track demolition training.

SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL:

Report will be provided in next Council packet.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Knebel stated he would like to get some kind of resolution on the Gallatin Street lighting. Paslay will check with Jason Carpenter to see if he has ordered any amber-colored bulbs. This will be on the agenda for the June 1 meeting. Brosman said construction on the new water treatment plant continues to progress. Construction could be completed around Halloween. Paslay

said at the next meeting, the Council will be voting on lift station repairs at the former Poly-Pak property. Paslay and Knebel will be meeting with the Levy Drainage District representatives on their proposed plan for drainage. Bowling said the E911 Center is fully operational now. Scott Workman said there was a Lake Committee meeting prior to Council meeting. He will be planting pompous grass along the road by the new campsites. He will be working with the Clerk's office to devise a plan for campers to be able to reserve those campsites online. New sinks are being put in at the beach house for concession stand. He said there was flooding again on Monday. He said that the building down by the Marina flooded once again. He said this is something that needs to be looked at. Knebel said Dustin Murray's property flooded again. Daulbaugh distributed her April report. Of note there was a hiring event at Kaskaskia College with 27 businesses present with over 600 jobs. Over 60 people attended. Knebel commended Daulbaugh on her promotion of the event. The City also hosted a Starting Your Business in Illinois event. Daulbaugh is working on organizing a Business Succession Planning event for August. This Saturday is the first Farmers' Market of the season. 14 vendors have signed up. The Pickers' Market has 15 vendors. She reviewed the SummerFest schedule. She stated she named 3 Opportunity Zones within the City last week in collaboration with Luke Eastin of SCIRP/DC. He was able to connect Daulbaugh with the Deputy Director. She submitted 8 letters of community support. She said there are only going to be 249 Opportunity

Zones awarded throughout the State. Knebel said this is part of the tax code that allows investors to not only defer capital gains but ultimately eliminate capital gains. This can work together with TIF, Enterprise Zone, Business District, etc. He said this could be significant if the City is selected. Knebel said SCIRP/DC is working on a Labor Study with Daulbaugh. This will involve sitting down with employers to see what their needs are. Knebel said Todd Thoman has been consulting over the past year. Thoman would like to continue to assist but not to the extent that he has been. Proposal to potentially retain Thoman for another year (not to exceed \$1,000.00 a month) will be voted on at the next Council meeting. Thoman said he has enjoyed the last year and looks forward to working with existing businesses as well as working on the Industrial Park. Daulbaugh said Thoman's knowledge is truly appreciated.

ADJOURNMENT :

With there being nothing further to discuss, motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

City Clerk

