

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:

Vickie Knight from Enduring Freedom Ministries addressed the Council and outlined what her ministry does. They are based in Shumway, Illinois and currently serve 2000 people per month. She stated the ministry would be located in the former Lincoln School building. Some of the services they hope to offer include a salon, grocery store, clothing store, laundromat and meals. She stated she spoke to a couple of the neighbors. Parking concerns were also expressed. She also stated this would not serve as a warming or cooling center.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Beckman reported that once the Korte & Luitjohan project is completed, lead service lines within the project area will be identified, allowing the City's lead service line inventory to be finalized and submitted to the Illinois EPA. He noted that a change order for the Raw Water Main and Pressure Reducing Station project would be considered later in the meeting. The change order reflects a 7% increase resulting from revised IDOT boring

requirements, with the additional cost to be funded through the IEPA loan. Construction of the new water treatment plant continues to progress well. Beckman reported that construction on the ITEP sidewalk project could begin as early as August 3. Work is expected to start near the former Wal-Mart building and the future RaceTrac truck stop. Because portions of the sidewalk project conflict with RaceTrac's construction, those areas may be removed from the ITEP project through a change order. Beckman anticipates the ITEP sidewalk project could be completed this year, pending weather. Beckman reported that most of the water main has been installed and the majority of water meters have been replaced as part of the CDBG Water Main project east of Kennedy Boulevard. He also stated the City is awaiting action from the federal Appropriations Committee regarding funding for the 2026 Randolph Street Water Main Replacement Project while simultaneously applying to the Illinois EPA for leveraged funding. The Regional Site Readiness Project continues to move forward. The City has not yet received word on Phase 2 funding. Staff will be working with residents in the Shelley, Thistle, and Morning Glory project area to obtain letters documenting water concerns. Construction on that project is anticipated to begin in late 2027. Beckman reported that work has been completed on the Veterans Avenue sidewalk project. Regarding the Lake siltation project, verbal agreements have been obtained from all 8 affected property owners. Beckman expects bids to be advertised within approximately 60 days, with

construction beginning this Fall. Beckman discussed the City's ongoing drainage concerns, noting that developing a comprehensive, citywide drainage plan will be a significant undertaking. A camera inspection has been completed on Mattes Avenue near the former Wal-Mart building, and another drainage concern has been identified near AutoZone and Peoples State Bank. The City is awaiting the results of the camera study performed by Thoele Plumbing.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: City Council meeting minutes dated July 6, 2026; Regular Bills; Special Bills as follows: Milano and Grunloh in the amount of \$18,012.50 for engineering fees; Pro Wire, Inc., in the amount of \$3,950.00 for cameras for PD; Electronic Architects in the amount of \$2,687.50 for access control system for PD; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$2,641.21 for utility bill; Wild Foam Adventures in the amount of \$2,614.00 for Summerfest; Silkworm, Inc., in the amount of \$1,537.69 for Summerfest shirts; Ingevity Corporation in the amount of \$3,217.50 for street paint; South Central FS in the amount of \$9,217.77 for gasoline at Lake; \$9,419.09 for gasoline at Garage; Milano and Grunloh in the amount of \$16,241.25 for engineering fees; Milano and Grunloh Engineers in the amount of \$22,532.49 for inspection fees; Brenntag Mid-South, Inc., in the amount of \$14,995.88 for supplies; Hawkins, Inc., in the amount of \$3,430.50 for supplies; ADS Electric Corporation in the amount of \$2,495.44 for maintenance; Treasurer's Report for period ending

June 30, 2026; Lake Committee Meeting minutes dated July 6, 2026; Council Work Session Meeting minutes dated July 13, 2026; Pay Estimate No. 11 for Grunloh Building, Inc., for Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$2,147,155.20; Change Order No. 2 for Kam-EX for raw water main and pressure reducing station (+\$128,271.38); Pay Estimate No. 6 for DCEO Watermain Replacement Project (\$166,235.12); Pay Estimate No. 2 for Precision Concrete and Construction, Inc., for Sidewalk Improvements on Veterans Avenue (\$3,614.00). Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2026-7-20-A: A COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT (CDBG GRANT):

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Hobler to approve Resolution 2026-7-20-A: A Council Resolution of Support.

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

APPROVE OR REJECT TRANSFER OF LAKE LOT #23 FROM DORCAS THOMPSON, POCAHONTAS, ILLINOIS TO BRENT AND AMANDA MARBURGER, EAST ALTON, ILLINOIS:

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to approve Transfer of Lake Lot #23 from Dorcas Thompson, Pocahontas, Illinois to Brent and Amanda Marburger, East Alton, Illinois. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2026-7-20-B: AN ORDINANCE MAKING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON THE FIRST DAY OF MAY 2026 AND ENDING ON THE THIRTIETH DAY OF APRIL 2027:

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Hobler to approve Ordinance 2026-7-20-B: An Ordinance Making the Annual Appropriations for the Fiscal Year Beginning on the First Day of May 2026 and Ending on the Thirtieth Day of April 2027.

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

ORDINANCE 2026-7-20-C: AN
ORDINANCE AMENDING
SALARIES FOR FISCAL YEAR
MAY 1, 2026 THROUGH APRIL
30, 2027 (INCREASE LAKE
SUPERINTENDENT SALARY):

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to approve Ordinance 2026-7-20-C: An Ordinance Amending Salaries for Fiscal Year May 1, 2026 Through April 30, 2027 (Increase Lake Superintendent Salary).

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Knebel reported Paslay has received the preliminary Strategic Plan from Jim Arndt. Arndt will be at the August 17 Council meeting. Paslay is working on the specifications for the City buildings that were damaged by the hailstorm.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Knebel reported he, Paslay and Daulbaugh will attend a meeting as part of the MAPPING community wide strategic plan in coordination with Vandalia Civic Advancement Association. This will gear up in October with a series of weekly meetings. He talked to Jason Carpenter of ADS Electric who stated he needs to confirm the quotes he received from his supplier for the lights on Gallatin Street. Knebel talked to Bruce Braswell with the American Legion. They are putting together a quote for a pavilion at Veterans Park. Braswell will address the Council at a future meeting. The exterior portion of the solar farm on Main Street has been mowed with the interior portion being mowed this week. Paslay and Knebel will meet with a representative from Donato this week. Knebel invited Aldermen to tour the new E911 center on Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. He also stated he would like to offer public

tours of the new water plant once it is completed.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Connor reported he dismissed litigation today against Austin Holdings. He said due to some changes in the law, the City has to conduct foreclosures and auctions on any tax distressed properties that the City has taken. The tax trustee will no longer sell the City the remaining tax deed for one year's back taxes; we actually have to go through the foreclosure process. The City will be entering that process in the next couple of months on all of those remaining distressed properties that are on the list.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

Huhn reported petition circulation for the April 2027 Consolidated Election will begin on August 25 with filing period of November 16 through November 23, 2026. The Consolidated Election is set for April 6, 2027.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Paslay reported she is still working on the City website and mobile app. She is also working on Risk Management renewal for the upcoming year. She is working on Personnel policy amendments. Draft copies will be given to the Council before approving any amendments. She has been working with RaceTrac on potential permits, timelines and signage variances. She is working with Dan Barenfanger on plans for a Wal-Mart renovation. She also received plans for another building that will be undergoing renovations as well. She stated that Sons of Service Honor Flight Ride participants will be leaving from the Moose on August 15. She requested road closure of 3rd Street from Johnson to Edwards Streets and

Edwards Street from 3rd to 2nd Streets. No businesses or driveways would be affected.

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Stunkel to approve the road closures. Motion carried.

SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL:

Report provided in packet. Paslay and Kopp traveled to Springfield to obtain a property owner's signature transferring ownership of a property on Second Street to the City.

STANDING COMMITTEES
REPORT:

Jackson said Streets has been busy pouring concrete on an area of Randolph Street. They poured the last part of the street surface. They have one more pour in the driveway. Street painting is done except for the roads that will be oiled. Road oiling will begin on September 8. No Parking designation was painted on the corner space in front of Blind Society. Joe Simpson said the Lake intake dive took place on Friday. They were able to take pictures. Simpson will share the divers' report with the Council once it is received. He said the divers spoke very positively on what they found. Stunkel reported they are moving forward with Dam repair. He said they will be meeting with a sales representative on how to repair the Dam. Workman said he wants to see how labor intensive this will be. Lester said this will enable them to do a couple of Dam joints to see how it is going to work. Workman said he has inspected boat docks. Letters will be sent out to those Lessees who are not in compliance this week, reminding them to make those required repairs. He said he is adding more speed bumps to the new road at the campground. Boat races will be held on August 29

and 30. Daulbaugh reviewed the Placer.ai report that she compiled for Summerfest that included July 4. There were 10,200 visitors to the Lake between July 2 through July 4. She also reviewed the peak times of attendance, with 8 p.m. on July 2nd being the peak. She also reviewed the prior/post comparison report, which depicted where people went before they went to the Lake and where they went after they visited the Lake. She said the Summerfest Committee has utilized this report at their wrap up meeting. Lester said he was curious about the sales tax that will be realized. Daulbaugh said it is too soon to get that report. She said the hotel/motel taxes have increased over the past 2 months. She is interested in seeing what the hotel/motel tax report looks like in August, which will reflect numbers for July. She said the vendors at the Farmers Markets have seen an increase in sales. Knebel addressed the needed repair of the railroad crossing at 6th Street. He said Paslay continues to reach out to the railroad with no response. Hubler said every month the crossing gets worse. Knebel said the City is trying to exhaust all options before taking legal action.

COUNCIL MOVES INTO
EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:36
P.M.:

Knebel announced the Council would be moving into Executive Session. Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Barker to move into Executive Session at 7:36 p.m. under ILCS 120/2 to discuss acquisition of property.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDS AT Executive Session ends at 8:06 p.m.
8:06 P.M.:

REGULAR SESSION
RECONVENED AT 8:07 P.M.: Regular session reconvened at 8:07
p.m. with a roll call: Stunkel, yea;
Brosman, yea; Lester, yea; Bowen,
yea; Hubler, yea; Barker, yea;
Lewey, yea; Hobler, yea.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Hubler and
seconded by Lewey to adjourn the
meeting at 8:08 p.m. Motion carried.



City Clerk