

City Council
Regular Meeting
July 6, 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, Hobler, Bowen, Hubler and Lewey were present. Barker was absent.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

A moment of silence was held for Phyllis Thoman, mother-in-law of Alderman Kenny Lewey and Phyllis Gable, mother of Alderman Mike Hobler.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:

Lester expressed concerns about vegetation growing beneath the solar panels located north of Main Street. He questioned who is responsible for reviewing drainage plans for solar field construction and suggested that the City's engineering firm review all future solar site plans before approval. He recommended the City consider revising its current review process. Paslay reported that no code violations have been issued for the existing solar field.

Lester also asked whether there had been any discussions with the Corps of Engineers regarding the river intake project. Knebel responded that the river intake has become a priority, and stated Lee Beckman will address this at the next City Council meeting.

Additionally, Lester discussed trees falling into the Lake. Any fallen trees in the Lake should be reported to the City so they can be addressed. Discussion regarding mowing the North side of the Lake was also held.

Tucker Willms, owner of Arrow Valley Landscaping, addressed the Council. He stated his business focus has shifted to the east and south of Vandalia. He said at this point he has no intention of building on the property that he purchased from the City. He stated he would be interested in selling that property back to the City at his purchase price. Knebel said the Council would take it under advisement and consideration.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Lee Beckman will be at the next Council meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Paslay stated she would like to add 6 regular bills for the winners of the home and business decorating contests that were held in conjunction with the 250th Birthday Celebration.

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Hubler to approve the Consent Agenda with the addition of 6 regular bills for the winners of the home and business decorating contests as follows: City Council Meeting minutes dated June 15, 2026; Special Council Meeting minutes dated June 22, 2026; Personnel Committee Meeting minutes dated June 15, 2026, regular bills; special bills as follows: Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$1,585.14 for electric bill; Arndt Municipal Support in the amount of \$5,600.00 for consulting fees; The Redicool Company in the

amount of \$82,105.00 for consulting fees; Michael Wehrle Revocable Trust in the amount of \$3,456.12 for reimbursement; Southern IL Criminal in the amount of \$2,000.00 for Police Officer Academy; Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$7,615.00 for street sweeper; Fayette County Sand and Gravel in the amount of \$3,392.24 for supplies; Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$10,285.00 for fire truck; Discover Downstate Illinois in the amount of \$1,995.00 for advertising; Silkworm, Inc., in the amount of \$3,297.00 for shirts for Summerfest; Fayette County Sand and Gravel in the amount of \$1,778.85 for sand; Milano & Grunloh Engineers in the amount of \$27,880.00 for engineering fees; South Central FS Effingham in the amount of \$44,586.18 for TIF reimbursement; John Deere Financial in the amount of \$1,699.18 for supplies; Milano & Grunloh in the amount of \$26,996.96 for surveying/engineering fees; Chancellor Outdoor in the amount of \$2,683.80 for supplies; Milano & Grunloh Engineers in the amount of \$15,212.50 for engineering fees; Core and Main in the amount of \$8,944.48 for supplies; CSX Transportation, Inc., in the amount of \$8,030.00 for a new water line; Brenntag Mid-South, Inc., in the amount of \$12,981.90 for supplies; USA Bluebook, Inc., in the amount of \$1,871.69 for supplies; Gateway Truck and Refrigeration in the amount of \$1,524.60 for supplies; IEPA in the amount of \$17,500.00 for permit at Sewer Plant; Treasurer's Report for period ending April 30, 2026. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Knebel noted there would be a change to the agenda as presented. Item B on the agenda will be removed and discussed at the next Council meeting.

ORDINANCE 2026-7-6-A: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SALARIES FOR FISCAL YEAR MAY 1, 2026 - APRIL 30, 2027 (AMENDING LONGEVITY FOR NON-UNION CLERICAL PAY SCALE):

Motion was made by Bowen and seconded by Lester to approve Ordinance 2026-7-6-A: An Ordinance Amending Salaries for Fiscal Year May 1, 2026 - April 30, 2027 (amending longevity for non-scale clerical pay scale).

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

RESOLUTION 2026-7-6-B: A COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT - CDBG GRANT: (TABLED):

As Mayor Knebel stated under New Business, this agenda item will be removed and discussed at next Council meeting.

ORDINANCE 2026-7-6-B: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VANDALIA MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC PEACE AND DECENCY ORDINANCE AT SECTION 9.08.140 - CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES UPON THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY AND THE VANDALIA MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE SALES ORDINANCE AT SECTION 5.08.300 - COVID-19 TEMPORARY OUTDOOR PERMITS:

Connor explained that during the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses were temporarily permitted to utilize outdoor spaces for the service of food and beverages, and to-go cocktails were also authorized under emergency provisions. Effective July 1, the Illinois General Assembly made these temporary measures permanent. The new legislation also establishes regulations for the delivery of alcoholic beverages through third-party carriers, such as DoorDash, and clarifies which aspects of alcohol regulation fall under State authority and which remain under municipal control.

Connor stated that the proposed Ordinance removes the City's temporary outdoor permit provisions and adopts the State's standards governing off-site to-go cocktail sales, third-party alcohol

deliveries, and the use of outdoor spaces located within City rights-of-way or on City-owned property.

Knebel noted that questions have been raised regarding THC-infused beverages. Connor explained that these products are not included under the mixed consumption provisions applicable to on-premises liquor license holders. However, for package liquor licensees, THC-infused beverages that are legal under both State and federal law will be subject to the same licensing requirements as other packaged alcoholic beverages.

Connor also recommended that the City begin discussions regarding the regulation of kratom-infused products. He stated that now is an appropriate time to consider prohibiting the sale of these products within the City and advised that he would present a proposed Ordinance addressing kratom-infused products at the next City Council meeting.

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Lester to approve Ordinance 2026-7-6-C: An Ordinance Amending the Vandalia Municipal Code Regarding Offenses Against Public Peace and Decency Ordinance at Section 9.08.140 - Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages Upon the Public Right of Way and the Vandalia Municipal Code Regarding Alcoholic Beverage Sales Ordinance at Section 5.08.300 - COVID 19 Temporary Permits.

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

ORDINANCE 2026-7-6-C: AN
ORDINANCE AMENDING THE
VANDALIA MUNICIPAL CODE
AT TITLE V BUSINESS
LICENSES AND REGULATIONS
AT SECTION 5.08.070
NUMBER OF LICENSES
(REDUCE CLASS G TO 1 -
REDWOOD NOT RENEWING):

Motion was made by Stunkel and seconded by Hobler to approve Ordinance 2026-7-6-C: An Ordinance Amending the Vandalia Municipal Code at Title V Business Licenses and Regulations at Section 5.08.070 Number of Licenses (Reduce Class G to 1 - Redwood Not Renewing):

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

ORDINANCE 2026-7-6-D: AN
ORDINANCE AMENDING THE
VANDALIA MUNICIPAL CODE
AT TITLE V BUSINESS
LICENSES AND REGULATIONS
AT SECTION 5.08.070
NUMBER OF LICENSES
(REDUCE CLASS E TO 11 -
CHUCKWAGON NOT RENEWING):

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Lewey to approve Ordinance 2026-7-6-D: An Ordinance Amending the Vandalia Municipal Code at Title V Business Licenses and Regulations at Section 5.08.070 Number of Licenses (Reduce Class E to 11 - Chuckwagon Not Renewing).

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

RESOLUTION 2026-7-6-E: A
RESOLUTION APPROVING A
FACILITY ENCROACHMENT
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
CITY OF VANDALIA,
ILLINOIS AND CSX
TRANSPORTATION, INC.

Paslay stated the watermain replacement project East of Kennedy involves boring underneath CSX Railroad at Second and Main Streets going up to Gallatin Street for a watermain.

Motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Hubler to approve Resolution 2026-7-6-E: A Resolution Approving a Facility Encroachment Agreement Between the City of Vandalia, Illinois and CSX Transportation, Inc.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Knebel stated Paslay has received a draft of the Strategic Plan from Jim Arndt. Knebel and Paslay will review and make comments. Arndt will present the final Strategic Plan to the Council in August. Paslay reported that she is reviewing the Personnel Policy Handbook. She will be meeting with Bob Bowen, Personnel Chair, to review. Paslay said she has developed a list of what needs repaired on the City buildings damaged by hail. Repair of the bar screen roof at the Sewer plant has been completed. The metal roof for the gazebo at Lincoln Park is in but has not been installed yet.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Knebel reported Sheldon Schulte installed 2 flag poles at Veterans Park. The bond closing for the new water plant was held on June 24. Connor said it is an accomplishment for the City to maintain the water system internally independent of water systems being purchased. Knebel thanked all of the volunteers who made Summerfest such a success. He continues to hear positive comments about what is going on at the Lake. He noted flags were put out for the Fourth of July weekend. They will be kept out for the Declaration of Independence reading that is going to be held on July 8. He thanked the Streets Department for their work in getting the flags put out.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Connor reported he has received new information from the tax trustee that will change how the City handles back taxes on properties acquired by the City.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

Huhn reported that the new Community Portal has been up and running for

about 3 weeks. The link will be published this week so the public can begin utilizing the new portal.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S
REPORT:**

Paslay reported that Apptegy, the company selected to host the City's website and mobile app, is expected to have both available, hopefully prior to the next City Council meeting.

She announced that a budget meeting has been scheduled for Monday, July 13, at 3:00 p.m.

Paslay reported progress on the City's efforts to address abandoned properties. She stated that three properties have been fast-tracked for action. One property owner has signed ownership of their property over to the City, and certified letters were mailed to two additional property owners last week.

She further announced that the City has been awarded a \$500,000 Brownfield Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The grant will allow the City to focus on three properties: the former Kroger building, the old warehouse on Randolph Street, and the former shoe factory property. Funding will be used to complete Phase I environmental assessments and a portion of the Phase II environmental investigations and any necessary remediation.

SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL:

Report provided in packet.

**STANDING COMMITTEES
REPORT:**

Stunkel reported there was a Lake Committee meeting prior to the Council meeting. He is going to work with Workman to come up with plans on maintaining the north side (tree

limbs hanging over the road, mowing, etc.). He said an RFP will need to be drawn up to clean up the cracks at the Dam. Paslay announced the winners of the Home Decorating Contest: 1st place: Joe and Brenda Sprague; 2nd place: Jeremy White; 3rd place: Deanna Clark. Business Winners were: 1st Place Pisces Pool and Spas; 2nd Place Beauty Mark.; and 3rd Place Hecht Chevrolet of Vandalia. Hubler said Summerfest was a big success. Daulbaugh reviewed the report she received from Placer.AI for July 2 and 3. For those 2 days, there were 11,600 visits at the Lake. The average time that visitors spent at the Lake was 181 minutes. She will have the July 4 numbers on Tuesday. She pointed out the importance of the economic development component that resulted from Summerfest. She noted the Community Reading of the Declaration of Independence event will be held on Wednesday, July 8 at 4:30 p.m. on the State House lawn. She stated the July Farmer's Market will be held on Saturday, July 11.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Hobler to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.



City Clerk