

**City Council**  
Regular Meeting  
January 20, 2025  
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 Gottman called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Vandalia City Council to order at 6:30 pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

Aldermen Barker, Lester, Hubler, Brosman, Hobler, Lewey and Bowen were present. Stunkel was absent.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

A moment of silence was held for Robert Cearlock, former business owner. A moment of silence was also held for Danny N. Michel, former Fayette County Sheriff. A moment of silence was also held for Timi Swarm, daughter in law of Jerry Swarm, volunteer at Interpretive Center and former City Alderman.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES DATED DECEMBER 16, 2024:**

Motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Lewey to approve City Council meeting minutes dated December 16, 2024. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer's report for period ending December 31, 2024 was reviewed. Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Hobler to file Treasurer's report for audit. Motion carried.

**PREPAID REGULAR BILLS:  
(JANUARY 6, 2025)**

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Hobler to approve the prepaid regular bills as presented. Motion carried.

**PREPAID SPECIAL BILLS:  
(JANUARY 6, 2025)**

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Brosman to approve the prepaid special bills as presented:

Sandberg Phoenix in the amount of \$11,274.97 for legal fees; Pro Wire in the amount of \$1,995.00 for audio installation; Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$7,000.00 for sewer vac; Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$7,615.00 for street sweeper; Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$10,285.00 for fire truck; Milano and Grunloh in the amount of \$1,656.25 for engineering fees for Randolph Street project; Milano and Grunloh in the amount of \$6,367.50 for engineering fees for OSLAD grant; Raya's Daylight Donuts in the amount of \$5,508.69 for TIF reimbursement; C and C Pumps & Supply in the amount of \$51,220.20 for generator at water plant; Brenntag Mid-South in the amount of \$19,398.50 for supplies; USA Bluebook, Inc., in the amount of \$2,394.28 for supplies; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$28,521.06 for water plant electric bill; Cedarchem, LLC, in the amount of \$18,550.50 for supplies; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$9,238.47 for sewer plant electric bill; Vandevanter Engineer, Inc., in the amount of \$30,857.00 for engineer fees. Motion carried.

**REGULAR BILLS:**

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Hobler to approve the regular bills as presented. Motion carried.

**SPECIAL BILLS:**

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Hobler to approve the special bills as presented: WPMB/WKRV in the amount of \$1,520.00 for advertising; Montgomery Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$2,562.25 for plumbing fees at the PD; McCarty's Auto Body in the amount of \$2,463.00 for auto body

repair; Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$2,588.22 for electric bill; Christmas Done Bright in the amount of \$8,129.50 for Christmas displays; Milano and Grunloh in the amount of \$12,913.75 for engineering fees OSLAD grant; South Central FS in the amount of \$2,694.35 for gasoline; Brenntag Mid-South, Inc., in the amount of \$7,680.00 for supplies; Hawkins, Inc., in the amount of \$1,875.00 for supplies; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$4,468.41 for electric bill at water plant; Kaskaskia Springs Water Company in the amount of \$1,732.62 for water; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$9,770.95 for electric bill at sewer plant; Vandevanter Engineer, Inc., in the amount of \$6,791.33 for replacing guide pipes; Omnisite Corp. in the amount of \$4,550.00 for annual plan renewal. Motion carried.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Lee Beckman provided a status update on pending and ongoing City projects. He stated the bid opening for the new water plant was held on Friday, January 17. He reviewed a handout outlining the water plant funding. He stated the raw water main was not in the original project. He said the raw water main and the pressure reducing stations need to be complete for a functioning water plant. With those ballpark estimates listed on the handout, that leaves a deficit of \$1,011,804.00. He said there is very little to cut out of the budget for the water plant. Beckman recommended, based on the numbers presented, to request more funding from the IEPA to finish out the project, and if the City wants to do the intake structure and the raw water main, then go back to the IEPA

because this would be considered a new project and the City would be eligible for principal forgiveness. He does not expect to get more principal forgiveness from IEPA. Gottman will schedule a Special Council meeting to discuss the importance of the intake off of the river and the water main. Beckman suggested delaying the Randolph Street water main project for 2 years to allow for construction of the water plant. Beckman said the low bidder for the water plant was Grunloh Building. He said the estimate for the Randolph Street Water Main Improvements is approximately \$860,415.05. Opening of bids for the OSLAD grant was held on Friday, January 17. He reviewed the handout outlining the cost of the campground improvements at the Lake. Total project cost is \$566,763.60. There are some foundation issues on the north end of the shower house. Alternate bid #1 addresses that issue. Alternate bid #2 addresses the need to run a 6" water main north from the second entrance/exit off of Highway 185. The concept would be to talk to Fayette Water and inquire about getting a larger meter. The Randolph Street upgrades project is planned for construction in 2025. The bid letting is scheduled for March 3, 2025. Precise Construction submitted a bid for \$700.00 per hour to fill underneath the voids of the Lake Dam. He said a decision needs to be made in March or April. Postcards from 120 Water have been mailed out regarding the lead service line replacement. Beckman would like to get this finalized in the next 6 months. This will be discussed at the Special Council meeting. Plan is to begin construction of Safe Routes

to School this Spring. The City is waiting on the grant agreement for the CDBG watermain grant. Plan to bid in late 2024/early 2025.

ACCEPT OR REJECT BIDS  
FOR OSLAD GRANT:

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Lester to accept the bid submitted by Lake Contracting for the OSLAD grant. Motion carried.

APPROVE OR REJECT  
TRANSFER OF LAKE LOT #51  
FROM JEFF AND SUSAN  
GIBBONS, HIGHLAND,  
ILLINOIS TO RYNE WEISS,  
HIGHLAND, ILLINOIS:

Motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Brosman to approve the transfer of Lake Lot #51 from Jeff and Susan Gibbons, Highland, Illinois, to Ryne Weiss, Highland, Illinois. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2025-01-20-A:  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY  
OF VANDALIA, FAYETTE  
COUNTY, ILLINOIS,  
AUTHORIZING AMENDED TAX  
INCREMENT FINANCING  
ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION  
WITH A REDEVELOPMENT  
PROJECT (RAYA DAYLIGHT  
DONUTS):

Paslay stated Raya Daylight Donuts initially received TIF for 25%. They had overrun on some electrical work which was unknown when bids were submitted. They are requesting 25% reimbursement of the new total project cost which was an increase of what was initially approved of \$1,477.07. Hubler thought this request should go back to the TIF committee.

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Barker to approve Ordinance 2025-01-20-A: An Ordinance of the City of Vandalia, Fayette County, Illinois, Authorizing Amended Tax Increment Financing Assistance in Connection with a Redevelopment Project (Raya Daylight Donuts).

Roll call: Hubler, nay; Brosman, yea; Barker, yea; Bowen, yea; Lester, nay; Lewey, yea; Hobler, nay. Stunkel was absent. Motion carried 4-3.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF  
LIEN FROM FULLER CENTER

Gottman said the Fuller Center (formerly Habitat for Humanity) is in the process of selling a vacant

(FORMERLY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY) :

lot they own located at 1002 W. Johnson Street. An outstanding lien was discovered that the City has on the property for a demolition from 2013. The total lien is \$6,050.00.

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Barker to write off the lien.

Roll call: Brosman, yea; Lester, yea; Hobler, nay; Bowen, yea; Lewey, yea; Hubler, nay; Barker, yea. Stunkel was absent. Motion carried 5-2.

ORDINANCE 2025-1-20-B:  
AN ORDINANCE RE-  
AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF  
SURPLUS REAL ESTATE OR  
IN THE ALTERNATIVE  
AUTHORIZING THE LEASE OF  
REAL ESTATE:

Gottman stated this Ordinance extends the deadline 6 months for those interested in purchasing or renewing the lease for their subdivision lake lot.

Motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Brosman to approve Ordinance 2025-1-20-B: An Ordinance Re-Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Real Estate or in the Alternative Authorizing the Lease of Real Estate.

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

APPROVE OR REJECT BID  
FROM HACH FOR  
REPLACEMENT CABINET AND  
HEATERS FOR SAMPLERS AT  
WASTE WATER TREATMENT  
PLANT:

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Hobler to approve bid submitted by Hach for replacing cabinet and heaters for samplers at the Waste Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$17,020.80. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2025-1-20-C:  
A RESOLUTION APPROVING  
AN AGREEMENT FOR  
ENGINEERING SERVICES

Jackson stated there is a water line that runs down the alley between City Hall and Burtschi Bros. that feeds businesses facing East on

BETWEEN THE CITY OF  
VANDALIA, ILLINOIS, AND  
MILANO AND GRUNLOH  
ENGINEERS, LLC:

Fourth Street and includes Burtschi Bros. He said it is an old line and they have repaired many water leaks to it. Jackson stated the line needs to be replaced. Gottman said ARPA funds would be used for this.

Motion was made by Lester and seconded by Barker to approve Resolution 2025-1-20-C: A Resolution Approving an Agreement for Engineering Services Between the City of Vandalia, Illinois, and Milano and Grunloh Engineers, LLC.

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

AUTHORIZATION FOR  
ADDENDUM TO CITY OF  
VANDALIA PERSONNEL  
POLICY:

Gottman said changes needed to be made to the current Personnel Policy handbook. The current policy states that if an employee is absent for 5 or more consecutive days due to illness or injury, a doctor's note would be required. Gottman would like that changed to 3 days, as has been the policy in the past. There were no objections. The second change addressed casual days at City Hall. The revised policy states it is acceptable to wear Vandal or City gear (such as Olde Tyme Christmas), but wearing clothing that promotes a single business would not be allowed. There were no objections. The third change addressed Emergency Closings of City Hall. In the past, the policy stated if the Mayor closes City Hall the day before due to inclement weather, etc., the employees are required to use vacation or personal days. If the Mayor closes City Hall after the employees are already at work, then the employees will get paid. Hobler said we expect all of the other

employees to be at work, so the City Hall employees should not be any different. If those employees choose to go home, they should use a vacation or personal day.

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Hobler to approve the amendments to the Personnel Policy handbook as outlined above.

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

Paslay will revise the handbook and send copies of the revisions to the employees for signature. She will also send the revisions to City Council.

**AUTHORIZATION TO SEEK  
BIDS FOR WORK ON THE  
INTERPRETIVE CENTER  
BUILDING:**

Lester reported that he and Jerry Swarm have submitted a project list for the Interpretive Center building to Paslay.

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Lewey to authorize bids to be sought for work on the Interpretive Center building. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 2025-1-20-D:  
A RESOLUTION APPROVING A  
GRANT MANAGEMENT  
SERVICES AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE CITY OF  
VANDALIA, ILLINOIS, AND  
SOUTH CENTRAL ILLINOIS  
REGIONAL PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:**

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Bowen to approve Resolution 2024-1-20-D: A Resolution Approving a Grant Management Services Agreement Between the City of Vandalia, Illinois, and South Central Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission.

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



**APPROVE OR REJECT LAKE  
HOLDING TANK BIDS (TO BE  
OPENED AT MEETING):**

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Barker to approve bid submitted by Fayette Septic in the amount of \$2,995.00 for a holding tank at the camp host site at the Lake. Motion carried.

**APPROVE OR REJECT LAKE  
HYDRANT BIDS (TO BE  
OPENED AT MEETING):**

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Lester to approve bid submitted by Edwards Plumbing and Septic, LLC in the amount of \$2,910.92 for lake hydrant. Motion carried.

**APPROVE OR REJECT MOWER  
BIDS FOR LAKE (TO BE  
OPENED AT MEETING):**

Motion was made by Barker and seconded by Lewey to approve bid submitted by Sloan Implement in the amount of \$12,971.64 (each) for 2 lawn mowers at the Lake. Workman will review the bids before final approval. Motion carried.

**FARM LEASE DISCUSSION:**

Paslay stated that the current farm lease expires on April 1, 2025. Per the current agreement with Meyer Farms, it states if the Lease is renewed for a second, one year term from April 7, 2024 through April 6, 2025, the Lease shall terminate automatically at the end of said second, one year term, and there shall be no renewal thereof except by an instrument in writing executed by both parties.

Motion was made by Lester and seconded by Hobler to bid it out. Motion carried.

Paslay to call Meyer Farms and inform them of the City's decision.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Paslay reported she will present bids for the Tourism Information Center digital sign at the February 18 Council meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Gottman thanked the Public Works

Department for a job well done during the last snowstorm. Regarding Veterans Memorial Park, he stated the Space Force monument has already been ordered and the POW monument is going to be ordered.

Lester asked if the City could find funding to complete the Veterans Memorial Park wall. He said the brick wall is dissolving and needs to be refinished. The Beautification Committee has a large mural that will be placed on that wall. An EIFS finish has been suggested. He is requesting bidding this work out or come up with funding to get it carried out. Lester will give Paslay the specifications for the bid.

Gottman said ProWire has submitted a bid in the amount of \$1500.00 to set up equipment so that Council and County meetings can be televised to the public. There were no objections to ProWire setting up the equipment for \$1,500.00.

Gottman announced that Lobby Day is set for April 2, 2025 in Springfield. If anyone is interested in going, they are to let Paslay know ASAP. He also noted that in November, the fire department had 106 training hours and 1 call. In December, they had 76 training hours and 4 calls (2 mutual aid, 2 out of town).

Gottman stated that he talked to Luke Eastin at SCIRP/DC who agreed with Beckman that approval for grant projects is based on a scoring system and that politics have been taken out of the process.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** Nothing to report.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL'S REPORT:

Report will be provided in next Council packet.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Jackson reported that his department was busy during the recent snowstorms. They have also been busy repairing water leaks. Hobler said the Public Safety meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, January 23 at 4 p.m. at City Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:

Lester said there is an old fire hydrant in the alley behind Burtschi Bros. Jackson said he thought the hydrant was cut off. Lester thought that the Fire Department might want that fire hydrant for the museum. Jackson said once the water main project in the alley is finished, it will then for sure be cut off. Paslay stated we have received 1 Tourism Director resume. This will be discussed at the next Tourism meeting. Huhn said FOL Trivia Night Fundraiser is set for Saturday, January 25. The City has purchased a table. Business District meeting has been set for February 18 at 4 p.m. at City Hall. Lester said it was his opinion that the City needed to move toward a Fire District. He will talk with Steve Stombaugh.

COUNCIL MOVES INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:17 P.M.:

Gottman announced Council would be moving into Executive Session. Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Barker to move into Executive Session at 8:17 p.m. under 5 ILCS 120/2 to discuss a personnel matter.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDS**  
**AT 8:27 P.M.:**

Executive Session ends at 8:27 p.m.

**REGULAR SESSION**  
**RECONVENED AT 8:29 P.M.**

Mayor Gottman reconvened the regular Council meeting at 8:29 p.m. with a roll call: Hobler, yea; Barker, yea; Hubler, yea; Lewey, yea; Bowen, yea; Brosman, yea; Lester, yea. Stunkel was absent.

Gottman stated there was nothing to report out of Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With there being nothing further to discuss, motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Barker to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

*Caia Huhn*

---

City Clerk