

**City Council**  
Regular Meeting  
February 18, 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 Lester, Hubler, Brosman, and Bowen were present. Lewey, Stunkel, Hobler and Barker were absent. Gottman announced there was not a quorum and action will not be taken on any items other than the regular and special bills. He has directed the Clerk's office to pay those bills.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

A moment of silence was held for Linda Townsend, a former City employee. A moment of silence was also held for artist Kathryn Smith, who donated a watercolor painting of the Vandalia Statehouse to the City of Vandalia in July, 2023.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES DATED  
FEBRUARY 3, 2025:**

No action taken due to lack of a quorum.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

No action taken due to lack of a quorum.

**REGULAR BILLS:**

Gottman directed the Clerk's office to pay the regular bills as presented. There were no objections.

**SPECIAL BILLS:**

Gottman directed the Clerk's office to pay the special bills as presented: Homefield Energy in the amount of \$1,550.12 for electric bill at City Hall; Ameren Illinois

in the amount of \$2,908.96 for electric bill; City of Vandalia - Memorial Park in the amount of \$8,000.00 for donation for Veterans Memorial Park; Milano and Grunloh in the amount of \$7,365.00 for OSLAD grant fees; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$2,048.98 for electric bill at Lake; Vandalia High School in the amount of \$78,023.27 for TIF reimbursement; Mattie Carter in the amount of \$8,561.36 for TIF reimbursement; South Central FS in the amount of \$3,976.16 for fuel; Milano and Grunloh in the amount of \$24,000.00 for engineering fees; Milano and Grunloh in the amount of \$87,200.00 for engineering fees for water plant; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$6,800.93 for electric bill at water plant; Kaskaskia Springs Water in the amount of \$1,833.99 for 2.891 million gallons of water; Hecht Chevrolet in the amount of \$38,773.00 for a new truck for the sewer plant; Vandevanter Engineer, Inc., in the amount of \$1,979.25 for maintenance to equipment; Homefield Energy in the amount of \$11,111.69 for electric bill for sewer plant; and Hach Company in the amount of \$16,236.00 for professional services. There were no objections.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Lee Beckman reviewed the status of the pending and ongoing City projects. Bid letting for the Randolph Street Upgrades Project will be on March 3. Construction is anticipated to begin this Summer. A grant agreement for an additional \$40,000.00 was received for the Lead Service Line replacement project. Jackson has identified 3 areas where he wants to concentrate on doing that search. Once the grant agreement is received from the IEPA,

we will get bids to back out lines to identify additional service lines. Safe Routes to School project construction will begin this Spring. Bid opening for the water treatment plant project was done. A water/sewer committee meeting was held last week. The City will be approximately \$1,000,000.00 short for completion of the project. To obtain additional funding, a loan resolution for \$1,500,000.00 to the EPA will be presented at the next Council meeting. The ITEP sidewalk project is at IDOT. Beckman anticipates a Summer bid opening. Bid opening is anticipated for April and construction anticipated to begin this Summer for the CDBG watermain grant on Jefferson Street. The low bidder for the OSLAD grant was Lake Contracting. Work will begin this Summer.

CONXXUS UPDATE - WENDY  
NAVEL AND MARY WOLLEN:

Presentation was given by Wendy Navel and Mary Wollen, representatives from Conxxus. Navel updated the Council on the progress of the fiberoptic cable service in the City of Vandalia. Discussion was held regarding permitting fees. Navel will provide Huhn with a contact person regarding those fees.

APPROVE OR REJECT BIDS  
FOR WORK AT NATIONAL  
ROAD INTERPRETIVE  
CENTER:

Discussion was held regarding the current bid opening practice. Bowen suggested bids should be opened after the deadline by the Department Head, Paslay and Gottman. This gives the Department Head time to review the bids before it is voted on by the Council. An Ordinance regarding this change in procedure will be presented at the next Council meeting.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO  
AWARD - WATER TREATMENT  
PLANT PROJECT:

No action taken due to lack of a quorum.

NOTICE OF AWARD -  
VANDALIA LAKE OSLAD  
GRANT:

Notice of Award for the OSLAD grant was passed at the January 20, 2025 Council meeting.

FIRST READING OF CLASS E  
LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST  
FROM RANDHAWA  
HOSPITALITY LLC (D/B/A  
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS AND  
SUITES):

The first reading of the Class E liquor license request from Randhawa Hospitality LLC (DBA Holiday Inn Express and Suites) was done. James Elam, General Manager, was on hand to answer questions. Action will be taken at the March 3, 2025 Council meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF TOURISM  
COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES - OCTOBER 9,  
2024:

No action taken due to lack of a quorum.

ACCEPTANCE OF COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MEETING  
MINUTES - AUGUST  
12, 2024:

No action taken due to lack of a quorum.

ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC  
SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES - FEBRUARY 6,  
2025:

No action taken due to lack of a quorum.

FORGIVENESS OF  
DEMOLITION LIENS FOR 419  
S. CYPRESS STREET:

No action taken due to lack of a quorum.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Gottman reported that he will be attending the Governor's Budget Address in Springfield on Wednesday, February 19, 2025.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Connor stated he will be attending a hearing tomorrow regarding a claim for attorney's fees in the Keiser case.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL'S REPORT:

Report provided.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ted Miller stated the Street Department has been busy plowing snow. They are waiting for the weather to break so they can begin filling potholes. Gottman thanked the Street Department for all of their hard work in keeping the streets plowed. Gottman noted that Mark Meadows has stepped down as Fire Chief. Zac Stombaugh will serve as Fire Chief. Hubler stated there is a new business in downtown called Bulk Plant Resale. Business district meeting was held today. The City is moving forward with forming 2 Business Districts at this time. Paslay reported that the pipes are frozen at the Tourism Center again. Bowen reported that an interview with an Economic Development Director candidate has been tentatively scheduled for March 3 at 5 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS:

Jerry Swarm asked about opening the bids for the Interpretive Center even though there was not a quorum.

Connor stated the bids could be opened but no action could be taken. Therefore, the bids were opened. Ritchey Painting submitted a bid for exterior painting (painting of blue area at front and window perimeters and caulk as required) in the amount of \$1,350.00. Vaughn General Contracting submitted a bid (interior work including removing wall cover at south wall, stabilizing framework) in the amount

of \$1,840.06. Vaughn General Contracting submitted a bid for basement work (shore floor frame at south wall) in the amount of \$1,874.60. Mason's Masonry Restoration, Inc., submitted a bid (miscellaneous tuckpointing and stone sill stabilization) in the amount of \$2,200.00. Mason's Masonry Restoration, Inc., also submitted a bid (painting of blue area at front and window perimeters as well as installing caulk as required) in the amount of \$1,000.00. Action will be taken at the next Council meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Bowen to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

*Carla Huber*

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City Clerk