

City Council
Regular Meeting
February 3, 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, Hobler, Lewey and Bowen were present. Stunkel and Barker were absent.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

A moment of silence was held for Phyllis Rames, founder of Vandalia Meals on Wheels, Evergreen Outreach, Operation Outing and Vandalia Correctional Center Bible Study. She was also the co-founder of Friends of the Evans Public Library, Friends and Families of Fayette County Hospital, and Our Place. A moment of silence was also held for the victims and the families of the plane crash in Washington, DC and also the victims and the families of the medical jet crash in Philadelphia.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES DATED
JANUARY 20, 2025:**

Motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Brosman to approve City Council meeting minutes dated January 20, 2025. Motion carried.

**ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC
SAFETY MEETING MINUTES
DATED JANUARY 23, 2025:**

Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Hobler to accept the Public Safety Meeting minutes dated January 23, 2025. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF PERSONNEL,
FINANCE AND INSURANCE
COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES DATED DECEMBER
16, 2024:

Motion was made by Bowen and seconded by Hobler to accept the Personnel, Finance and Insurance Committee meeting minutes dated December 16, 2024. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's report for period ending January 31, 2025 was reviewed. No action needed.

REGULAR BILLS:

Motion was made by Hobler and seconded by Brosman 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: Civic Systems, LLC in the amount of \$7,439.00 for annual support fees; McDaniels Marketing in the amount of \$1,800.00 for website fees; CivicPlus LLC in the amount of \$1,798.60 for Municode annual fee; Axon Enterprise, Inc., in the amount of \$15,686.42 for police equipment; 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; ADS Electric Corp. in the amount of \$11,375.00 for maintenance of traffic lights; Julie, Inc., in the amount of \$3,248.95 for annual transmissions; Land of Lincoln Credit Union in the amount of \$10,285.00 for fire truck; Discover Downstate Illinois in the amount of \$1,650.00 for advertising; Compass Minerals America in the amount of \$18,046.71 for rock salt; Centraz Industries, Inc., in the amount of \$5,204.55 for supplies; Brenntag Mid-South, Inc., in the amount of \$18,750.51 for supplies; Hawkins, Inc., in the amount of \$3,115.28 for supplies. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Gottman reported the City received a grant in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 for the 120 acres industrial park project. He thanked Paslay for her efforts on securing the grant, as well as SCIRP/DC and Milano and Grunloh. Paslay said there is currently water on one side of the road and sewer on the other side. This grant allows the City to run water and sewer into the industrial park (the length of the park with the road). The total cost of the project is \$3,750,000.00. Beckman will have a timeframe at the next Council meeting.

VCUSD #203 REQUEST TO COUNCIL TO SEND ZONING AMENDMENT REQUEST TO PLANNING COMMISSION:

Paslay stated VCUSD #203 is in the process of purchasing the former Kanata Blanket property. The school is requesting the Planning Commission consider adding a text amendment to the Light Industrial Zoning regulations to add Elementary and Secondary Schools (SIC Code 821) including only the following: Public vocational/technical schools. Reid Torbeck, representing the school, stated the plans are to house some of the vocational classes and bus garage at that property, and use the office building for OKAW also. He stated that there is a waiting list for the OKAW programs. OKAW currently serves 13 school districts. Torbeck said the school has money to pay for the purchase of the Kanata Blanket property. Gottman said this is a request by the school to forward to the Planning Commission. It will come back to the City Council for final vote.

Motion was made by Brosman and seconded by Hobler to forward the request to the Planning Commission. Vote was 6 ayes and 1 nay with Hubler voting nay.

ORDINANCE 2025-2-3-A: AN
ORDINANCE RE-AUTHORIZING
THE SALE OF SURPLUS REAL
ESTATE OR IN THE
ALTERNATIVE AUTHORIZING
THE LEASE OF REAL
STATE:

Gottman stated this would extend the deadline to July 20, 2025 for those interested in purchasing or renewing the lease for their subdivision lake lot.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Paslay will present bids for the Tourism Information Center digital sign at the February 18 Council meeting. Lester has talked with Steve Stombaugh about a potential fire district. Lester said this will be a very involved endeavor but he felt it needs to be pursued.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Gottman stated the bars and clubs are allowed to stay open until 10:30 p.m. on Super Bowl Sunday. Citywide cleanup is set for May 12 through May 16, 2025. ProWire will be at City Hall on February 10 to begin setting up Zoom capabilities for Council and County Board meetings. Gottman stated he is working with Megan Diekemper to change the Mayor pictures to 8 x 10". The pictures will also be able to slide in and out of the picture frames. Diekemper will submit a cost to have the pictures reproduced. There were no objections. Gottman said he and Paslay have a meeting scheduled with the City's health insurance company. Gottman said he and Paslay will be meeting with Risk Management on Tuesday.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Connor stated a hearing was held on the Keiser property. A fee petition was filed asking for reimbursement for all of the City's legal fees.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S
REPORT:

Paslay will begin the preliminary budget once the City Treasurer is finished balancing for January.

SAFETY CODE OFFICIAL'S
REPORT:

Report will be provided in next meeting packet.

STANDING COMMITTEE
REPORTS:

A Water and Sewer Committee meeting has been scheduled for 12 Noon on Monday, February 10 at City Hall to review the bids for the water treatment plant project. Public Safety meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, February 6 at 6 p.m. to discuss EMS services in Fayette County. Lester said he is getting bids to finish the wall at Veterans Memorial Park, and also for work at the Interpretive Center. Hubler said there is a Tourism meeting scheduled for February 12 at 4 p.m. Business district meeting is February 18 at 4 p.m. Huhn announced \$7,000 was raised for FOL trivia night.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND
CONCERNS:

Lester asked about City liability concerning identification of lead lines. Connor stated he did not think there would be any added, long term liability. Gottman and Paslay will discuss this with Risk Management tomorrow. Lewey stated he submitted pictures to Gottman regarding the exterior condition of Central High Apartments. Those pictures were turned over to Connor. Connor said he has contacted Chad Austin. He said Austin was going to make substantial progress and get back to Connor within 10 days. Connor said there are substantial complaints regarding the interior of the building. He stated he needed the building to be brought up to code that is livable. He also noted the exterior needs improvement. Connor will provide an update to

Paslay and Gottman at the end of this week. Lester asked if the City could require occupancy permits for buildings that houses more than 50 people, for example. Connor said that could be done. Gottman said the City needs to look at groups of buildings. Paslay will check with her Manager's group to see how other municipalities address this issue. Bowen said he thought that the City should be able to perform walk-throughs of buildings once a year. Hobler asked about apartments in the downtown area. Gottman said there are violations that have not been addressed. Paslay will talk to Connor about how to address that issue.

Gottman said the former First Baptist Church located downtown is in the process of being sold to Family Worship Center.

COUNCIL MOVES INTO
EXECUTIVE SESSION AT
7:01 P.M.:

Gottman announced Council would be moving into Executive Session. Motion was made by Lewey and seconded by Brosman to move into Executive Session at 7:01 p.m. under 5 ILCS 120/2 to discuss a personnel matter.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDS
AT 7:14 P.M.:

Executive Session ends at 7:14 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION
RECONVENED AT 7:15 P.M.

Mayor Gottman reconvened the regular Council meeting at 7:15 p.m. with a roll call: Lewey, yea; Bowen, yea; Brosman, yea; Hubler, yea; Lester, yea; Hobler, yea. Barker and Stunkel were absent.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Hubler and seconded by Brosman to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Carla Huhn

City Clerk