

The Council of the City of Vandalia Meeting Minutes

**January 3, 2023**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Richard Herbst, Vice Mayor David Lewis, Councilman Robert Ahlers, Councilman Michael Blakesly, Councilman Corey M. Follick, Councilwoman Candice Farst, Councilwoman Constance Woods.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jerry McDonald, Daniel Wendt, Darren Davey, Amber Holloway, Bridgette Leiter, Angela Swartz, Kristen Carnes, Chief Althouse, Captain Garver, Amber Weaver, Larry and Cindy Doogan, Barbara Spurgeon, Tom Grice, Don Hutchison, Jeff Hutchison, Beth Landford and Jim and Mary Rathburn.

**Mayor Herbst** called the council meeting of the Council of the City of Vandalia to order at 7:05 p.m. **Mayor Herbst** called for a moment of reflection followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

The Council Study Session Minutes August 1, 2022, Council Meeting Minutes August 1, 2022, Council Study Session Minutes August 15, 2022, Council Meeting Minutes August 15, 2022, Council Study Session Minutes September 6, 2022, Council Meeting Minutes September 6, 2022, Council Study Session Minutes, September 19, 2022 and Council Meeting Minutes September 19, 2022 were approved as presented.

Communications, Petitions and Awards: None

Public Hearing: None

Comments from Interested Citizens:

**Mayor Herbst** called for comments from interested citizens asking if anyone who would like to speak, to please state their name and address for the record and provide any comments they may have. There were no comments from interested citizens.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Information Items:

**Mr. Wendt** shared City offices will be closed Monday, January 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The second meeting in January will be held on Tuesday, January 17 with Study Session starting at 5:00 pm for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Presentation and Council Meeting starting at 7:00 pm. **Mr. Wendt** shared the Parks and Recreation and Public Works Departments are offering Vandalia residents free recycling of their Christmas trees. Residents can drop off their trees at the Sports Complex until January 31. Beginning the first week of January, residents can also dispose of Christmas trees by placing them at the curb for pickup by Rumpke on your regular trash day. **Mr. Wendt** shared he received a call from Congressman Turner's office informing me that we are receiving \$1.33 million in community project funding for right of way acquisition along Lightner – Dixie – Northwoods to accelerate the build out of the project. The purpose of the project is to direct commercial truck traffic around the north side of the Dayton

## The Council of the City of Vandalia Meeting Minutes

**January 3, 2023**

International Airport and to the I-75 / Northwoods Boulevard ramp rather than through town. This funding was part of the recent omnibus bill that was signed into law. It is the first time in recent memory, if ever, that the City of Vandalia has earned a federal earmark. Montgomery County Engineer Paul Gruner, Public Service Director Rob Cron, and Mr. Mike Dittoe of High Bridge Co. were instrumental in getting this 15-month effort over the line. **Mr. Wendt** advised Council that on Christmas Eve there was a mass power outage. Vandalia Recreation Center Facilities Coordinator Danny Dixon came in to stand up our warming center. Fortunately, AES restored the power shortly thereafter as this had the potential to be a major public emergency with the low temperatures. **Mr. Wendt** shared during the second half of December, our Public Works crews have repaired watermain breaks, temporarily resolved a deep sanitary sewer collapse, and fought a combination of conditions that challenged our snow and ice removal methods. In addition, during this period, the Public Works team responded to 13 calls with water issues (e.g., frozen pipes, meters), responded to multiple areas with drifting, there was a main valve leaking at Lancer/Goldleaf intersection, the Attica water tower fill valve froze and dethawed, there was one vehicle and plow truck accident (Vandalia employee was not at fault, no injuries); there was a water main break on Rader Dr., there were two trucks down for repairs (i.e., conveyor chain, v-box spreader door) and 13 Public Works Technicians were available and 450 tons of salt was used on the roads. **Mr. Wendt** stated they all did a really good job and worked really hard during the holidays. **Mr. Wendt** gave an update on the Justice Center Fire Suppression System break. **Mr. Wendt** noted in the Study Session meeting it was discussed including in the Action Items for reappointment of Councilwoman Farst to the Vandalia Arts Council.

### Action Item:

**Mr. Wendt** introduced the five action items.

#### **Appointment of Representatives – 2023 MVRPC/TC**

Vandalia is required annually to appoint a representative and an alternate representative to the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission and the Transportation Coordinating Committee. An individual must also be designated to serve as the Technical Committee member. Currently, Mayor Herbst is the representative and Amber Holloway is the alternate representative to the MVRPC. Rob Cron is the current delegate to the Technical Committee.

#### **Appointment of Representatives – 2023 First Suburbs Consortium**

The City of Vandalia is required annually to appoint two representatives and an alternate representative to the First Suburbs Consortium. The current representatives are Mayor Herbst and Councilman Ahlers. The current alternate is Vice Mayor Lewis.

#### **Appointment to the Montgomery County Community Improvement Corporation**

The Council of the City of Vandalia Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2023

This committee requires the Mayor of the City of Vandalia to be appointed annually.

**Reappointment of Council Representative - Vandalia Development Corporation**

This board requires two councilmember appointments – one Council appointment to be made in odd years the current Council Representative is Councilwoman Woods.

**Reappointment of Council Member - Vandalia Arts Council**

Reappointment of Councilwoman Candice Farst to the Vandalia Arts Council.

**Mr. Wendt** suggested voting by acclamation. It was moved by Vice Mayor Lewis, second by Councilman Follick, to reappoint all respective current serving members to continue to serve on their respective committee. All members present voted yes. Motion passed 7-0.

**Vice Mayor Lewis** made a motion to add an Action Item to authorize the City Manager to enter into negotiations in lieu of litigation with Julie Trick, Councilwoman Farst seconded the motion. Councilman Follick voted no, Councilwoman Farst voted yes, Councilman Ahlers voted yes, Councilwoman Woods voted no, Councilman Blakesly voted yes, Vice Mayor Lewis voted yes, Mayor Herbst voted no. Motion passed 4-3.

Old Business: None

Resolutions:

**23-R-01** A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus And Declaring The Current Equipment Being Replaced As Surplus Property.

**Mr. McDonald** read Resolution 23-R-01 by title. **Mr. Wendt** explained the Division of Fire was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) in the amount of \$225,567.00, this is a match grant, the City's match was initially \$11,278.38, making the total project \$236,845.36. As the Division of Fire was preparing its SCBA project it was discovered that FEMA had cut \$85,000 from the original request. As the Division of Fire began to get updated pricing, it was determined that to completely replace our current (2015) SCBA and all of the associated equipment we would need to increase our match by \$40,630.00, bring the total City match to almost \$52,000. The total cost of the project is now \$277,472.77. **Mr. Wendt** requested City Council amend and increase the City's match, waive formal bidding, and allow the Fire Chief to enter into a purchase agreement with Atlantic Emergency Solutions, using the Houston-Galveston Area Council's (H-GAC) group purchasing plan (which the City of Vandalia is a member of), to purchase SCBA's and associated equipment/gear at the propose (attached) amount of \$277,472.77. **Mr. Wendt** advised Council this is a mandated purchase by SCBA. It was moved by Councilman Blakesly, second by Councilwoman Farst to approve Resolution 23-R-01. Motion passed 7-0.

**23-R-02** A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Lion Apparel Fire Protective Clothing Sets From Phoenix Safety Outfitters At A Price Of \$48,749.35. **Mr. McDonald**

The Council of the City of Vandalia Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2023

read Resolution 23-R-02 by title. **Mr. Wendt** explained the Division of Fire presented its 2023 firefighter protective clothing replacement plan to City Council during the earlier workshop. To assist in getting this equipment ordered, manufactured, delivered, and to avoid a potential price increase in early 2023, the Division of Fire is requesting City Council's permission to purchase 13 sets of firefighter protective clothing (helmet, hood, gloves, coat, pants, and boots). **Mr. Wendt** asked City Council to waive formal bidding and award the project to Lion Apparel (through their dealer) and local "Vandalia First" company. The total cost of project is \$48,749.35. It was moved by Councilman Ahlers, second by Councilman Blakesly to approve Resolution 23-R-02. Motion passed 7-0.

**23-R-03** A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Economic Development/Government Equity (Ed/Ge) Agreement With Montgomery County Office Of Economic Development Regarding The Trusscore USA, Inc. Project And To Enter Into An Ed/Ge Agreement With The ED/GE Grant Recipient. **Mr. McDonald** read Resolution 23-R-03 by title. **Mr. Wendt** advised on December 6, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners approved a \$162,000 ED/GE grant for Trusscore USA, Inc. This resolution will authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Montgomery County and Trusscore USA, Inc. regarding these grant funds. It was moved by Councilman Follick, second by Councilman Blakesly to approve Resolution 23-R-03. Motion passed 7-0.

Ordinances – First Reading: None

Ordinances – Second Reading: None

Ordinances – Emergency Reading: None

Reports from Boards and Commissions:

**City of Vandalia Bicycle Advisory Committee Minutes: October 17, 2022**

**Mayor Herbst** called for comments or questions on the City of Vandalia Bicycle Advisory Committee Minutes from October 17, 2022. There were none.

Council Comments

**Mr. Wendt** said Happy New Year!

**Councilwoman Woods** wished a happy, save and productive New Year to everyone.

**Councilman Blakesly** commented on the various weather-related issues in December and how appreciative he is of all the employees and staff that were involved during this time of need and emergencies.

**Councilman Follick** echoed Councilman Blakesly comments about the staff's sacrifice and hard work over the holidays with the emergencies. He welcomed home Public Works Technician Matt Breisch from deployment.

The Council of the City of Vandalia Meeting Minutes

**January 3, 2023**

**Councilwoman Farst** echoed the same comments about staff and shared her appreciation for Mr. Wendt being in communication with Councilmembers during these weather-related events.

**Vice Mayor Lewis** echoed the same comments about staff and all their hard work allowing everyone a safe and happy holiday.

**Mayor Herbst** thanked staff for all their hard work over the last couple of weeks. He shared is looking forward to a productive 2023 and is excited about everything the City has planned for 2023.

At 7:25 p.m., **Mayor Herbst** noted it is recommended that Council enter into an Executive Session to consider the employment, or compensation of a public employee. **Mayor Herbst** advised the audience Council will adjourn to Executive Session. It was moved by Vice Mayor Lewis, seconded by Councilman Follick, to adjourn into Executive Session. Councilman Blakesly voted yes, Councilman Follick voted yes, Councilwoman Farst voted yes, Councilman Ahlers voted yes, Councilman Woods voted yes, Vice Mayor Lewis voted yes, and Mayor Herbst voted yes. Motion passed 7-0. Council adjourned into Executive Session at 7:25 p. m.

The Regular meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Richard Herbst, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Angela Swartz, Deputy Clerk of Council