

**CITY OF VANDALIA**  
**Council Study Session Minutes**  
**Monday, January 4, 2021**  
**6:30 P.M.**

**Councilmembers Present:** Mayor Richard Herbst, Vice Mayor Robert Ahlers, Councilwoman Candice Farst, Councilwoman Constance Woods, Councilman Michael Blakesly, Councilman Corey M. Follick, Councilman David Lewis

**Others Present:** Jerry McDonald, Chief Althouse, Missy Pruszynski, Amber Holloway, Harry Hicks, Steve Clark, Rob Cron, David Marlow, Darren Davey, James Richardson, Ben Crum, Bob Khrongold, Bridgette Leiter, Holly Wiggins, Captain Milliken, Kimberly Bish, India Duke, David King, Chief Chad Follick, Anne Burke, and Brian White

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 811 5029 2149

One tap mobile: 1-301-715-8592,81150292149#

Mayor Herbst called the Study Session to order at 6:30 p.m.

Monday, January 4, 2021

1. Items on this evening's council meeting agenda

Mayor Herbst called for questions or comments related to items on this evening's Council Meeting agenda. Mr. McDonald reminded Council they will need to amend this evening's Council Meeting Agenda to include the Emergency Ordinance for the City Manager Contract.

2. Tuesday, January 19, 2021

A. Resolution: Firefighter Protective Gear Purchase

Mayor Herbst introduced Vandalia Fire Department Captain Milliken to share information with council on this item. Captain Milliken explained the Division of Fire has proposed a five-year firefighter protective clothing replacement project in its capital improvement plan. He continued by noting, 2021 is the second year of the five-year project. While national standards for firefighter protective clothing have a recommended lifespan of seven years, the Division of Fire has extended a majority of firefighter protective clothing an additional three to four years through regular inspections, enacting a policy for proper care and maintenance of soiled protective clothing, and an aggressive repair process. The Division of Fire is requesting that formal bidding be waived and be permitted to purchase 15 sets of Lion Apparel firefighter protective clothing in 2021 from Phoenix Safety Outfitters at a unit price of \$2,288/set for a total cost of \$34,320, which is the

state bid pricing. As well, the protective clothing is designed to the Division of Fire's specifications and standards. Capt. Milliken explained, the Division of Fire has budgeted \$40,500 for this purchase and requests to utilize the remaining funds to purchase gloves, hoods, helmets and firefighter boots. **Councilman Lewis** commented that the equipment has a ten-year life and the City is replacing the items based on a five-year program. **Captain Milliken** explained fifteen sets of gear are replaced each year over the next five years. He continued by noting, at that point, everything in stock would be replaced between now and that five-year time period. The next time gear would be replaced is 2027. **Captain Milliken** added then the program would go on an every-other-year or two-year program. **Councilwoman Woods** requested clarification on the total price. **Captain Milliken** advised the \$34,320 is the amount for pants and coat only. The \$40,500 price tag includes pants, coats, gloves, hoods, helmets, and boots. **Councilwoman Woods** thanked Captain Milliken for the clarification.

### 3. Discussion

#### A. City Manager Project List

**Chief Althouse** reviewed the City Manager Project List noting there have been no changes since the December 21, 2020 meeting. **Chief Althouse** reminded Council the November joint meeting with the School Board and Butler Township was cancelled. He continued by asking Council if they would like to meet Monday, January 25 at 5:30 p.m. in the Media Center at Butler High School. Council indicated their approval. **Chief Althouse** asked Council if a February 1 Council Meeting will be held. After brief discussion, it was Council's preference to hold the February 1 meeting with Councilman Lewis administering the meeting.

**Councilwoman Woods** inquired about the traffic legislation item on the City Manager Project list. She continued noting Mr. McDonald recently advised that he had contacted State Representative Plummer and requested an update. **Mr. McDonald** indicated he has not recently had contact with any officials regarding this due to the holiday; however, it is on his to-do list.

**Councilman Follick** inquired about how to go about increasing the contribution that the City makes to the Vandalia Butler National Honor Society. After brief

discussion, it was Council's preference to increase the donation from \$500 to \$1,000 beginning with the 2022 budget.

Next, **Councilman Follick** also inquired about the Bike Path Feasibility Study document that Mr. Cron previously indicated he would provide to Council. **Chief Althouse** advised he will ask Mr. Cron to provide to Council as soon as possible.

**Vice Mayor Ahlers** advised during this evening's Council Meeting, there will be several Foxfire citizens who intend to comment. He advised a petition circulated in the subdivision and sixty of the residents signed the petition. Ultimately, the residents are asking Council to postpone the vote until some of the concerns can be addressed. **Mayor Herbst** advised the residents and the Applicant will have an opportunity to speak during the regular council meeting under Comments From Interested Citizens.

B. 60 Day Calendar

Mayor Herbst asked if there were questions or comments on the 60-Day Calendar. There were none.

4. Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

The study session was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.



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