

The Council of the City of Vandalia Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2021

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Katrina Wahl, Chief Althouse, Missy Pruszynski, Harry Hicks, Rob Cron, Amber Holloway, David Marlow, Steve Clark, Darren Davey, Bridgette Leiter, Holly Wiggins, Marc Werner, Bob Wolfe, Chief Chad Follick, Daniel Wendt

Mayor Herbst called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Vandalia to order at 7:00 p.m. **Mayor Herbst** called for a moment of reflection followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Council Special Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2020, the Council Special Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2020, the Council Study Session Minutes of December 21, 2020, and the Council Meeting Minutes of December 21, 2020 were approved as presented.

Communications, Petitions and Awards: None

Public Hearing: None

Comments from Interested Citizens:

Ms. Holly Wiggins, 660 Cassel Creek Drive, the community DP&L representative, reminded the audience the Gift of Power program began today. The program will assist residents, who do not have other means, in paying their power bill this winter. The resident can call the Salvation Army at (937) 528-5120 or go online to dpandl.com/gift to apply for assistance.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Information Items:

City/Township/Schools Joint Meeting

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Chief Althouse advised a joint meeting between the city, township and school district has been established for Monday, January 25 beginning at 5:30 p.m. He said this meeting will be held at Butler High School in the Media Center in order to follow social distancing protocols.

Action Items:

Ohio Department of Liquor Control – Max’s Sports and Spirits, Inc. 400 East National Road, Vandalia, Ohio 45377

Chief Althouse explained an application has been received from the Division of Liquor Control for a change of corporate stock ownership related to the liquor license for Max’s Sports and Spirits, Inc., 400 East National Road, Vandalia, Ohio 45377. The Vandalia Police Department does not oppose the proposed change in ownership. Council did not have any objections or comments. It was moved by Councilman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Farst, not to request a change of corporate stock ownership hearing for Max’s Sports and Spirits, Inc., 400 East National Road, Vandalia, Ohio 45377. All members present voted yes. Motion passed 7-0.

Old Business: None

Resolutions:

21-R-02 A Resolution That The City Of Vandalia Will Pick Up The Statutorily Required Contribution To The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System For The City Manager Pursuant To IRC Section 414(h)(2). **Ms. Wahl**, read Resolution 21-R-02 by title. **Chief Althouse** explained City Council entered into an agreement on January 4, 2021, with the incoming City Manager to provide the Fringe-Benefit Employer Pick-up Plan where the City will pay the employee’s statutorily required contribution to Ohio Public Employees Retirement System as a fringe benefit. Currently the City Manager, and all full-time employees, are included on the Salary Reduction Employer Pick-up Plan where the employee’s gross salary is reduced by the amount of the contribution. Based on the agreement with the new City Manager,

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and to comply with OPERS guidelines, this Resolution is required to amend the current plan to exclude the new City Manager. It was moved by Councilwoman Farst, seconded by Councilman Follick, to approve Resolution 21-R-02. All members present voted yes. Resolution 21-R-02 approved 7-0.

21-R-03 A Resolution That The City Of Vandalia Will Pick Up The Statutorily Required Contribution To The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System For The City Manager Pursuant To IRC Section 414(h)(2). **Ms. Wahl**, read Resolution 21-R-03 by title. **Chief Althouse** advised City Council entered into an agreement on January 4, 2021, with the incoming City Manager to provide the Fringe-Benefit Employer Pick-up Plan where the City will pay the employee's statutorily required contribution to Ohio Public Employees Retirement System as a fringe benefit. Currently the Fringe-Benefit Employer Pick-up Plan only includes Elected Officials; however, based on the agreement with the new City Manager, and to comply with OPERS guidelines, this Resolution is required to amend the current plan to include the new City Manager. It was moved by Vice Mayor Ahlers, seconded by Councilmember Blakesly, to approve Resolution 21-R-03. All members present voted yes. Resolution 21-R-03 approved 7-0.

21-R-04 A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Fifteen Sets Of Lion Apparel Fire Protective Clothing, Requested By The Division Of Fire, From Phoenix Safety Outfitters At The State Of Ohio Contract Bid Price Of \$34,320. **Ms. Wahl** read Resolution 21-R-04 by title. **Chief Althouse** advised the Division of Fire has proposed a five-year firefighter protective clothing replacement project in its capital improvement plan. This 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

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purchase fifteen 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. The protective clothing is on state bid and is designed to the Division of Fire's specifications and standards. 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. It was moved by Councilman Blakesly, seconded by Councilman Follick, to approve Resolution 21-R-04. All members present voted yes. Resolution 21-R-04 approved 7-0.

Ordinances – First Reading: None

Ordinances – Second Reading: None

Ordinances – Emergency:

21-02 An Ordinance Approving Individual Assessments Amounts And Directing The Finance Director Or Her Designee To Certify The Amounts To The County Auditor For Collection And Declaring An Emergency. **Ms. Wahl** read Ordinance 21-02 by title in an emergency reading. **Chief Althouse** advised this emergency ordinance assesses properties for delinquent accounts related to water, sewer, storm water fees, trash collection, property cleanup and weed cutting. There were no comments or questions during the public hearing. It was moved by Councilman Blakesly, seconded by Councilwoman Farst, to approve Ordinance 21-02 as an emergency. All members present voted yes. Ordinance 21-02 was approved 7-0 in an emergency reading.

Reports from Boards and Commissions:

Planning Commission Minutes: October 13, 2020

Planning Commission Minutes: October 27, 2020

Planning Commission Minutes; December 8, 2020

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Mayor Herbst reviewed the December Bill Listing in the amount of \$3,263,805.03 and December Purchasing Card Detail in the amount of \$20,766.53. There were no comments or questions.

Council Comments:

Chief Althouse shared yesterday was a very sad and tragic day in the State of Ohio in the field of law enforcement due to a Toledo Police Officer being shot and killed in the line of duty. **Chief Althouse** took time to share the details of the event in order to honor the Toledo Police Department and Officer Stalker's service. He concluded by sending condolences to the Toledo Police Department and to Officer Stalker's family. **Chief Althouse** reminded Council this is his final Council Meeting as Interim City Manager. He continued by thanking Council for the opportunity to serve this role over the last seven months and for their confidence. He noted it has been an honor working with each and every Councilmember on various projects and tasks. **Chief Althouse** shared this has been a great learning experience and he is looking forward to working with Council in his role as Police Chief. He concluded by noting he is looking forward to working with Mr. Wendt in his role as City Manager in the upcoming months and years.

Councilwoman Woods recognized and thanked Chief Althouse for his service as Interim City Manager. She continued by expressing her gratitude for all the time and effort he has given Council and then welcomed Mr. Wendt as the new City Manager.

Councilman Follick echoed Councilwoman Wood's comments and thanked Chief Althouse for his outstanding service in his dual role of Police Chief and Interim City Manager and the dedication he put forth. He concluded by welcoming Chief Althouse back to the Division of Police.

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Councilwoman Farst thanked Chief Althouse for his efforts and dedication over the last seven months. She shared how Council has become accustomed to getting information from Chief Althouse and she hopes that the lines of communication continue to be open. **Councilwoman Farst** advised she met with Mr. Wendt today and introduced him to the Arts Council during today's Arts Council meeting.

Councilman Lewis thanked Chief Althouse for his exceptional service as Interim City Manager.

Councilman Blakesly echoed the comments from other Councilmembers and recognized and thanked him for his service and dedication. He concluded by welcoming Mr. Wendt and sharing that Council is looking forward to working with him February 1.

Vice Mayor Ahlers also recognized Chief Althouse and expressed appreciation for all the hard work he has given Council. He concluded by welcoming Mr. Wendt.

Mayor Herbst mentioned the US 40 Project is underway. The crews are currently performing utility work and the road work portion is scheduled to begin in the spring. He continued by sharing, if you have been down on Poe Avenue, you may have noticed the Redwood Development is underway and he advised that the Rib House demolition is complete. Mayor Herbst noted in case you missed it on FaceBook, Council is honored to have Vandalia's unofficial mascot, Amanda the Panda, with us this evening. He commented it is has been exciting to see so many members of our community get together with this idea and spread some positivity throughout our community over the last week or so. **Mayor Herbst** thanked Chief Althouse for his dedication and commitment to Council and to the City over the last seven months. He continued by advising Chief Althouse that he has exceeded Council's

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expectations and Council is very appreciative of all he has done as Interim City Manager. **Mayor Herbst** concluded by noting Council could not have asked for anything more.

No executive session was held during the Council Meeting.

The regular Council Meeting was then adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

APPROVED:

Richard Herbst, Mayor

ATTEST:

Missy Pruszynski, Deputy Clerk of Council

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