

The Council of the City of Vandalia Special Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2021

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kurt Althouse, Daniel Wendt, Amber Holloway, Holly Herbst, Daniel Pierron, Scott Fullam, Rodney Washburn, Missy Pruszynski, Michael Lang, Kenneth Betz, Erika Vogel, Eric Beavers, Robert O'Leary, Thomas Luebbe

Mayor Herbst called the special meeting of the Council of the City of Vandalia to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Butler High School Media Center, 600 S. Dixie Drive, Vandalia, Ohio followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A roundtable discussion began with Vandalia Butler City Schools, Superintendent Robert O'Leary who delivered an update on how the pandemic has impacted the daily operations of the school district including but not limited to classrooms and staff. He continued by sharing many items including but not limited to - vaccinations will begin for Montgomery County Schools February 1, 2021, there is a 2-hour early release every Friday for every school in the district during the 3rd quarter to allow staff to prepare and assist those students who are in quarantine and temporarily assigned to remote learning, the District's success for in-person teaching has been due to the collaboration of staff, parents, students & community. Mr. O'Leary continued by noting private donations paid for the in-field turf of the baseball field at Butler, and dirt surface upgrades were added to Butler softball field 6 at the Sports Complex by the City of Vandalia. He advised the current Strategic plan expires June 30, 2022 and the District will be re-engaging the committee in the fall of the 2021/2022 school year, a committee has been established and is currently planning

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a 100th year celebration of city and township school districts merging, and the former Murlin Heights Elementary site is up for sale. Next, Mr. Beavers shared information related the passage of the most recent emergency levy and expressed appreciation to all who assisted in its passage. He also shared the total amount of COVID-19 and CARES Act grants received and outlined how the District has spent the monies.

Next, Mayor Herbst and Chief Althouse shared City of Vandalia updates. Mayor Herbst began by introducing Mr. Daniel D. Wendt the City's new City Manager. Then Chief Althouse delivered a brief summary of how COVID-19 impacted city departments and staff during and after lockdown and explained various delays to capital projects and the filling of vacant positions due to COVID-19, the spending of CARES Act monies, and the collaboration on the second joint newsletter with the township and school district is in-the-works, outlined the US 40 paving and expansion project approved in October 2020, the recent ODOT study that showed a decrease of truck traffic in community, that the new Comprehensive Plan has been finalized, that construction on the Redwood Development - an upscale apartment complex - is about to begin, the Northwoods Boulevard expansion is underway, and the website will be redesigned, and finally that a rebranding project is underway.

Then, Trustee Ken Betz shared information on how COVID-19 impacted the township and halted many community events and projects, and that only required projects were completed. He continued by sharing that the township launched a rebranding with a new logo and website, and shared information on upcoming improvements to Miller Lane as well as new branding will begin for business district, and staff continues to work within the boundaries of the law on panhandling and safety of all involved, that a technology study is currently underway related to the vulnerability of the township, and a collaborative marketing study with the school

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district of the former township administration building and Murlin Heights Elementary properties is underway. Ms. Vogel added the township recently published a posting for a full-time Code Enforcement Officer of which this position was formerly a part-time position.

Councilman Lewis commented that he would like to see a joint effort and discussions for sidewalks on Stonequarry Road leading to Morton middle School to resume. Brief discussion was held.

The special meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

APPROVED:

Richard Herbst, Mayor

ATTEST:

Missy Pruszynski, Deputy Clerk of Council

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