

**CITY OF VANDALIA**  
**February 6, 2023**  
**City Council**  
**Study Session – 5:00 PM**

**CITY OF VANDALIA**  
**Council Study Session Minutes**  
**Municipal Building**  
**333 Bohanan Drive**  
**Monday, February 6, 2023**  
**5:00 P.M.**

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

**Councilmembers Absent:** Councilman Robert Ahlers

**Others Present:** Jerry McDonald, Daniel Wendt, Ben Lewis, Amber Holloway, Angela Swartz, Kristen Carnes, Chief Althouse, Pete Baldauf, Melanie Clark, Riley Clark, Tom Hertlein, Mike Johnston, Dr. Pamela Combs, Jordan Shumaker, Jeff Kreill, Jack Marshall, Alicia McCracken, Whitney Hague, Aaron Messenger, Ben Walker, John Myers, Sharon Hamby, Linda Sheline, Dan & Gianna Cathcart, Larry and Cindy Doogan, Barbara Spurgeon, Tom Grice, Don Hutchison, Rismillers, Clarks, Brian Pohl, Dan Martin, Betty Forte & family.

**Mayor Herbst** called the Study Session to order at 5:00 p.m.

The Study Session began with a presentation to City Council given by Steve Clark, Director of Parks and Recreation and Mike Svez, Principal at PROS Consulting, on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This plan will be the roadmap for enhancing quality of life in Vandalia through our parks and recreation system. PROS Consulting coordinated and facilitated public input, focus groups with community stakeholders, other engagement strategies, and provided a statistically valid survey and corresponding report of community opinions and needs as part of the project. The plan includes best practices in the field, identification of new trends and opportunities, engagement of relevant stakeholders, and makes direct recommendations to ensure an appropriate balance of community programs, facilities and amenities, now and into the future. There was a brief discussion with questions and answers.

**Monday, February 6, 2023**

**Items on this evening's Council Meeting Agenda**

**Mayor Herbst** called for questions or comments regarding items on this evening's Council Meeting agenda. There were no comments.

**Resolution: 2023 Motorola Service Agreement**

**Chief Althouse** advised the Division of Police purchased three radio consoles and five consolettes from Motorola Solutions in 2015 as part of the upgrade to the Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS). Following the initial warranties, the City has continued to enter into an annual agreement with Motorola Solutions for the servicing of the hardware and software upgrades. The radio system provides Vandalia Police, Fire and EMS personnel in the field with the ability to communicate with the City's Communications Center as well as other public safety entities on MARCS. Vandalia has received exceptional reliability with Motorola public safety radio equipment since the City's first purchase in 1986.

**Chief Althouse** recommend City Council waive competitive bidding requirements due to the proprietary nature of the Motorola hardware and software and authorize payment of \$32,388.00 for service dates February 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024, because of the City's critical need to maintain uninterrupted connection with its public safety personnel and other users on MARCS. There was a brief discussion.

Ordinance: Amend Codified Ordinances Relating to Knives

**Mr. Wendt** advised Council this ordinance will amend certain provisions in the Vandalia Codified Ordinances relating to knives in order to comply with changes in the State law. This item was discussed in brief at a previous study session. Because of the custodial nature of the ordinance, **Mr. Wendt** requested a first reading on February 6.

Monday, February 20, 2023

Resolution: Intrado 911 Phone System

**Chief Althouse** advised Council that on December 25, 2022, the Vandalia Division of Police's Intrado Viper 911 emergency telephone system was catastrophically damaged by water when the Justice Center's sprinkler system's pipes ruptured. This phone system provides 9-1-1, Text-to-9-1-1 and nonemergency phone services for police, fire, and EMS calls for service. VPD's Communications Center is operational utilizing a borrowed, older Intrado telephone system from another local government entity while waiting for a new replacement system. Members of the Division of Police and IT Division researched replacement phone systems and received demonstrations and cost proposals from Intrado for the Viper phone system and Motorola for the VESTA phone system. After evaluating features and service for both systems, staff believes the Intrado Viper emergency telephone system provides the best option for purchase and replacement of the phone system.

**Chief Althouse** advised Council the Intrado's Viper emergency telephone system is familiar to the public safety specialists, replaces the damaged Intrado system VPD has been utilizing for the past six years, and continues to meet the needs of the Division. Intrado provides excellent service and is responsive to any service needs we have. Intrado's Viper emergency telephone system is approximately one-half the cost of Motorola's VESTA system and has lower annual maintenance costs. The installation time for Intrado's system is much shorter than Motorola's system. **Chief Althouse** requested City Council waive the competitive bid process and approve an emergency resolution authorizing the Division of Police to purchase the Intrado's Viper emergency telephone system to meet the public safety needs of the community. This purchase is not a 2023 budget item but will be submitted with the insurance claim filed with MVRMA from the water damage for reimbursement. The total purchase and installation cost is \$121,851.02, which includes the first-year warranty.

Resolution: Purchase of Terrain Cut Mower with Snow Blower and Broom Attachment

**Mr. Clark** advised Council the Parks and Recreation Department is requesting to purchase a John Deere Terrain Cut Mower with Snow Blower and Broom Attachments from Deer & Company through the State of Ohio Purchasing Contract #800750-ST5515AG at a total cost of \$40,474.72, after trade-in. The 2023 capital budget has \$75,000 allocated for the purchase based on a price quote received during our budget preparation process. This specialty piece of equipment provides versatility in one machine as the unit will mow grass, blow snow and broom sidewalks, pathways and parking lots. The park maintenance division's current Terrain Cut Mower is a 2000 John Deere 1145 model with 822 hours of service. We are proposing to trade in the current model as part of the purchase. There was a brief discussion with questions and answers.

Resolution: Purchase of Three High Capacity Smart Waste & Recycling Units

**Mr. Clark** advised Council the Parks and Recreation Department is the recipient of a Montgomery County Solid Waste District Waste Reduction/Recycling Grant in the amount of \$22,287.65 for the

purchase of three (3) High Capacity Smart Waste & Recycling Units from BigBelly LLC of Needham, MA. The City share of the cost of the units is \$12,253,85 for a grand total project cost of \$34,541.50.

**Mr. Clark** advised Bigbelly's HC5 is a smart, solar powered, compacting waste and recycling station. This compacting model holds 5-10X real capacity over an average traditional waste bin. It is equipped with sensors that monitor and report fullness levels and collection activity. It harvests solar power to compact waste and communicate its real-time status. All units will include lifecycle cloud-based software that will allow for communications concerning real-time status of the units. The Bigbelly system will allow for cleaner public spaces, increase maintenance staff productivity and measurable sustainability with the installation of double stations (landfill waste and recycling) at our busiest parks. The units will be placed at the Art Park, Sports Complex and Helke Park and will provide smart, connected waste and recycling stations that keep waste contained and report fullness status to collection crews to enable increased productivity. We are anticipating up to 80% collection reduction in addition to cleanliness, operational, economic, and environmental benefits as a result of this project. All three (3) units will be custom wrapped and have a foot pedal for a handsfree option.

**Mr. Clark** advised the City of Vandalia will receive a check in the amount of \$22,287.65 from Montgomery County once the project is completed.

Resolution: Purchase of Three Zero Turn Mowers

**Mr. Clark** advised Council the Parks and Recreation Department is requesting to purchase three (3) John Deere 950M Zero Turn Mowers from Deer & Company through the State of Ohio Purchasing Contract #800750-ST515AG at a total cost of \$32,471.09, after trade-in. The 2023 capital budget has \$30,000 allocated for the purchase. The balance of funds for the purchase would come from unexpended funds from the Terrain Cut Mower purchase balance to cover the additional expense for the three (3) zero turn units.

**Mr. Clark** advised the purchase will include the trade-in of two (2) 2007 John Deere 757 Model units with 1358 and 1700 operating hours. The third unit being replaced had no trade-in value due to the condition of the motor, therefore, we plan to keep this unit for parts and eventually scrap the remains of the unit.

Resolution: Renaming of Veterans Memorial Parkway to Veterans Parkway

**Mr. Wendt** advised Council that Councilmember Follick, the Vandalia Butler Chamber of Commerce, and our partners at Butler Township have been working on the veteran banners program. **Mr. Wendt** discussed with City Council the renaming and redesignating Dixie Drive from Veterans Memorial Parkway to Veterans Parkway. There was a brief discussion. Council agreed they would like Mr. Wendt to move forward with this.

**Discussion**

Purchase Modems for Fire Apparatus

**Mr. Wendt** advised Council the Division of Fire utilizes Sierra Wireless data modems in their fire apparatus to connect to city data services, such as fire and EMS dispatching, maps, address history, and other network and internet-based services. The current modems were installed in 2015. The modems have been failing at an accelerated rate and we have exhausted our spare modem inventory.

**Mr. Wendt** advised Council the Division of Fire budgeted \$24,000 for new modems. The budgetary estimate was based on new 5G modems, but after reviewing options with a Sierra Wireless reseller, 4G modems are sufficient for our workloads. Staff is recommending Sierra Wireless RX55 modems, new antennas, and 5-year warranties for eleven vehicles with two sets of additional spares. Staff received a quote from Industrial Networking Solutions and ITSavvy, with Industrial Networking Solutions being the

lowest. Staff is recommending the purchase of the equipment from Industrial Networking Solutions at a cost of \$16,167.58.

The installation of equipment will be handled by the IT Division.

#### Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) Replacement

**Mr. Wendt** advised Council one of the city's main Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) units was badly damaged during the Justice Center water leak on December 25, 2022. The unit short circuited and caught fire for a few moments before it was removed from the building. The UPS is one of three (3) Liebert GXT4 battery backup systems that support the Justice Center servers and 911 equipment. Power has been diverted to two smaller UPS units as a temporary solution.

**Mr. Wendt** advised Council IT Manager Davey contacted the regional Liebert rep at Uptime Solutions and worked with CDWG to provide a quote for replacement hardware. CDW-G quoted a GXT5 model since the GXT4 model is no longer sold. CDW-G provided pricing on the Sourcewell cooperative purchasing agreement for a total replacement cost of \$13,129.03.

**Mr. Wendt** advised Council the equipment is covered by the city's insurance and will be submitted as part of our pending insurance claim. To bring the Justice Center server equipment back to full working order, **Mr. Wendt** recommended the replacement of the UPS from CDW-G for a cost of \$13,129.03.

#### SmartBill Extension of contract

**Mrs. Carnes** advised Council the City currently contracts with SmartBill Ltd for data processing, printing, folding, inserting, presorting, and delivery to the USPS for the annual income tax notification letter, annual federal 1099G forms and monthly utility bills. The processing is accurate, efficient and timely and we have been very pleased with the quality of the services. The current contract has expired, and a one-year extension has been recommended.

#### VRC Climbing Wall Auto Belay System

**Mr. Clark** advised Council the Parks and Recreation Department is recommending a purchase agreement for the installation of a climbing wall auto belay system at the Vandalia Recreation Center with Vertical Reality, LLC of Miami, FL. **Mr. Clark** advised Recreation Center Facility Manager Alicia McCracken requested proposals from three climbing industry manufacturers, receiving a quote from two. Vertical Reality submitted a proposal of \$17,250. The project will include the purchase, delivery and installation of five auto belay devices along with all necessary gear and accessories. The 2023 capital budget includes \$15,000 for this project. **Mr. Clark** is recommending the balance of funds come from unexpended capital project funds. During the research process staff learned that Vertical Reality provides climbing wall services to Blue Ash and Groveport Recreation Centers. Staff contacted both facilities and received positive feedback about their products and services. There was a brief discussion with questions and answers.

#### VPD 2023 P&R Communications Maintenance Fees

**Chief Althouse** advised Council in 2016, the Vandalia Division of Police transitioned radio communications to the State's Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS). Additionally, the Communications Center was upgraded in 2015. P&R Communications installed the initial radio equipment and has maintained it since then. P&R Communications continues to provide exceptional service to the Division of Police. Chief Althouse recommended the City continue to utilize P&R Communications, an authorized Motorola dealer, to provide maintenance and service for the Communications Center's radio equipment at an annual cost of \$11,446.00, which was the amount budgeted for 2023.

#### VPD Agile Network Renewal

**Chief Althouse** advised Council in 2016, Vandalia Division of Police transitioned radio communications to the state's Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS). As part of this radio communication system, two IP-VPN connections, serviced by Agile Networks, were established. Agile Networks continues to monitor and service these IP-VPN connections. Agile Networks is the sole service provider for these IP-VPN connections. Chief Althouse recommend VPD continue our agreement with Agile Networks and pay the annual maintenance fees of \$14,880.00, which was the amount budgeted for 2023, billed in monthly installments.

#### Blight Abatement

**Mr. Baldauf** advised Council the City has received a Default Judgement order from the Montgomery County Common Pleas court declaring the property at 6325 Shady Knoll Drive a public nuisance. City staff and elected officials have received many complaints from Vandalia residents about the condition of this property. The judgement permits the City to abate the nuisance by demolition of the structures and clean-up of the debris on site. The asbestos inspection has been performed asbestos was present in the structure. We have received two proposals for the asbestos abatement. Mr. Baldauf recommend entering into an agreement with Alloyd Asbestos Abatement for the asbestos removal at their submitted cost of \$14,250. They also performed the asbestos abatement on the property at 841 Spartan Avenue. We have

received two proposals for the demolition of the structure and removal of debris from the property. **Mr. Baldauf** recommended entering into an agreement with Journey Trucking at a cost of \$23,445 for the demolition of structures and removal of debris from the property at 6325 Shady Knoll Dr. The City budgeted a placeholder of \$30,000 in the 2023 budget for all blight abatement projects. If the project is to be demolished, it will be necessary to appropriate additional funds in the future to cover the demolition costs. The City will invoice the property owner for these costs and if not paid will be assessed to the property taxes. There was a brief discussion with questions and answers.

#### Concrete Saw Cutting

**Mr. Wendt** advised Council he recently authorize the expenditure of funds to perform a concrete sawing pilot program. As part of the City's 2023 Curb & Sidewalk repair program, this will include a test area of horizontal concrete saw-cutting to eliminate trip hazards. This is a common practice in many other municipalities. The horizontal saw-cutting is a less expensive way to remove trip hazards by eliminating the removal of the existing sidewalk and the restoration of the sod next to the walks. This has been problematic in recent years getting the grass to grow in small areas. By the estimates staff received, staff feels having the saw-cutting performed for approximately 30% of the cost to remove and replace the entire section of walk. If the pilot is a success, **Mr. Wendt** advised the plan is to expand the scope to the entire project.

**Mr. Wendt** advised Precision Concrete Cutting is performing 210 cuts for a total cost of 15,625.00. They will be cutting any walks that have a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " trip hazard or more to achieve Americans with Disabilities Act transition compliance. If the City was to replace all of these sections of walk the cost would be near \$50,000 based on last year's project costs. **Mr. Wendt** recommend entering into an agreement with Precision Concrete Cutting at their proposal cost of \$15,625.00 to perform the work. **Mr. Wendt** advised he would like to get them started as soon as possible to inspect the work and determine if we want to perform more saw-cutting or return to walk replacement. Mr. Wendt advised a portion of the funds appropriated in the 2023 Capital Improvement Budget for concrete repairs will be used to perform this work. There was a brief discussion with questions and answers.

#### 60 Day Calendar

**Mayor Herbst** solicited comments or questions on the 60-Day Calendar. **Mr. Wendt** asked Council when they would prefer to consider the adoption of the the Parks and Recreation Master Plan as an Ordinance. Council requested the first reading of the Ordinance at the March 20, 2023 meeting.

At 6:34 p.m., **Mayor Herbst** noted it is recommended that Council enter into an Executive Session to consider pending or imminent litigation; and to consider certain personnel matters including the employment, discipline, 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 Woods voted yes, Councilman Blakesly voted yes, Councilman Follick voted yes, Councilwoman Farst voted yes, Vice Mayor Lewis voted yes, and Mayor Herbst voted yes. Motion passed 6-0. Council adjourned into Executive Session at 6:35 p. m.

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