

The Council of the City of Vandalia Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2025

Councilmembers Present: Councilmember Amber Aivalotis-Weaver, Councilmember Cindy Doogan, Councilmember Candice Farst, Councilmember Corey M. Follick and Councilmember Dave Lewis.

Councilmembers Absent: Mayor Herbst and Vice Mayor Mike Blakesly.

Others Present: Marcella McHenry, Kurt Althouse, Rob Cron, Angela Swartz, Darren Davey, Ben Borton, Jake Hayslett, Chad Follick, Scott Jacobs, Candice Jacobs, Bridgette Leiter, Brian Krimm, Brandon Sucher, Alicia McCracken, Ben Walker, Barbara Spurgeon, Don Hutchison, Larry Doogan, Daniel Pierron, Kelsie Burmeister, Rich Morrett, members of the Division of Police and members of the Division of Fire.

Councilmember Follick called the council meeting of the Council of the City of Vandalia to order at 7:00 p.m. **Councilmember Follick** called for a moment of reflection followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Follick advised it was recommended in Executive Session to amend the agenda to include Resolution 25-R-18, A Resolution Approving An Agreement With The Teamsters Local Union N. 957. It was moved by Councilmember Lewis, second by Councilmember Farst to amend the agenda to include Resolution 25-R-18. All Councilmembers present voted yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

The Council Study Session Minutes from February 3, 2025, and the Council Meeting Minutes from February 3, 2025, were approved as presented.

Communications, Petitions and Awards:

Introduction & Oath of Office: Police Officer Kelsie Burmeister

Mr. Althouse introduced and administered the Oath of Office to Police Officer Kelsie Burmeister who began employment February 24, 2025.

Introduction & Oath of Office: Fire Captain Rich Morrett

Mr. Althouse introduced and administered the Oath of Office to Fire Captain Rich Morrett who began employment in January 2024.

Councilmember Follick addressed the audience advising anyone who did not wish to stay for the remainder of the meeting, this would be the time to step out.

Public Hearing: None

Comments from Interested Citizens:

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Councilmember Follick called for comments from interested citizens advising as they come to the podium, please clearly state their name and address for the record. **Councilmember Follick** asked those who speak to please follow the etiquette of communicating with respect to others, to please stay on topic with their statements, while addressing Council. **Councilmember Follick** reminded the audience, this is not the forum for arguments and asked in an effort to give all citizens an opportunity to express their thoughts and concerns, to keep their comments as brief as possible. There were none.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Information Items:

Mr. Althouse shared the Income Tax Division will be open Saturday, April 5 from 8:00 a.m. to noon; Saturday, April 12 from 8:00 a.m. to noon; Monday, April 14 from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and Tuesday, April 15 from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Tax office staff will be available to assist taxpayers in the preparation of city income tax returns. The deadline for filing is Tuesday, April 15, 2025. **Mr. Althouse** shared Income tax returns for Vandalia and Brookville can be completed electronically using the City Tax Online Preparation Tool. The Online Tool is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions, and can be accessed through the city's website, www.vandaliaohio.org. If a taxpayer does not have access to the Internet, they are instructed to contact the tax office to receive a form.

Action Item: None

Old Business: None

Resolutions:

25-R-16 A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Fourteen (14) Panasonic Mobile Data Terminals And Related Equipment, Requested By The It Department, From CDW-G, LLC, At Government Procurement Contract Pricing Amounts Totaling \$67,573.14. **Ms. McHenry** read Resolution 25-R-16 by title. **Mr. Althouse** advised the Vandalia Division of Police relies on ruggedized mobile data terminals (MDTs) in patrol vehicles to access critical resources such as maps, dispatch data, report writing, and dash cameras. The current Panasonic CF-31 Toughbooks have reached the end of their service life and are not compatible with the current version of Microsoft Windows, which is required for CJIS compliance. The IT Department obtained a quote from CDWG for new Panasonic FZ-40 Toughbooks and docking stations using cooperative purchasing pricing through the Sourcwell contract. The Division of Police budgeted \$67,600 for the equipment upgrade. IT Manager Davey is recommending that Council waive formal bidding and approve the purchase of the Police Mobile Data Terminal Upgrade from CDW-G at the Sourcwell cooperative purchasing price of \$67,573.14.

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There were no comments from Council. It was moved by Councilmember Farst, second by Councilmember Doogan to approve Resolution 25-R-16, motion passed 5-0.

25-R-17 A Resolution Awarding The Bid For Asphaltic Concrete, Requested By The Public Works Division, To Valley Asphalt Corporation In The Amount Of \$82.00/Ton For Type II Asphalt And \$88.00/Ton For Type I Asphalt As The Lowest And Best Bid.

Ms. McHenry read Resolution 25-R-17 by title. **Mr. Althouse** advised bids were publicly opened for the Asphaltic Concrete Purchase on Tuesday, February 25, 2025. Two (2) suppliers submitted bids for the purchase of asphalt. The asphalt to be purchased will be used by the Public Works division to patch and make repairs, including utility repair holes such as watermain breaks, and resurface Cassel Hills Golf Course cart paths for the Parks & Recreation department. Director Borton recommends awarding the bid to Valley Asphalt Corporation as the lowest and best bid at their bid prices of \$82.00/Ton for Type II Base Asphalt and \$88.00/Ton for Type I Surface Asphalt. There were no comments from Council. It was moved by Councilmember Lewis, second by Councilmember Farst to approve Resolution 25-R-17, motion passed 5-0.

25-R-18 A Resolution Approving An Agreement With The Teamsters Local Union N. 957. **Ms. McHenry** read Resolution 25-R-18 by title. **Mr. Althouse** advised this is a resolution approving an agreement with the Teamsters Local Union N. 957, which would take effect March 31, 2025. There were no comments from Council. It was moved by Councilmember Farst, second by Councilmember Lewis to approve Resolution 25-R-18, motion passed 5-0.

Ordinances – First Reading: None

Ordinances – Second Reading: None

Ordinances – Emergency Reading: None

Reports from Boards and Commissions:

BZA 25-0001 Chickens – 995 Forest View Court

Mr. Althouse advised the Applicant Caitlin Korol has requested a variance to have 5 chickens on less than 2.5 acres of land for the property located at 995 Forest View Court. The purpose of this request is to have 5 chickens on 0.34 acres of land. The Board of Zoning Appeals voted 3-2 to recommend approval of the proposed variance with three conditions, being one, the chicken coop shall be moved at least 25 feet from any lot line, two, coops and pens shall be maintained to prevent offensive smells becoming injurious to the health, comfort, or property of individuals or of the public, and three, the wings of any chicken kept under this variance shall be clipped. It was moved by Councilmember Aivalotis-Weaver, second by Councilmember Farst to deny the variance request at 995 Forest View Court. **Councilmember Aivalotis-Weaver** advised she does not feel the

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exceptions or reasons given for the variance meet the conditions and criteria and would set a bad standard. **Councilmember Lewis** requested to revisit this with potential revisions to what is currently in the zoning code. **Councilmember Follick** requested Staff revisit and have information available at the upcoming Council Retreat. **Councilmember Farst** advised what is being requested is extreme to what the code currently says.

Motion to deny passed 5-0.

BZA 25-0002 Maximum Building Sign Area – 780 Northwoods Boulevard (Kroger)

Mr. Althouse advised the Applicant, Atlantic Sign Company, on behalf of Kroger has requested a variance to exceed the maximum building sign area for the property located at 780 Northwoods Boulevard. The purpose of this request is to allow 327.58 square feet of signage on the primary facade of the building, where the maximum allowed sign area is 250 square feet. The Board of Zoning Appeals voted 5-0 to recommend approval of the proposed variance. There were no comments or questions. It was moved by Councilmember Lewis, second by Councilmember Doogan to approve the variance at 780 Northwoods Boulevard. Motion passed 5-0.

Councilmember Follick called for comments or questions on the Civil Service Minutes September 12, 2024, November 1, 2024, and February 12, 2025, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes of February 19, 2025, and Board of Zoning Appeals Minutes of February 26, 2025. There were none.

Councilmember Follick reviewed the February 2025 Bill Listing \$ 2,233,835.36, Monthly Expenses over \$25,000 and Monthly Purchasing Card Detail in the amount of \$33,273.90. He solicited comments or questions. There were none.

Council Comments

Mr. Althouse thanked all who attended the Chamber Service Awards Annual meeting last week and congratulated Vice Mayor Blakesly for being honored with the Marvin Link Distinguished Service Award. **Mr. Althouse** congratulated Melanie Norton who was the Ambassador of the Year, the Vandalia Butler Foundation for being the Business and Organization of the Year and Breast Wishes Foundation for being Nonprofit of the Year. **Mr. Althouse** congratulated the Vandalia Butler Aviator Girls High School bowling team for being State Champs.

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Councilmember Doogan welcomed Kelsie to the Police Department and Rich to the Fire Department. Councilmember Doogan thanked Kurt and Mr. Cron for working on a good contract with the Teamsters.

Councilmember Aivalotis-Weaver made a motion to excuse Mayor Herbst and Vice Mayor Blakesly from the meetings tonight. Councilwoman Farst seconded the motion. All members present voted yes. Motion passed 5-0. **Councilmember Aivalotis-Weaver** welcomed Kelsie to the Police Department and congratulated Rich for being promoted to Fire Captain. **Councilmember Aivalotis-Weaver** shared she attended her first Chamber Annual meeting, which she enjoyed. **Councilmember Aivalotis-Weaver** thanked staff for their hard work getting the State of the City together. **Councilmember Aivalotis-Weaver** shared her concern about the delay in the playgrounds being completed, requesting an update when the situation changes.

Councilmember Farst echoed all the other Council comments, sharing she attended the Chambers Annual meeting of the City, the Schools and the Township, noting the City’s video was wonderful and thanked Staff.

Councilmember Follick echoed Mr. Althouse’s remarks about Vice Mayor Blakesly winning the Marvin Link Distinguished Service Award. **Councilmember Follick** recognized the recent retirement of Public Works Technician Joe Blosser with over 32 years of service and Tami Ryan, Chief Assignment Officer and Administrative Assistant to the Judge, for her 34 years of service, congratulating them both. **Councilmember Follick** congratulated Aaron Messenger, the VRC Facility Manager, for being selected as the Wright State University outstanding MPA Student and his success in the program.

The Regular meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

APPROVED:

Corey Follick, Councilmember
for Richard Herbst, Mayor

ATTEST:

Angela Swartz, Deputy Clerk of Council

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