

CITY OF VANDALIA
March 17, 2025
City Council
Study Session – 6:00 PM

CITY OF VANDALIA
Council Study Session Minutes
Municipal Building
333 Bohanan Drive
Monday, March 17, 2025
6:00 P.M.

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, Chris Mastrino, Chad Follick, Scott Jacobs, Candice Jacobs, Bridgette Leiter, Brian Krimm, Brandon Sucher, Alicia McCracken, Ben Walker, Nick Kavalauskas, John Wheeler, Barbara Spurgeon, Don Hutchison, Larry Doogan, Daniel Pierron, Jonathan Frederick and Jennifer Haney.

Councilmember Follick called the Study Session to order at 6:00 p.m.

Presentation

Nick Kavalauskas, President/CEO Vandalia Butler Chamber of Commerce & **John Wheeler**, Vice Chair of Vandalia Butler Chamber of Commerce Board, gave a presentation to City Council on the 2025 Vandalia Flight Fest. There was a brief discussion regarding parking and shuttle buses.

Monday, March 17, 2025

Items on this evening's Council Meeting Agenda

Councilmember Follick called for questions or comments regarding items on this evening's Council agenda. There were none.

Monday, April 7, 2025

Resolution: Phone System Replacement Project

Mr. Davey advised Council the City of Vandalia's NEC phone system, in use for over 25 years, has reached the end of its supported life, leading to reliability issues and a lack of manufacturer support. To address this, \$170,000 was allocated in the 2025 budget for a replacement system utilizing Mitel equipment. Through the Sourcewell cooperative purchasing contract, three proposals were evaluated, and Forerunner, Inc., the City's current phone vendor, submitted the lowest-cost proposal meeting all requirements. The final project cost is \$161,468.06, covering equipment and installation, leaving \$8,531.94 of the budget available for necessary network switch equipment. IT Manager Davey recommends that Council waive formal bidding and approve the purchase from Forerunner, Inc. under the Sourcewell contract. Additionally, he requests authorization to use the remaining funds to purchase necessary network equipment from a yet-to-be-determined vendor. There were no comments or questions from Council.

Resolution: Support of State Issue 2 – OPWC

Mr. Cron advised Council this year on the May 6, 2025, Primary Election, the State of Ohio will have on for renewal, State Issue 2 – The Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement Program. The program was first approved back in 1987 and the funding for this program relies on an amendment to the Ohio Constitution every 10 years. The State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) is funded by state general revenues and must be renewed by the voters. The City of Vandalia has benefited greatly from these programs receiving \$3,109,000 in funding through the SCIP over the last ten years for several much-needed projects. **Mr. Cron** recommended approving a resolution in support of State Issue 2 that will be on the ballot May 6, 2025. There was brief discussion regarding endorsing levy's at the State level verses endorsing local levy issues. **Ms. McHenry** advised she would research this and would let the Council know. There were no further comments or questions from Council.

Ordinance: Update to Chapter 878 Hotel/Motel Operations Registration

Mr. Mastrino advised Council staff reviewed Chapter 878 Hotel/Motel Operations Registration and is requesting revisions. After implementation of the hotel/motel registration for the last three years, staff have found a few items that need addressed and clarified. Some of these changes include better defining the fee cost and the board that will hear an appeal, along with some general language cleanup. **Mr. Mastrino** advised this revision also includes adding language for the current quarterly meetings rather than annually, adding Staff has found these more frequent meetings have built good rapport between the hotel/motel managers and City services (Police, Fire, DES inspection) by discussing new ideas/equipment that will help the hotel/motel managers and reduce calls of service to their properties well into the future. **Mr. Mastrino** recommended the passing of these revisions to Chapter 878 by ordinance, which coincides with our 2025 Public Service department goal of Encourage Healthy Growth and Development. There were no comments or questions from Council.

Variance: BZA 25-0003 Six Foot Fence in Zone A – 326 Dellsing Drive

Mr. Cron advised Council the applicant, Jonathan Frederick has requested a variance to construct a 6-foot fence on his corner lot within Zone A for the property located at 320-326 Dellsing Drive. The proposal involves allowing a 6-foot fence to encroach 24 feet into Zone A. Staff recommended 20 feet into Zone A. On March 12th, 2025, the Board of Zoning Appeals voted 4-0 to recommend approval with 1 condition, being the fence shall not extend more than 24 feet into Zone A. The applicant, **Mr. Frederick** addressed Council advising he is requesting an additional eight feet, for a total of 32 feet of fence, then nine feet from the sidewalk, adding the fence comes in eight-foot sections and the bush that is currently in the yard will be removed. **Mr. Frederick** shared with the amount of road traffic and foot traffic, with an RTA bus stop, the amount of people walking through their yard, a fence would give his family security and privacy. There was a request from Council, prior to the next meeting, for Staff to evaluate what the 20-, 24- and 32-foot fence locations would look like from the perspective of vehicles stopping behind the stop bar at Dellsing Drive and Pool Ave. to determine if there would any site obstructions. There were no further comments or questions from Council.

Discussion

Boards & Commissions Appointment – Larry Pearson-Golf Advisory Board

Mr. Althouse advised Council at the April 7 Council meeting; Council will be asked to consider the appointment of Larry Pearson to the Golf Advisory Board. **Mr. Althouse** advised a memo from Deputy Clerk of Council Swartz, Mr. Pearson's application and the Golf Advisory Board roster was included in the Council packets. Mr. Pearson was not in attendance. There were no comments or questions from Council.

Vandalia Butler Alumni Association Donation Request

Mr. Althouse advised Council the Vandalia-Butler Alumni Association (VBAA) is requesting financial donations to ensure the continuation of the Salute to The Seniors display at Butler High School. This

program honors graduating Butler High School seniors in the yard fronting North Dixie Drive at Elva Court with a yard sign of each student's senior photo and landscaping lights highlighting the display 24/7. In 2024, Council authorized a donation of \$1,000 and this is included in the 2025 Budget. There were no comments or questions from Council.

February 2025 Financial Reports

Cognizant of Council's duty to monitor the City's financial activity, **Councilmember Follick** introduced Mrs. Leiter to provide timely financial information for Council's review and analysis. **Mrs. Leiter** reminded Council the financial reports were previously provided in their council packets. **Mrs. Leiter** reviewed the February monthly reports in detail. She began by reviewing the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures: February 28, 2025 in detail, which included revenues and expenditures for the General Fund, the Police-Fire-Street CIP Fund, Golf Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund. **Mrs. Leiter** reviewed the February cost recovery data for the golf course, recreation center, Cassel Hills Pool, and the Fund Statement reports in detail dated February 28, 2025. After a brief discussion with questions and answers regarding the Hospital Fund, Council indicated approval of all reports.

Legislative Calendar

Councilmember Follick solicited comments or questions on the Legislative Calendar. There were none.

At 6:35 p.m., it was moved by Councilmember Lewis, second by Councilmember Farst, to adjourn to Executive Session to review collective bargaining strategy and certain personnel matters. All members present voted yes. Motion passed 5-0.

At 6:50 p.m., it was moved by Councilmember Lewis, second by Councilmember Farst, to reconvene to the Study Session. All members present voted yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Executive Session adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Study Session adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Angela Swartz

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