

The Council of the City of Vandalia Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Herbst, Vice Mayor Mike Blakesly, Councilmember Amber Aivalotis-Weaver, Councilmember Cindy Doogan, Councilmember Candice Farst, Councilmember Corey M. Follick and Councilmember Dave Lewis.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jerry McDonald, Kurt Althouse, Rob Cron, Angela Swartz, Darren Davey, Mike Hammes, Ben Borton, Steve Clark, Alicia McCracken, Chad Follick, Leann Hanf, Brandon Sucher, Bridgette Leiter, Barbara Spurgeon, Don Hutchison, Larry Doogan, Daniel Pierron, Kevin Keeley Jr., John Minear, Kelly & Ryan Pike, Kristen Cox, Mindy Snodgrass and Dakota Sizemore.

Mayor Herbst called the council 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.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

The Council Study Session Minutes from February 17, 2025, and the Council Meeting Minutes from February 17, 2025, were approved as presented.

Communications, Petitions and Awards:

Proclamation Recognizing Vice Mayor Michael Blakesly for Receiving the Marvin Link Distinguished Service Award

Mayor Herbst and Councilmembers presented a proclamation to Vice Mayor Michael Blakesly for receiving the Marvin Link Distinguished Service Award.

Proclamation National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week April 13 – 19

Mayor Herbst presented a proclamation to the Division of Police PSS for National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

Introduction Dakota Sizemore, Parks and Recreation Building Maintenance Technician

Mr. Althouse introduced Dakota Sizemore, Parks and Recreation Building Maintenance Technician, who began employment on March 21, 2025.

Retirement Acknowledgement for Tami Ryan, Chief Assignment Officer and Administrative Assistant to the Judge

Mr. Althouse acknowledged Tami Ryan who retired from the City of Vandalia after 34 years of service.

Retirement Acknowledgement for Joe Blosser, Public Works Technician

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Mr. Althouse acknowledged Joe Blosser who retired from the City of Vandalia after 32+ years of service.

Mayor Herbst 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:

Mayor Herbst called for comments from interested citizens advising as they come to the podium, please clearly state their name and address for the record. **Mayor Herbst** 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. **Mayor Herbst** 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 on 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 the City is offering Vandalia Residents free large debris drop off from 8 am – 2 pm at the Public Works Garage. Proof of residency is required. **Mr. Althouse** shared the Vandalia Easter Extravaganza, Saturday, April 19th and encouraged everyone to bring the family out and have an "egg"cellent time at the Vandalia Easter Eggstravaganza held at the Vandalia Sports Complex, Soccer Field Side, from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. There will be egg hunts at 11:00 am & 12:30 pm for Ages 12 and under, baby goat petting zoo, arts & crafts, face painting, vendors, games & activities, food trucks, Easter bunny photo area, and more! Make sure to bring your own basket for the egg hunts. **Mr. Althouse** shared the Vandalia Recreation Center will be closed on Sunday, April 20th for Easter Sunday and will resume normal hours on Monday, April 21st.

Action Item:

Mr. Althouse advised Council enclosed in their Council packets was the application of Larry Pearson, who is requesting an appointment to the Golf Advisory Board. There were no questions or comments from Council. It was moved by Councilmember Lewis, second by Vice Mayor Blakesly to approve the appointment of Larry Pearson to the Golf Advisory Board. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Althouse advised Council the Ohio Department of Liquor Control notified the City of Vandalia of an application for a new liquor license at 722 W. National Road for Verma

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Treasure, Inc., DBA Curry & Grill. The Vandalia Division of Police has no objections to this application and recommends to City Council that there be no hearing by the Ohio Department of Liquor Control objecting to this request. There were no questions or comments from Council. It was moved by Councilmember Doogan, second by Councilmember Aivalotis-Weaver not to request an Ohio Department of Liquor Control hearing. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Althouse advised Council Ohio Department of Liquor Control notified the City of Vandalia all retail liquor permits in the city expire June 1st of each year and are subject to renewal. City Council has the right to object to the renewal of any permit and to request a hearing. Any such objection requires Council to pass a resolution specifying the problems at the establishment and the legal grounds for objection by May 2nd. **Mr. Althouse** recommended Council not object to the renewal of any Retail Liquor Permits in the City of Vandalia. There were no questions or comments from Council. It was moved by Councilmember Follick, second by Councilmember Lewis not to object to the renewal of any Retail Liquor Permits in the City of Vandalia. Motion passed 7-0.

Old Business: None

Resolutions:

25-R-19 A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of A Mitel Telephone System, Requested By The It Department, From Forerunner, Inc., At Government Procurement Contract Pricing Amounts Totaling \$161,468.06. **Mr. McDonald** read Resolution 25-R-19 by title. **Mr. Althouse** 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 from Council. It was moved by Councilmember Doogan, second by Councilmember Farst to approve Resolution 25-R-19, motion passed 7-0.

25-R-20 Resolution In Support Of State Issue 2 Renewal Of The State Capital Improvement Program On The May 6, 2025 Statewide Ballot. **Mr. McDonald** read Resolution 25-R-20 by title. **Mr. Althouse** advised Council on the May 6, 2025, Primary

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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. We recommend approving a resolution in support of State Issue 2 that will be on the ballot May 6, 2025. There were no comments from Council. It was moved by Councilmember Farst, second by Councilmember Follick to approve Resolution 25-R-20, motion passed 7-0.

25-R-21 A Resolution Approving The Assignment Of Responsibilities Under The 2024 Contract For Mowing & General Maintenance For Calendar Years 2024-2025, Requested By Development And Engineering Services, To Schill Grounds Maintenance, Under The Existing Terms And At The Existing Rates And Amounts. **Mr. McDonald** read Resolution 25-R-21 by title. **Mr. Althouse** advised Council in March of 2024 the bid for the Right of Way and City owned property mowing contract was awarded to Property Worx. This was a two-year contract award. On March 14th they notified Staff that they were going to be closing their Dayton area operations and would not be able to fulfill the second year of the contract. Property Worx reached out to another company, Schill Grounds Management, to see if they would be interested in taking over the remainder of their contract. Schill Grounds Management was the second lowest bidder back in 2024 and they agreed to take over the contract at the current prices awarded to Property Worx. Due to the timing of this notification and the need for mowing before another project could be bid out, we are recommending allowing Property Worx to assign the remainder of the contract to Schill Grounds Management. There were no comments or questions from Council. It was moved by Councilmember Follick, second by Vice Mayor Blakesly to approve Resolution 25-R-21, motion passed 7-0.

Ordinances – First Reading:

25-04 An Ordinance Amending Sections 878.03, 878.04 And 878.06 Of Chapter 878 Of The Codified Ordinances Of The City Of Vandalia Regarding Hotel Registration. **Mr. McDonald** read Ordinance 25-04 by title. **Mr. Althouse** advised Council Staff reviewed Chapter 878 Hotel/Motel Operations Registration and are requesting revisions. After implementation of the hotel/motel registration for the last three years, staff found a few items that need addressed and clarified. There were no comments or questions from Council. It was moved by Vice Mayor Blakesly, second by Councilmember Follick to approve Ordinance 25-04, motion passed 7-0.

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Ordinances – Second Reading: None

Ordinances – Emergency Reading: None

Reports from Boards and Commissions:

BZA 25-0003 – Variance – Six Foot Fence in Zone A – 320-326 Dellsing Drive.

Mr. Althouse advised Council the Applicant, Jonathan Frederick 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. On March 12th, 2025, the Board of Zoning Appeals voted 4-0 to recommend approval with 1 condition, the fence shall not extend more than 20 feet into Zone A. There were no comments or questions from Council. It was moved by Councilmember Follick, second by Vice Mayor Blakesly to deny the Variance for a six-foot fence in Zone A at 320-326 Dellsing Drive, motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Herbst called for comments or questions on the Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2025. There were none.

Council Comments

Mr. Althouse congratulated Vice Mayor Blakesly for receiving the Marvin Link Distinguished Service Award and wished all the Public Safety Telecommunicators well, noting they offer a great service to the City and thanked them for their service.

Councilmember Aivalotis-Weaver congratulated Mayor Herbst on becoming a grandpa and Vice Mayor Blakesly on his award. She noted that there have been several meetings that Vandalia City Council has not been invited to, such as a library meeting and an ODOT grand opening, to which she has requested the City Manager make sure they receive these invitations and she will be a liaison to the City when she attends these events and bring back the information to the Community.

Councilmember Farst congratulated Vice Mayor Blakesly on his award noting although he received the award at the Chamber's Annual Meeting, it was nice Council was able to present him a proclamation for the public to see. She congratulated Mayor Herbst on becoming a grandpa.

Councilmember Follick congratulated Vice Mayor Blakesly on his award and Mayor Herbst on becoming a grandpa.

Councilmember Lewis congratulated Vice Mayor Blakesly on his award.

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Councilmember Doogan congratulated Mayor Herbst, Vice Mayor Blakesly, wished a happy retirement to Tami Ryan and Joe Blosser and welcomed Dakota Sizemore.

Vice Mayor Blakesly congratulated Mayor Herbst on becoming a grandpa and thanked the Public Safety Specialists on the great job they do for the City. Vice Mayor Blakesly thanked all of Council for their support and for honoring him with a proclamation and his own day.

Mayor Herbst congratulated Vice Mayor Blakesly on his award noting Council and Staff are very proud of him and his accomplishments. **Mayor Herbst** welcomed Vandalia’s newest resident, Mr. Joseph Herbst, who arrived on April 3rd at 8 lbs. and 6 oz.

The Regular meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

APPROVED:

Richard Herbst, Mayor

ATTEST:

Angela Swartz, Deputy Clerk of Council