

CITY OF VANDALIA
May 5, 2025
City Council
Study Session – 6:15 PM

CITY OF VANDALIA
Council Study Session Minutes
Municipal Building
333 Bohanan Drive
Monday, May 5, 2025
6:15 P.M.

Council Members Present: Mayor Herbst, Councilmember Amber Aivalotis-Weaver, Councilmember Candice Farst, Councilmember Corey M. Follick and Councilmember Dave Lewis.

Council Members Absent: Vice Mayor Mike Blakesly and Councilmember Cindy Doogan.

Others Present: Jerry McDonald, Kurt Althouse, Rob Cron, Angela Swartz, Darren Davey, Ben Borton, Steve Clark, Leann Hanf, Brandon Sucher, Jake Hayslett, Kristen Carnes and Tory Elrich.

Mayor Herbst called the Study Session to order at 6:20 p.m.

Monday, May 5, 2025

Items on this evening's Council Meeting Agenda

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

Monday, May 19, 2025

Ordinance: Land Acquisition Note – Stonequarry Crossing

Mrs. Carnes advised Council the Land Acquisition Note issued for the acquisition of land for the Stonequarry Crossing development matures on July 22, 2025. The total amount due is \$1,399,000 in principal plus interest. The 2025 Budget includes a principal payment of \$127,000, plus an interest payment amount of \$95,000. The maturity date on the new note (\$1,272,000) will be in July of 2026. The debt is scheduled to be paid in full in 2036. There was a brief discussion regarding the rate on the Note, to which **Mr. Althouse** advised the interest rate for the Land Acquisition Note is 6.5% and for Bond Anticipation Note, the interest rate is 6%. There were no further comments or questions from Council.

Ordinance: Bond Anticipation Note – Fire Engine 2016 BAN & Fire Ladder Truck 2021 BAN

Mrs. Carnes advised Council the Fire Engine 2016 Bond Anticipation Note issued for a fire engine matures on August 19, 2025. This note was combined with the Fire Ladder Truck 2021 BAN in order to save on the costs of issuance. The current remaining amount due on the note is \$1,053,000 (Fire Engine \$96,000; Fire Ladder Truck \$957,000) plus interest. The amount of the principal payment for the Fire Engine is \$48,000, and \$140,000 for the Fire Ladder Truck. The 2025 budget includes a pay down amount of \$48,000 on the outstanding principal due for the Fire Engine, and \$140,000 for the Fire Ladder Truck, plus an interest payment of \$63,440. The maturity on the new note (Fire Engine \$48,000; Fire Ladder Truck \$817,000) will be in August of 2026. The debt on the Fire Engine is scheduled to be paid in full in 2026, and year 2031 for the Fire Ladder Truck. There was a brief discussion regarding the agreement with Prairie Flyer, when the City would expect payment, to which **Mr. McDonald** advised the City would receive payment when the company is operational and would re-review the agreement to

see if it stated it would be a lump sum payment. There were no further comments or questions from Council.

Variance: BZA 25-0005 - 221 North American – Accessory Structure Total Area

Mr. Cron advised Council the Applicant, Tory Elrich, has requested a variance to permit the construction of a shed that will cause the total area of all accessory structures to exceed 40% of the principal building footprint (512 square feet) at 221 North American Boulevard. The proposed shed would be 640 square feet with an existing 160 square foot shed for a total of 800 square feet. On April 23rd, 2025, the Board of Zoning Appeals voted 4-0 to recommend approval with one condition, being the applicant must obtain a building permit and comply with all standards and requirements associated with that permit, as directed by the Chief Building Official. There was a brief discussion regarding the applicant keeping the existing shed, to which Mr. Cron advised he would be keeping both sheds. **Mr. Elrich** addressed Council advising he was not aware of the permitting process prior to setting the additional shed, but upon receiving the notice, he immediately came to the City Building and worked with Staff to correct the error, noting regardless of the outcome, he will comply with the decision. There were no further comments or questions from Council.

Discussion

Boards & Commissions Appointment – Mary Zellmer – Vandalia Arts Council

Mr. Althouse advised Council at the May 19th Council Meeting, you will be asked to consider the appointment of Mary Zellmer to the Vandalia Arts Council. A memo from Deputy Clerk of Council Swartz, Ms. Zellmer's application and the Vandalia Arts Council roster are included in the Council packets. There were no questions or comments from Council. There was a brief discussion on this being the second applicant for the Vandalia Arts Council.

Legislative Calendar

Mayor Herbst solicited comments or questions on the Legislative Calendar. There were none.

Study Session adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

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