

The Council of the City of Vandalia Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Richard Herbst, Vice Mayor Robert Ahlers, Councilman Michael Blakesly, Councilman Corey M. Follick, Councilwoman Candice Farst, Councilwoman Constance Woods, and Councilman David Lewis

OTHERS PRESENT: Jerry McDonald, Daniel Wendt, Missy Pruszynski, Amber Holloway, Darren Davey, Kristen Carnes, Bridgette Leiter, Holly Wiggins, Laura Wendt, Lisa Wendt, Chief Chad Follick, Chief Kurt Althouse, Rob Cron, Lt. Ben Walker, Lt. Dan Swafford, Mike Dittoe, Spencer Gross, Jake Hayslett, Tammy Wendln, Mike Busse, Bridgette Leiter, Steve Clark, Anissa Kanzari, Amanda Stewart, India Duke, Holly Wiggins, Kristen Carnes

Vice Mayor Ahlers called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Vandalia to order at 7:08 p.m. **Vice Mayor Ahlers** called for a moment of reflection followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Mayor Ahlers advised the audience that Mayor Herbst is under the weather this evening; however, he is on the meeting tonight via Zoom Meeting application and he will be listening, but not voting.

Approval of Previous Minutes: None

Communications, Petitions and Awards:

Recognition of Lt. Dan Swafford's retirement

City Manager Dan Wendt recognized Lt. Dan Swafford for his years of service to the people of Vandalia and presented him with a plaque. **Mr. Wendt** shared that Lt. Swafford is retiring after a 33 year career in law enforcement, with the last thirteen

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years serving Vandalia. **Lt. Swafford** shared that he has truly enjoyed the staff and the support from the community. He concluded he will miss this community and appreciates the opportunities Vandalia has provided him.

Mr. Wendt introduced and welcomed the City's newest Public Safety Specialist, Amanda Stewart. He called upon Chief Althouse to share Ms. Stewart's previous professional background.

Proclamation: Public Works Week

Vice Mayor Ahlers presented and read a proclamation in recognition of National Public Works Week, which is May 16 through May 22, to Public Works Department employees Miss Wendeln, Mr. Busse and Mr. Hayslett. He thanked them for all their dedication to the citizens throughout the year.

Public Hearing: None

Comments from Interested Citizens: None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Information Items: None

Shred Day – Friday, May 21, 2021

Mr. Wendt advised the audience after a COVID-related cancellation in 2020, the City is once again offering a free Shred Day to residents on Friday, May 21, from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the municipal building parking lot. He said City Staff will be there to assist citizens in unloading their vehicles. He concluded this is a very popular service we have been offering Vandalia residents for more than a decade.

City Offices Closed

Mr. Wendt advised the audience City offices will be closed on Monday, May 31 in observance of Memorial Day. The Recreation Center will be open from 7:00 a.m. to noon – fitness area, track and gymnasium only.

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Summer Schedule – Council Meetings

Mr. Wendt reminded the audience that Council, at their Organizational Meeting, established a summer schedule for Council meetings. The June meeting will be held on Monday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m. The workshop will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Action Items:

Foxfire Subdivision Sidewalk Bond Extension

Mr. Wendt explained staff is recommending a one-year extension of time to construct sidewalk fronting lots 85, 115, and 118 in Foxfire Subdivision Sections 6 and 7. A cash bond is posted as surety and a one-year extension is being requested to complete all subdivision items. He concluded by noting the new deadline will be June 16, 2022. It was moved by Councilman Lewis, seconded by Councilman Blakesly, to approve the one-year extension of time to construct sidewalks. All members present voted yes. Motion passed 6-0.

Old Business: None

Resolutions:

21-R-32 A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of One 2021 SLR 108 Foot Aerial Ladder Fire Truck From Sutphen Manufacturing In The Amount Of The State Bid Price Of \$1,134,311.86, Purchasing Additional Loose Equipment And Declaring The 1996 Aerial Ladder Truck Being Replaced Surplus Property. **Mr. McDonald** read Resolution 21-R-32 by title. **Mr. Wendt** advised the Division of Fire is requesting capital funds to replace our 1996, 110' Aerial Ladder Fire Truck; and , therefore, also requests to waive formal bidding and purchase a 2021 SLR 108' Aerial Ladder Fire Truck from Sutphen Manufacturing in Columbus, Ohio, for the state term price of \$1,134,311.86. Additionally, the Division of Fire is requesting \$35,000 be added to the project cost for "loose equipment" purchases. This cost would allow us to purchase tools and equipment that we currently do not have on the 1996 ladder and that cannot simply transfer from the "old" ladder to the "new" ladder. Furthermore, this

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equipment could not be procured by our Sutphen dealer, which is why we are asking for the additional money to purchase this equipment from outside vendors directly. Most of this equipment is being added as the new ladder truck has storage capabilities beyond what we currently have, which allows us to place some additional equipment to the ladder cache, increasing our capabilities, enhancing firefighter safety and efficiency. With the “loose equipment” cost the total project cost would be \$1,169,311.86. The Division of Fire had previously requested \$1.4 million dollars for this project. Finally, the Division of Fire is requesting, as a part of this resolution, that the Division of Fire’s current 1996 Aerial Ladder be declared surplus and the Division of Fire be permitted to engage a used fire apparatus vendor to assist us in the sale of that vehicle. **Vice Mayor Ahlers** advised the audience Council has been discussing the purchase of this item for some time. He continued by complimenting Chief Follick on his research and presentation efforts and was appreciative of his diligence. It was moved by Councilman Blakesly, seconded by Councilwoman Farst, to approve Resolution 21-R-32. All members present voted yes. Resolution 21-R-32 approved 6-0.

21-R-33 A Resolution Establishing Fund 238 – American Rescue Plan Act Fund.
Mr. McDonald read Resolution 21-R-33 by title. **Mr. Wendt** advised Congress passed, and the President of the United States signed into law H.R. 1315 on March 11, 2021, the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan allocating COVID-19 pandemic relief. The legislation allocates \$5.4 billion in relief aid to Ohio municipalities. The United States Department of Treasury is administering the plan and has authorized payment to the City of Vandalia in two equal payments, within 60 days of the enactment (\$1.45 million) and not earlier than 12 months after the first payment (\$1.45 million). The funds are to be spent in full by December 31, 2024. As part of accepting this money, the City must agree to Terms and Conditions set forth by the U.S. Department of Treasury. One of the terms of compliance is for the City to establish a new fund to

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record the receipt and transfer of the money. The title of the new fund shall be "American Rescue Plan Act" - Fund 238. It was moved by Councilman Follick, seconded by Councilman Blakesly, to approve Resolution 21-R-33. All members present voted yes. Resolution 21-R-33 approved 6-0.

Ordinances – First Reading:

21-12 An Ordinance Providing For The Issuance And Sale Of Notes In The Maximum Principal Amount Of \$1,399,000, In Anticipation Of The Issuance Of Bonds, To Provide Moneys For The Retirement Of The City's Outstanding Taxable Land Acquisition Notes, Series 2019, And Declaring An Emergency. **Mr. McDonald** read Ordinance 21-12 by title in the first reading. **Mr. Wendt** explained the Land Acquisition Note issued for the acquisition of land for the Stonequarry Crossing development matures on August 3, 2021. The total amount due is \$1,399,000 in principal plus \$20,926.71, 1.50%, in interest. The interest amount included in the 2021 budget is \$21,500. The maturity date on the new note, \$1,399,000, will be on July 28, 2022, with an estimated interest amount due of \$25,000. The debt is scheduled to be paid in full in 2036. It was moved by Councilman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Farst, to approve Ordinance 21-12 in the first reading. **Mr. McDonald** requested clarification on this item and the remaining note ordinances regarding the "emergency" language. **Mrs. Leiter** explained each year these ordinances do contain the "emergency" language and are required to have a First Reading followed by an Emergency Reading. She concluded by advising at the June 21 Council Meeting all the note ordinances will be on the agenda as Emergency Readings. All members present voted yes. Ordinance 21-12 was approved 6-0 in the first reading.

21-13 An Ordinance Providing For The Issuance And Sale Of Notes In The Maximum Principal Amount Of \$1,500,000, In Anticipation Of The Issuance Of Bonds, For The Purpose Of Paying The Costs Of Acquiring A Fire Ladder Truck, Together With All Related Appurtenances Thereto, And Declaring An Emergency. **Mr.**

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McDonald read Ordinance 21-13 by title in the first reading. **Mr. Wendt** explained the Division of Fire is requesting the purchase of a new ladder truck. In preparation for the financing of the new truck and apparatus, Finance is recommending the issuance of bond anticipation notes, not to exceed \$1.5 million, for the cost of the truck, and apparatus, and be combined with the current Fire Engine 2016 BAN to save issuance costs. Because this is a new purchase, new legislation - a separate Ordinance, is presented to Council for consideration and passage. However, beginning next year, it will only be necessary to prepare, present and pass one piece of legislation, as an Ordinance, that includes both the remaining balances for the 2016 BAN and 2021 BAN. The maturity on the new note will be on August 25, 2022. The 2016 BAN debt is scheduled to be paid in full in 2026. The 2021 BAN debt will be scheduled to be paid in full in 2031. It was moved by Councilman Follick, seconded by Councilman Blakesly, to approve Ordinance 21-13 in the first reading. All members present voted yes. Ordinance 21-13 was approved 6-0 in the first reading.

21-14 An Ordinance Providing For The Issuance And Sale Of Notes In The Maximum Principal Amount Of \$240,000, In Anticipation Of The Issuance Of Bonds, To Provide Moneys For The Retirement Of The City's Outstanding Various Purpose Notes, Series 2020, And Declaring An Emergency. **Mr. McDonald** read Ordinance 21-14 by title in the first reading. **Mr. Wendt** explained the Fire Engine 2016 Bond Anticipation Note issued for a new fire engine matures on August 31, 2021. This note was combined with the refunding of the 1996 Bond Anticipation Notes related to the renovation of the Municipal Building, and construction of the Recreation Center and Justice Center in order to save on the costs of issuance. The total principal amount due is \$288,000 plus \$4,320, 1.50%, in interest. The 2021 budget includes a pay down amount of \$48,000 on the outstanding principal due, and an interest payment of \$4,500. The maturity on the new note, \$240,000, will be on August 25, 2022, with an estimated interest amount due of \$5,000. The debt is scheduled to be paid in full in

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2026. It was moved by Councilwoman Farst, seconded by Councilman Blakesly, to approve Ordinance 21-14 in the first reading. **Councilman Follick** explained to the audience these last three ordinances are simply housekeeping items that renew debt that has already been incurred; however, the only new debt is the purchase of the ladder truck. Additionally, the debt for the Justice Center, Municipal Building and Recreation Center has dropped off this year. All members present voted yes. Ordinance 21-1 was approved 6-0 in the first reading

Ordinances – Second Reading:

21-10 An Ordinance Approving The Editing And Inclusion Of Certain Ordinances And A Resolution As Parts Of The Various Component Codes Of The Codified Ordinances; Providing For The Adoption And Publication Of New Matter In The Updated And Revised Codified Ordinances; And Repealing Ordinances And Resolutions In Conflict Therewith. **Mr. McDonald** read Ordinance 21-10 by title in an the second reading. **Mr. Wendt** shared this ordinance approves the editing and inclusion of certain ordinances and resolutions that have been passed by Council since the last update of the Codified Ordinances. This update will codify all pertinent legislation passed by Council during 2020, as well as incorporating amendments to the Ohio Revised Code. There were no comments or questions during the public hearing. It was moved by Councilman Follick, seconded by Councilman Lewis, to approve Ordinance 21-10 in the second reading. All members present voted yes. Ordinance 21-10 was approved 6-0 in the second reading.

Ordinances – Emergency:

21-11 An Ordinance Approving Individual Assessments Amounts And Directing The Finance Director Or Her Designee To Certify The Amounts To The County Auditor For Collection And Declaring An Emergency. **Mr. McDonald** read Ordinance 21-11 by title in an emergency reading. **Mr. Wendt** advised this emergency ordinance assesses properties for delinquent accounts related to storm

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water fees, trash collection, & sewer and water. There were no comments or questions during the public hearing. It was moved by Councilman Blakesly, seconded by Councilwoman Farst, to approve Ordinance 21-11 in an emergency reading. All members present voted yes. Ordinance 21-11 was approved 6-0 in an emergency reading.

Reports from Boards and Commissions:

Board of Zoning Appeals Minutes: April 14, 2021

Planning Commission Minutes: April 27, 2021

Vice Mayor Ahlers reviewed the April Purchasing Card Detail in the amount of \$16,981.29. There were no comments or questions.

Council Comments:

Mr. Wendt expressed his gratitude to City Council and staff who participated in the May 12 goal setting retreat. He shared the City is on the cusp of accomplishing great things because of decades of practice and good financial stewardship.

Councilman Blakesly recognized Lieutenant Swafford's thirteen years of dedication to the Division of Police and noted some of the Division's programs that Lt. Swafford established; **Councilman Blakesly** congratulated Captain Stitzel, Division of Fire, on his upcoming retirement and wished them both well. He recognized Mr. Wendt for his efforts at the May 12 Council retreat and noted he left inspired. **Councilman Blakesly** also recognized that the retreats are special meetings where Council has an opportunity to prepare the City's future and where work really gets done.

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Councilwoman Woods recognized and congratulated Lt. Swafford on his service and dedication to the City of Vandalia. She moved to excuse Mayor Herbst from voting this evening. The motion was seconded by Councilman Blakesly. All members present voted yes. Motion passed 6-0.

Councilman Lewis referenced the Dixie Drive road closure this past weekend. He recognized Superintendent of Public Works Steve Nickels and staff as well as the Police Department for all their roadway and traffic efforts. **Councilman Lewis** commented Mr. Wendt has brought a real breath of fresh air and a number of ideas. He feels the city is poised to do a number of great things.

Councilman Follick congratulated Lt. Dan Swafford on his upcoming retirement and wished him the best in his retirement. He also recognized Capt. Dan Stitzel on his retirement and congratulated him as moving on to the Chief at the Dayton International Airport. **Councilman Follick** advised the audience last week was *National Police Week*. He explained in 2020 there was an increase in Police Officer deaths. He continued by noting in 2020 there were four police officer deaths in Ohio. He recognized each Ohio officer killed in the line of duty in Ohio by name and department. **Councilman Follick** advised the audience Parks and Recreation Director Clark was recently recognized at a Butler Baseball game for his twenty-nine years as a volunteer high school baseball coach. He thanked Mr. Clark for serving the community and representing the city in another capacity.

Councilwoman Farst recognized and congratulated Lt. Swafford on his upcoming retirement, and noted that he will be missed. She advised the audience the week of May 24 is *Paint the City Purple and Gold Week*, and noted the district is urging the community to show the colors in recognition of district staff and holding a successful

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in-person school year during the pandemic. **Councilwoman Farst** shared the Arts Council is planning at least three musical events at the Art Park during June, July and August.

Vice Mayor Ahlers congratulated and recognized Lt. Swafford for his dedication and congratulated him on his upcoming retirement. **Vice Mayor Ahlers** commented on the May 12 Council Retreat and shared that Mr. Wendt's presentation was extremely thorough and he is very excited about the future of the City.

Executive Session

The purpose of the Executive Session is to discuss and consider the possible purchase or sale of real property and to discuss and to consider the employment, discipline, promotion, or compensation of a public employee.

No Executive Session was held.

The regular Council Meeting was then adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

APPROVED:

Richard Herbst, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Missy Pruszynski, Deputy Clerk of Council

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