

The Council of the City of Vandalia Meeting Minutes

May 19, 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, Angela Swartz, Rob Cron, Thai Do, Mike Hammes, Ben Borton, Leann Hanf, Brandon Sucher, Bridgette Leiter, Jake Hayslett, Ben Walker, Brian Krimm, Larry Doogan, Barbara Spurgeon, Don Hutchison, Nick Kavalauskas, Gary Harper, Jeremy Casinger, Dave Arnold, Tory Elrich, Kaitlyn Overman, Matthew Decker

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 March 17, 2025, and the Council Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2025, were approved as presented.

Communications, Petitions and Awards:

Proclamations Recognizing the Vandalia-Butler Veteran Service Organizations

Councilmember Follick read and presented a proclamation to members of the American Legion Post 668 and recognized AmVets Post 99 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9582, honoring their support of the community and the Veterans Parkway Banner Project. **Councilmember Follick** recognized Nick Kavalauskas and staff at the Vandalia Butler Chamber of Commerce who help administer the program, taking the orders and processing the payments. **Councilmember Follick** recognized Bulter Township, who has partnered with the City of Vandalia on this project. **Councilmember Follick** recognized Speedpro, who has supported the program with printing the banners quickly and on short timelines. **Councilmember Follick** recognized the City of Vandalia and Butler Township Public Works staff who put the banners up before Memorial Day, maintain them throughout the year and take them down after Veterans Day. **Councilmember Follick** recognized Dave Arnold, a Vandalia resident, who has been instrumental in this program with his background in marketing and graphic design, donating hundreds of hours to design the banners and improving photographs. **Councilmember Follick** noted the program would not have been successful without Mr. Arnold.

Introduction and Oath of Office: Police Officer Kaitlyn Overman

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Mr. Althouse introduced and administered the Oath of Office to Police Officer Kaitlyn Overman who began employment May 19, 2025.

Introduction: Public Works Technician Matthew Decker

Mr. Althouse introduced Public Works Technician Matthew Decker who began employment May 5, 2025.

Mr. Althouse shared that today is Elected Officials Day, a time where we recognize those individuals who speak and act on behalf of the community. These are the leaders who sometimes face pressure, make tough choices, but work their hardest to improve lives through laws and local action. **Mr. Althouse** noted that the City of Vandalia's Elected Officials often work long hours and juggle complex tasks without much praise. **Mr. Althouse** asked that today, the focus be shifted to thank all Councilmembers, pausing to let them know how much their dedication is appreciated, realizing that decisions sometimes do not come easy. **Mr. Althouse** and **Mrs. Swartz** offered a small token of Staffs' appreciation and recognized the service Council provides.

Mayor Herbst thanked Staff and the Councilmembers for serving.

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 City is hosting a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Vandalia Art Park Amphitheater and Summer Kickoff Event on Thursday, May 22, 2025, from 6:00-8:00 pm. This event is open to the public. **Mr. Althouse** shared City offices will be closed on Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day. The Recreation Center will be open from 7:00 a.m. to noon – fitness area, track, and gymnasium only. **Mr. Althouse** shared

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City Council established a summer schedule for Council meetings, which is one meeting a month on the third Monday of the month for June, July and August. The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Action Item:

Mr. Althouse advised Council enclosed in their Council packets was the application of Mary Zellmer, who is requesting an appointment to the Vandalia Arts Council. There were no questions or comments from Council. It was moved by Councilmember Aivalotis-Weaver, second by Councilmember Follick to approve the appointment of Mary Zellmer to the Vandalia Arts Council. Motion passed 7-0.

Old Business: None

Resolutions: None

Ordinances – First Reading:

25-11 An Ordinance Providing For The Issuance And Sale Of Notes In The Maximum Principal Amount Of \$1,272,000, In Anticipation Of The Issuance Of Bonds, To Provide Moneys For The Retirement Of The City's Outstanding Taxable Land Acquisition Notes, Series 2024, And Declaring An Emergency. **Mr. McDonald** read Ordinance 25-11 by title. **Mr. Althouse** 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. **Mr. Althouse** advised Council 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 were no comments or questions from Council. It was moved by Councilmember Lewis, second by Councilmember Doogan to approve Ordinance 25-11, motion passed 7-0.

25-12 An Ordinance Providing For The Issuance And Sale Of Notes In The Maximum Aggregate Principal Amount Of \$865,000, In Anticipation Of The Issuance Of Bonds, To Provide Moneys For The Retirement Of The City's Outstanding Various Purpose Notes, Series 2024, And Declaring An Emergency. **Mr. McDonald** read Ordinance 25-12 by title. **Mr. Althouse** 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. **Mr. Althouse** advised 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

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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. **Mr. Althouse** advised the debt on the Fire Engine is scheduled to be paid in full in 2026, and year 2031 for the Fire Ladder Truck. There were no comments or questions from Council. It was moved by Councilmember Doogan, second by Councilmember Farst to approve Ordinance 25-12, motion passed 7-0.

Ordinances – Second Reading:

25-09 An Ordinance Naming The Vandalia Art Park Amphitheater In Honor Of Bill Jergens. **Mr. McDonald** read Ordinance 25-09 by title. **Mr. Althouse** advised at the April 7th Study Session, Mayor Herbst appointed an Adhoc Committee, the Vandalia Arts Council, to review the suggested renaming of the new Amphitheater in the Art Park in honor of Bill Jergens, founder of R. B. Jergens Contractors. On April 10th, the Adhoc Committee met for this purpose. Included in your packets is the Adhoc Committee/Vandalia Arts Council meeting minutes of April 10, 2025, with their recommendation to Council, and a request letter from the Vandalia Rotary. At the May 5th Council Meeting, formal action was taken in the form of an Ordinance with a first reading and tonight, a second reading, and final adoption. There were no comments or questions during the public hearing. There were no comments or questions from Council. It was moved by Vice Mayor Blakesly, second by Councilmember Farst to approve Ordinance 25-09, motion passed 7-0.

25-10 An Ordinance Expressing The City's Intent To Negotiate Jointly With Other Cities In The Region On A One Price Schedule Under Which Electric Light Services Shall Be Furnished To The Residents Of The City For The Purpose Of Street Lighting. **Mr. McDonald** read Ordinance 25-10 by title. **Mr. Althouse** advised Council the City's street light contract with Miami Valley Lighting and DPL Energy Resources, Inc. (nka "AES Ohio") expires on December 31, 2025. The current contract is a 10-year contract that took effect on January 1, 2016. MVCC in the past has taken the lead in negotiating the street light contract for its member cities and affiliate members. The estimated cost of professional services associated with this set of negotiations is \$60,000. MVCC will cover one-third of those costs and any additional fees, and the participating jurisdictions will pay the remaining costs based upon population. The City of Vandalia estimated participation cost is \$1,195. It is recommended that a regional coalition be established and negotiate the upcoming streetlight contract. This regional coalition would allow for a uniform approach to the upcoming contract negotiations, provide leverage in negotiating reasonable rates and provisions for streetlight services and ensure consistent contract

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provisions for cities across the region. **Mr. Althouse** recommended the City participate in the regional coalition to negotiate the upcoming streetlight contract. This approach will provide the resources and regional representation needed to negotiate a reasonable and competitive contract. There were no comments or questions during the public hearing. There were no comments or questions from Council. It was moved by Councilmember Follick, second by Vice Mayor Blakesly to approve Ordinance 25-10, motion passed 7-0.

Ordinances – Emergency Reading: None

Reports from Boards and Commissions:

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

Mr. Althouse 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 were no comments or questions from Council. It was moved by Councilmember Lewis, second by Councilmember Aivalotis-Weaver to approve the Variance for an accessory structure total area at 221 North American, motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Herbst called for comments or questions on the Civil Service Minutes of April 9, 2025, Board of Zoning Appeals Minutes of April 23, 2025, and Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2025. There were none.

Mayor Herbst reviewed the April 2025 Bill Listing \$2,414,642.30, Monthly Expenses over \$25,000 and Monthly Purchasing Card Detail in the amount of \$30,290.20. There were no comments or questions from Council.

Council Comments

Mr. Althouse shared it was an honor to attend the Memorial program at the High School on Friday, noting they did a fantastic job honoring the service of our military personnel in our community and remembering the Vandalia-Butler graduates who gave the ultimate sacrifice. **Mr. Althouse** shared the Veterans' banners look fabulous and they do a great

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job honoring those who have served and have beautified the community. **Mr. Althouse** thanked Council for the opportunity to attend the Dayton Development Coalition Fly-In last week, noting there were a lot of great conversations, great presentations and networking opportunities.

Councilmember Follick extended his condolences to the families of two longtime City employees, Carl Curry, a retired Police Sergeant and Mike Kimberl, known as Officer Mike, who was involved in the Passport to Safety Program. **Councilmember Follick** recognized Ron Adkins and Kevin Keeley, who are stepping down from the Planning Commission, thanking them both for their service on the Planning Commission for a number of years. **Councilmember Follick** recognized Steve Clark, who is retiring after 37 years of service with the City of Vandalia, to which 20 of these years as the Parks and Recreation Director. **Councilmember Follick** shared Mr. Clark has had a tremendous amount of influence on the success of the Parks and Recreation department, sharing when he first met Mr. Clark in 1988, noting he was a mentor and has become a good friend. **Councilmember Follick** congratulated Mr. Clark on a well deserved retirement.

Councilmember Farst shared at the Art Park Amphitheater dedication to Mr. Jergens, the Michelle Robinson Band will be playing from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., encouraging everyone to come and enjoy the event.

Councilmember Aivalotis-Weaver congratulated the new employees, thanked Council for the opportunity to attend the Fly-In with Mayor Herbst and City Manager Althouse, noting it was a great event. **Councilmember Aivalotis-Weaver** shared the City has a lot of great events coming up, such as the Vandalia Market at the Rec Center, the Art Park Amphitheater Ribbon Cutting and the Memorial Day Service on Monday at 11:00 a.m. at the Rec Center. **Councilmember Aivalotis-Weaver** shared she attended the Memorial program at the High School on Friday as well and shared this coming Friday, she will be attending a new, free training on Economic Development and Policy in Columbus. She closed by wishing everyone a nice, safe week.

Councilmember Doogan welcomed Kaitlyn and Matt, congratulated Steve Clark on his well deserved retirement and shared she will miss everyone for the next couple of months and hopes to be back for the August meeting if she is recuperated enough.

Councilmember Lewis congratulated Steve Clark on his retirement, noting he has been a great servant of the City and is a good man. **Councilmember Lewis** noted Bill Jergens provided a lot of support for the Art Park, he was a good man and feels it is very appropriate that the Amphitheater be named in his honor. **Councilmember Lewis** thanked Councilmember Follick, Nick Kavalauskas and Dave Arnold for the Veterans

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Banner Program initiative, noting the banners are really great in the City and speak to the sense of community.

Vice Mayor Blakesly echoed everything that has been said, and thanked Councilmember Follick for initiating the Veterans Banner Program, which is a nice way to honor all our Veterans. **Vice Mayor Blakesly** thanked staff for the recognition of Elected Officials Day.

Mayor Herbst echoed everything that has been said, congratulating Mr. Clark for all the years of service he has provided to the City of Vandalia and welcomed the two new staff members Kaitlyn and Matthew. **Mayor Herbst** shared the Memorial Program at the High School was a tremendous event. **Mayor Herbst** wished Barbara Spurgeon a very Happy Birthday.

Mr. Althouse shared with Council that Steve Clark will be attending the June 19th Council Meeting to be recognized for his years of service.

At 7:39 pm, **Mayor Herbst** advised it was recommended that Council enter into Executive Session to discuss with the City Attorney pending or imminent court action. It was moved by Councilmember Lewis, second by Councilmember Follick, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss with the City Attorney pending or imminent court action. All members present voted yes. Motion passed 7-0.

Executive Session adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

The Regular meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

APPROVED:

Richard Herbst, Mayor

ATTEST:

Angela Swartz, Deputy Clerk of Council

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