

The Blue Letter

January 17, 2025

Honorable Mayor & Esteemed City Councilmembers:

City Office Closed - City offices will be closed Monday, **January 20, 2025**, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The Vandalia Recreation Center will be open regular hours.

The Vandalia City Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

Tuesday, January 21, 2025, Council Meeting - The Study Session will begin at 5:15 p.m. The Council meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.

Reminder of Snow Removal

With more snow predicted in the weather forecast, the City of Vandalia is asking residents to do their part to help us all get through the blustery conditions.

- Make sure your sidewalks are cleared as soon as it is practical. City ordinances require property and business owners to keep their sidewalks clear of snow.
- Move your car off the street when snowfall is heavy enough for the plows to be out. By parking in your garage or driveway, you'll help us clear the snow more quickly and your car won't be stranded at the curb.
- When clearing snow from driveways or sidewalks, do not move snow into the street. This creates an obstacle/hazard for passing motorists and makes the roads extra slippery.
- Give the snowplow plenty of room to operate. The plow driver's field of vision is limited. If you can't see the plow truck's side mirrors, the truck driver can't see you. Always stay two to three car lengths behind the plow. Snowplows travel well below the posted speed limit. Be patient and provide plow drivers the room they need to complete their work. Try not to pass the plow. Watch for sudden stops or turns.

Study Session:

Tuesday, January 21, 2025, Items:

Items on this evening's Council Meeting agenda

Resolution: 2024 Montgomery County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan - This resolution will allow us to continue our participation in the Montgomery County Emergency Management Authority's multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Hazard Mitigation Plan includes all hazards to which Montgomery County and its municipalities are susceptible as per Section 322 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The plan

includes goals, objectives, and strategies to mitigate against the hazards that have been identified in the County, including the City of Vandalia, have been developed and mitigation measures for the city and surrounding areas have been analyzed and prioritized and then worked into the City's Emergency Operations Plan. The City of Vandalia commits to implement the actions to the extent feasible and in a manner consistent with the City of Vandalia's needs, resources, and responsibilities to lessen the vulnerability of the community to the impacts of disasters, as established in the 2024 Montgomery County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Tornado warning and public notification has been the project we have committed to for the past 5-8 years; we continue to work to identify funding that would assist us or allow us to cover the cost of adding two (2) outdoor warning sirens in the area of City Building, St. Christopher, or Jeffers Park. Second, to add a siren (that could be cost shared with the County) to an area near Art Van Atta or the Dog Park.

Ordinance: Assessments October, November, and December - This emergency ordinance assesses properties for delinquent accounts related to storm water fees, trash collection, delinquent sewer & water, weed cutting and property maintenance.

Monday, February 3, 2025, Items:

Resolution: Curb/Sidewalk Award - Bids were publicly opened for the Removal and Replacement of Certain Curbs and Sidewalks on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. Four (4) sets of specifications were issued, and three (3) contractors submitted acceptable bids for the project. Bids ranged from \$420,930.00 to \$628,750.00. Director Borton recommends awarding the contract for this project to Coate Construction LLC out of West Milton, OH as the lowest and best bid at their bid price of \$420,930.00.

Resolution: Kenneth Avenue Watermain Replacement & Resurfacing Award - Bids were publicly opened for Kenneth Avenue Watermain Replacement & Resurfacing project on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. Eleven (11) sets of specifications were issued, and ten (10) contractors submitted acceptable bids for the project. Bids ranged from \$550,000.00 to \$675,360.50. Director Borton recommends awarding the contract for this project to Sturm Construction Inc. out of Sidney, OH as the lowest and best bid at their bid price of \$550,000.00.

Resolution: Water Meter Purchase - Public Works crews have been installing the new ultrasonic meters that we have in stock as our current meters and transmitters continue to fail at a rapid pace. To date, we have ordered ~4500 of the roughly 5,700 water meters in operation in the City. In the 2025 Capital Improvement Budget, we have appropriated a total of \$500,000 in the Water and Sanitary Sewer funds to purchase more water meters to continue the multi-year citywide replacement. Director Borton recommends we purchase more Badger E-Series Ultrasonic Meters from Buckeye State Pipe & Supply Company, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$500,000. This will cover the cost of approximately 1,000 more residential and commercial meters and appurtenances.

Ordinance: PC25-0001 – PUD - Addison Properties Development– S. Brown School Road - The applicant, Addison Properties, has requested the creation of a Planned Unit Development district and the approval of a Preliminary Plan for the Riverdale Subdivision. The proposed PUD involves three parcels totaling 84.8 acres currently located in the A – Agriculture district. The parcels are located at 7848 South Brown School Road. On January 14th, 2025, the Planning Commission voted 3-1 to recommend approval of the creation of the PUD district. The Planning Commission also voted 3-1 to recommend approval of the proposed Preliminary Plan for the development.

Discussion Items:

Boards & Commissions Appointments - At the February 3 Council Meeting, you will be asked to consider the

appointment of Steve Stefanidis to the Board of Zoning Appeals and Steven Ponscheck to the Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council Board. I have attached the applications for your review. Both appear to be well qualified, and excited to contribute to the Vandalia community. Mr. Stefanidis and Mr. Ponscheck will be in attendance at the January 21 Study Session to meet Council and answer any questions Council may have.

2025 Flock Safety Agreement - The Vandalia Division of Police has twelve public safety cameras throughout the city that are maintained by Flock Safety to capture vehicle and license plate images as a criminal investigation tool for patrol officers and investigators. As part of our capital budget, the Police Division has an annual maintenance agreement with Flock Safety for these twelve cameras at \$30,000.00 which was approved as part of 2025 budget.

Outfront Media Lease – Mr. McDonald will give Council an update on the status of the Outfront Media Lease.

Update on AT&T Proposed Tariff Revision to Require Municipalities to Pay for Relocation of Utilities – On Dec. 18, AT&T filed a proposed tariff request with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) that impacts governmental entities, including municipalities. The revision would require any governmental entity requesting the relocation and undergrounding of communications facilities existing in a public right of way to pay the cost incurred by AT&T for such a relocation. On January 16, AT&T withdrew their position from PUCO after concerns from Ohio Municipal League. This is for information only.

Fire Training Center Site - The Division of Fire has identified the need for a fire (and possibly) police training center, with monies that have been set aside from the sale of the “old” Fire Station on Dixie Drive. We have completed some of the initial planning on a site on Webster Street near Benchwood Road. The Division of Fire has spent several years looking for partners and/or alternative funding opportunities. The City of Huber Heights has proposed a partnership with Vandalia and possibly Butler Township, at a site on Bridgewater Road in Huber Heights. The presentation at workshop will be to provide you with an overall explanation of what is needed, to give you an update on where we are in the planning of this facility, provide you with some pros and cons on sites, and/or to seek City Council’s guidance on how they would like us to proceed.

Legislative Calendar - The calendar is included in your packets for your review.

Council Meeting:

Communications, Petitions and Awards:

Introduction: Landon Oliver, Vandalia Recreation Custodian - Mr. Althouse will introduce Landon Oliver, Vandalia Recreation Custodian who began employment January 6, 2025.

Introduction and Oath of Office: Isabella Beam, Firefighter/EMT - Mr. Althouse will introduce and administer the Oath of Office to Isabella Beam, Firefighter/EMT who will begin employment January 22, 2025.

Introduction and Oath of Office: Mikayla Molesky, Firefighter/Paramedic - Mr. Althouse will introduce and administer the Oath of Office to Mikayla Molesky, Firefighter/Paramedic who will begin employment January 23, 2025.

Introduction and Oath of Office: Kyle Smith Firefighter/Paramedic - Mr. Althouse will introduce and administer the Oath of Office to Kyle Smith, Firefighter/Paramedic who will begin employment January 24, 2025.

Retirement Acknowledgement: Captain Chad Garver - Mr. Althouse will introduce and acknowledge Captain Chad Garver for his full-service retirement.

Retirement Acknowledgement: Officer Joseph Manning - Mr. Althouse will introduce and acknowledge Officer Joseph Manning for his full-service retirement.

Resolutions:

Resolution 25-R-07: Golf Course Rough Mower – The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting to purchase a Toro Groundsmaster 4000-D Rough Mower from Century Equipment/ A Jerry Pate Company through the Sourcewell Contract #031121-TTC a total cost of \$96,932.18. The 2025 capital budget has \$105,000 allocated for the purchase based on a price quote received during our budget preparation process. This specialty piece of equipment provides versatility when mowing fairway rough areas, following the contour of the terrain so there isn't scalping of turf. The golf maintenance division's current Rough Mower proposed for replacement is a 2016 Toro model with 2,227 hours of service.

Resolution 25-R-08: Golf Course Tee Mower - The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting to purchase a Toro Greensmaster 3150-Q Triplex Tee Mower from Century Equipment/A Jerry Pate Company through the Sourcewell Contract #031121-TTC a total cost of \$50,762.25. The 2025 capital budget has \$60,000 allocated for the purchase based on a price quote received during our budget preparation process. This specialty piece of equipment provides versatility in the ability to mow tees, green banks, and collars. The golf maintenance division's current Triplex Tee Mower is a 2007 Toro model with 3,685 hours of service.

Resolution 25-R-09: 2024 Montgomery County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan - This resolution will allow us to continue our participation in the Montgomery County Emergency Management Authority's multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Hazard Mitigation Plan includes all hazards to which Montgomery County and its municipalities are susceptible as per Section 322 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The plan includes goals, objectives, and strategies to mitigate against the hazards that have been identified in the County, including the City of Vandalia, have been developed and mitigation measures for the city and surrounding areas have been analyzed and prioritized and then worked into the City's Emergency Operations Plan. The City of Vandalia commits to implement the actions to the extent feasible and in a manner consistent with the City of Vandalia's needs, resources, and responsibilities to lessen the vulnerability of the community to the impacts of disasters, as established in the 2024 Montgomery County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Tornado warning and public notification has been the project we have committed to for the past 5-8 years; we continue to work to identify funding that would assist us or allow us to cover the cost of adding two (2) outdoor warning sirens in the area of City Building, St. Christopher, or Jeffers Park. Second, to add a siren (that could be cost shared with the County) to an area near Art Van Atta or the Dog Park.

Ordinance – Emergency Reading:

Ordinance 25-01: Assessments October, November, and December - This emergency ordinance assesses properties for delinquent accounts related to storm water fees, trash collection, delinquent sewer & water, weed cutting and property maintenance.

December 2024 Bill Listing – Vice Mayor Blakesly will deliver the December 2024 Bill Listing.

The next Council meeting is on **Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 7:00 pm**. The meeting will be an in-person meeting in the Council Chambers at 333 James E. Bohanan Memorial Drive, Vandalia, OH 45377. The meeting is open to Council, staff, and the public to attend in-person. The meetings will be accessible for viewing through Zoom. You may contact the City at 937-415-2256 or aswartz@vandaliaohio.org for the phone number and link to this meeting. Please note, in

compliance with Ohio Revised Code, no comments, electronic or oral, will be allowed by people that are participating electronically through Zoom. Anyone wishing to be heard on a topic will need to appear personally at the meeting. **The Study Session will begin at 5:15 pm followed by the City Council Meeting at 7:00 pm.**

Please contact me directly with comments and questions.

Very Respectfully,

Kurt E. Althouse
Interim City Manager

CC: Board and Commission Members
All City Employees

Attachments:

1. December 2024 crime stats review summary

Memorandum



To: City Council Members
From: Kurt E. Althouse, Police Chief
Date: January 13, 2025
Subject: December 2024 Crime Statistical Report Summary

Total calls for service to the Communications Center remained unchanged at 969 calls in December 2023 and 969 calls in December 2024. There were 866 citizen-initiated calls for service (up 1%), and there were 103 officer-initiated calls (down 8%) in December 2024.

VPD investigated no homicides or rapes in December 2024 and investigated one robbery during December. There were two assaults, and three domestic violence offenses reported in December 2024 compared to three assaults and six domestic violence offenses in December 2023. Domestic violence cases decreased by three during December, and they are down over 25% YTD with 49 incidents in 2024 compared to 66 incidents in 2023. Assaults are down 11% with 41 assaults reported in 2024 compared to 46 assaults during the same period in 2023.

There were four burglaries reported in December 2024 compared to four burglaries reported in December 2023. In 2024, burglaries/breaking & entering incidents increased by one offense, felony thefts decreased 1.8% for a total of 112 offenses, auto thefts are up 34.2% for a total of 51 offenses, and misdemeanor thefts increased by 33.3% for a total of 96 offenses. Many of these thefts and breaking & entering offenses are attributed to thefts from vehicles left unlocked or unsecured and committed by teen suspects who often target neighborhoods overnight.

There were six criminal damaging/vandalism complaints in December 2024, up from three incidents last December. Criminal damaging and vandalism offenses are up 1.5% YTD compared to last year for a total of 68 incidents this year. VPD officers have focused on being visible in residential and business areas of the city to display a police presence and prevent crime. Officers made no felony drug arrests, and three misdemeanor drug arrests in December 2024 compared to no felony drug arrests and one misdemeanor drug arrest in December 2023.

VPD made more arrests in December 2024 with ten felony arrests and 14 misdemeanor arrests compared to nine felony arrests and 13 misdemeanor arrests last December. VPD officers charged six juveniles with an offense in December 2024, compared to three juveniles in December 2023. There is a 17% decrease in

juvenile arrests in 2024. These charges have primarily included sex offenses, domestic violence, drug and/or alcohol violations, and thefts.

During December, VPD officers made 257 traffic stops while patrolling Vandalia's roadways, a 14.3% decrease. These stops resulted in 38 citations, 179 written warnings, 38 verbal warnings, and two stops with other dispositions. Speed citations and other citations are down 1.1% in 2024, while OVI arrests increased 27% in 2024 compared to 2023 with a total of 47 arrests in 2024. Parking citations decreased from three parking citations in December 2023 to one parking citation in December 2024. These parking citations have primarily been on violations of commercial vehicles parked in restricted areas on highway exit ramps.

VPD officers investigated 27 traffic crashes in December 2024, compared to 20 traffic crashes investigated in December 2023. Overall, traffic crashes are up 1.2% in 2024 compared to 2023. Officers will continue to patrol Vandalia's roadways and work traffic enforcement to keep our roadways safe and reduce traffic crashes.

Officers responded to more alarm drops than a year ago with an increase from 51 business and residential alarms in December 2023 to 73 alarms in December 2024. Overall, alarm drops for 2024 are up 2% compared to 2023.

Overall, 2024 has seen a decrease in robbery, assault, residential burglary, felony theft, misdemeanor drug use, and domestic violence. There has been an increase, predominantly in property crimes, such as breaking & entering, misdemeanor theft, criminal damaging, and auto theft. There has been a decrease in arrests and a slight increase in traffic crashes and alarm drops. VPD officers will remain focused on patrol activities, crime prevention, and traffic enforcement while addressing community concerns related to these areas to keep our city a great place to live, work, and play.

City of Vandalia Division of Police
Monthly Crime Statistical Report
December 2024

CATEGORY	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y-T-D	2023 Y-T-D	% Change	% Clear
How Calls Received:																
Total Calls for Service	927	931	997	1104	1106	1080	1149	1066	1118	1097	991	969	12535	12798	-2.1%	N/A
Citizen Initiated = 866	86.08%	88.61%	87.96%	89.04%	90.87%	86.76%	87.99%	88.37%	84.88%	87.10%	86.98%	89.37%	10144	10985	-7.7%	N/A
Officer Initiated = 103	13.92%	11.39%	12.04%	10.96%	9.13%	13.24%	12.01%	11.63%	15.12%	12.85%	13.02%	10.63%	1421	1813	-21.6%	N/A
9-1-1 Call = 291	31.61%	32.44%	33.70%	25.97%	30.29%	26.94%	26.46%	26.92%	29.87%	26.90%	27.04%	30.03%	3325	3836	-13.3%	N/A
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	100.00%
Rape	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	10	5	100.0%	60.00%
Robbery	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	-50.0%	50.00%
Assault	2	6	3	12	4	3	6	1	1	0	1	2	41	46	-10.9%	78.05%
Burglary/B&E Total	1	3	2	3	0	5	3	3	7	3	3	4	37	36	2.8%	81.08%
Residence	0	2	2	2	0	2	2	1	4	2	2	3	22	24	-8.3%	86.36%
Non-residence	1	1	0	1	0	3	1	2	3	1	1	1	15	12	25.0%	66.67%
Theft - Felony	5	7	10	8	8	12	17	14	16	8	6	1	112	114	-1.8%	74.11%
Theft - Misd	7	10	8	8	7	7	7	11	6	7	10	8	96	72	33.3%	90.63%
Motor Veh Theft	4	2	1	5	4	6	7	3	4	6	6	3	51	38	34.2%	64.71%
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-100.0%	100.00%
Crim Dam & Vandal	1	4	8	8	8	4	6	9	1	7	6	6	68	67	1.5%	51.47%
Drug Offenses (Fel)	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	12	6	100.0%	66.67%
Drug Offenses (Misd)	2	3	0	1	2	4	0	0	1	1	1	3	18	33	-45.5%	50.00%
Domestic Violence	7	4	5	4	1	5	5	3	3	5	4	3	49	66	-25.8%	87.76%
Totals	33	40	39	52	36	46	53	46	42	38	40	31	496	488	1.6%	79.84%

City of Vandalia Division of Police
Monthly Crime Statistical Report
December 2024

CATEGORY	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y-T-D	2023 Y-T-D	% CHG
Criminal Arrests:															
Felony	10	5	7	6	6	7	4	5	6	6	1	10	73	73	0.00%
Misdemeanor	14	15	24	29	19	22	25	19	15	12	15	14	223	256	-12.89%
Juvenile	3	5	1	7	7	2	2	3	6	4	8	6	54	65	-16.92%
Total	27	25	32	42	32	31	31	27	27	22	24	30	350	394	-11.17%
Traffic Stops:															
Stops with Citations	48	51	61	42	32	29	35	25	20	31	27	38	439	439	0.00%
Stops with Written Warnings	186	176	182	159	169	133	131	156	204	241	163	179	2079	2068	0.53%
Stops with Verbal Warnings	76	76	88	82	75	99	67	61	45	36	51	38	794	710	11.83%
Stops with Other Dispositions	5	5	2	4	2	4	5	1	1	6	5	2	42	54	-22.22%
Total Traffic Stops	315	308	333	287	278	265	238	243	270	314	246	257	3354	3271	2.54%
Traffic Arrests/Citations:															
OVI	5	1	7	5	3	4	4	4	6	4	1	3	47	37	27.03%
Speed	16	23	36	19	18	13	15	12	8	20	14	16	210	271	-22.51%
All Other	82	75	92	62	54	56	61	56	53	46	53	62	752	702	7.12%
Parking	9	3	6	10	5	7	1	2	3	1	2	1	50	175	-71.43%
TOTAL	112	102	141	96	80	80	81	74	70	71	70	82	1059	1185	-10.63%
Traffic Accidents Investigated:															
Fatal	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	100.00%
Injury	5	4	6	7	3	8	5	8	7	5	5	8	71	66	7.58%
Property Damage	10	16	15	11	17	13	16	10	23	15	16	19	181	184	-1.63%
TOTAL	15	20	22	18	20	21	21	18	30	20	21	27	253	250	1.20%
Alarms:															
Business	38	48	37	51	51	59	64	68	64	47	53	62	642	640	0.31%
Residential	5	6	6	9	8	7	9	7	11	7	11	11	97	84	15.48%
TOTAL	43	54	43	60	59	66	73	75	75	54	64	73	739	724	2.07%