

**MINUTES OF THE  
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**  
September 25, 2023

President Jerry Mazur called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Frank Howard gave the invocation.

On call of the roll: Marshall, Kallas, Bowers, Agler, Stinnett, Moore and Davis were present.

Davis made a motion to amend the Consent Agenda. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Davis made a motion to approve the amended Consent Agenda, Agler seconded; all concurred.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**MAYOR:** Blighted properties #11 and #12 have begun. No other properties will be started until one of the current properties is completed.

Starting October 1, the Police Department will offer golf cart and low speed vehicle inspections by appointment only at no charge to the public. There is no ordinance needed by the city council as the inspection will be done for free.

The Mayor has received notice from Rick McCoy and the EMA who have asked to spread the word that on October 4th at 2:20 p.m. a nationwide test of the emergency alert system and wireless emergency alerts will be done.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Fleming indicated that the city's water meter replacement project is getting close to completion with only a couple hundred problems still being worked out. The completion is on track to being done by the end of the year.

Fleming asked that an ordinance be prepared for paving on U.S. 127 from the Mercer County line to the hospital.

Fleming also asked that an ordinance be prepared for paving on Lincoln Highway from State Route 49 to John Brown Road.

Agler asked Fleming how figures came about for water and sewer bill amounts. He would like to find a better way to bill for water and sewer that is more fair to all residents. Fleming explained it is in the sewer budget which came from looking at the entire city and the average number of household members.

**AUDITOR:** Not present

**LAW DIRECTOR:** The Law Director discussed the Ohio Ethics Commission Ethics Law which prohibits elected officials in statutory cities from receiving an increase in compensation when they know they will be re-elected due to having no opponent. This would include Julie Moore and Bill Marshall who are unopposed for their seats and a substantive vote could be considered a violation per that Ethics Commission. The vote to suspend rules is a procedural not substantive vote.

## **COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS**

Councilman Davis wanted to thank everyone that assisted in the Harvest Moon as it was a great success.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY:** No report

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** No report

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Flag football is still going on and everyone is invited to go show their support.

**FINANCE:** Agler made a motion to introduce Ordinance 23-09-048. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to introduce Ordinance 23-08-049. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to introduce Ordinance 23-09-050. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

**PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT:** No report.

Stinnett has contacted the Van Wert Humane Society who indicated that from May to August the City Police brought in 69 dogs and the county dropped off an additional 30 dogs. He asked all councilmembers to contact the shelter to ask if they are in need of anything.

**STREETS AND ALLEYS:** Moore asked that an ordinance be prepared as an emergency for paving on U.S. 127 from the Mercer County line to the hospital. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Moore asked that an ordinance be prepared as an emergency for paving on Lincoln Highway from State Route 49 to John Brown Road. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Moore indicated that she had received a call from a resident at 420 South Vine Street as the storm drain was not working properly. While there she noticed many large weeds. Fleming will look into it.

Moore also asked Fleming to look into the alley behind 216 South Franklin Street and ask that the potholes be repaired.

**JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION:** No reports

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC:**

Davis indicated that as the two ordinances dealing with preparing ordinances and the other concerning timelines for deciding the salary of the mayor did not pass, they still need to be addressed. This led to a conversation with Stinnett who insisted council members should just follow the existing rules. Mazur and Kallas agreed with Davis that rules have to change with the times.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

The intersection of Frothingham and Race Streets is still being reviewed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:** None

**RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:**

**ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-08-045;** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND VAN WERT CITY ORDINANCES SECTION 30.01 RULE 14(A), AND RULE 15(A)(2) was read on its Third and Final Reading. Marshall, Kallas, Agler and Davis voted yes. Bowers, Stinnett and Moore voted no. Ordinance failed.

**ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-08-046;** AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH VAN WERT ORDINANCES SECTION 30.01 RULE 31(A)-(C) was read on its Third and Final Reading. Marshall, Kallas, Agler and Davis voted yes. Bowers, Stinnett and Moore voted no. Ordinance failed.

Agler made a motion to introduce **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-09-048;** Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to suspend statutory rules for **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-09-048;** Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to pass as an emergency **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-09-048;** AN ORDINANCE TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM FUND 101 TO FUNDS 208 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Stinnett seconded; all concurred. Ordinance Passed.

Agler made a motion to introduce **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-09-049;** Stinnett seconded; all concurred.



Agler made a motion to suspend statutory rules for ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-09-049; Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to pass as an emergency ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-09-049; AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO FUNDS 101, 208, 215, 301, 502, 601, 602, 701 and 875, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Stinnett seconded; all concurred. Ordinance Passed.

Agler made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-09-050; Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

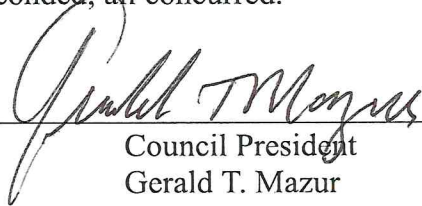
Agler made a motion to suspend statutory rules for ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-09-050; Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to pass as an emergency ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-09-050; AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE SALARY FOR THE POSITIONS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT. Stinnett seconded. Kallas, Bowers, Agler, Stinnett and Davis voted yes. Marshall and Moore abstained. Ordinance Passed.

Kallas made a motion to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. Bowers seconded; all concurred.



Clerk of Council  
Lisa K. Hartsock



Council President  
Gerald T. Mazur

October 9, 2023  
DATE