

**MINUTES OF THE  
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**  
March 11, 2024

Council President Thad Eikenbary called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Judy Bowers gave the invocation.

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

Agler made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**MAYOR:** A letter was read regarding the speakers that were located at 113 W. Main and owned by Main Street Van Wert. A trial was concluded and the jury found the defendant not guilty of removing the speakers. The Mayor's interpretation of the verdict is the City does not have the right to use speakers near a building if the owner resides in the building and does not want the speakers. The speakers at 113 W. Main will be removed. Main Street Van Wert and the City will need to consider how to handle future requests.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Not present

**AUDITOR:** The Auditor gave her report on January and February with positive balances for both months. All financial documents have been filed with the Auditor of State and will be available for the public. She noted the city is currently in good financial shape.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** The Law Director stated that there were 10-11 new cases this week in the Municipal Court for texting and driving. He reiterated that if the phone is in your hand, you will get a ticket. The fine for the first offense is \$150 and two points on your driving record. A second violation will double that amount. A first offense may take a distracted driving course which would take away the fine and the points but will still have to pay court costs.

The Law Director asks for an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to sign contracts with attorneys Peter R. Siebel and Shaun A. Putman for services as assistant law director by special appointment.

The Law Director asks for an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to sign contracts with the Van Wert Victims Services.

**COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:**

Mark Davis, 402 S. Tyler asked if bicyclists using their cell phone is against the law and the Law Director indicated that bicyclists cannot use their cell phones.

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main, stated he is glad that the speakers are coming down near his building.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE:** No report

**STREETS AND ALLEYS:** No report

**JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION:** Bowers had a conversation with the Law Director regarding the Dasher de-annexation. The Law Director stated that there was an issue with the Auditor's Office and it is being reviewed and will be fixed.

**PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT:** No report

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** The Parks Department's Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 30th at 10:00 a.m. Dettrow also stated there are several upcoming events and encouraged everyone to go to the Parks Department website and social media.

**HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY:** Moore indicated she has spoken with the Law Director and all blighted properties are moving forward.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** No report

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Kallas prepared a breakdown of committee meetings over the past several years showing from 2019 to present there have only been 13 committee meetings, averaging 2.45 per year. He questioned if the system is working as intended and is there a more effective system. Kallas asked council to review his data and suggested doing away with committees. He proposed having council on the whole meetings and if necessary put a committee together for a certain situation and then that committee will be dissolved.

A Council on the whole meeting has been scheduled to discuss the pool for April 1st immediately following the public hearing for rezoning scheduled for 6:15 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

## **RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:**

**Third and Final Reading for ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-02-009: AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND**

AWARD CONTRACTS TO THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDER FOR THE 2024 STREET PAINTING. All concurred. Ordinance passed.

Ringwald made a motion to prepare ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-03-013. Kallas seconded; All concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-03-013. Moore seconded; All concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to suspend statutory rules for ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-03-013. Moore seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to pass as an emergency ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-03-013; AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN CONTRACTS WITH ATTORNEY PETER R. SIEBEL AND SHAUN A. PUTMAN FOR SERVICES AS ASSISTANT LAW DIRECTOR BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENT; AND DECLARING THE SAME AS AN EMERGENCY. Moore seconded; all concurred. Ordinance Passed.


Ringwald made a motion to prepare ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-03-014. Moore seconded; All concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-03-014. Moore seconded; All concurred.

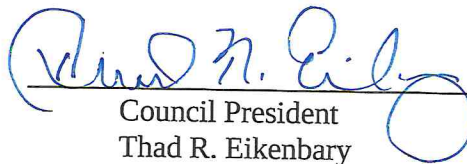
Ringwald made a motion to suspend statutory rules for ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-03-014. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to pass as an emergency ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-03-014; AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN CONTRACTS WITH VAN WERT VICTIMS SERVICES, INC; AND DECLARING THE SAME AS AN EMERGENCY. Marshall seconded; all concurred. Ordinance Passed.

Bowers made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Ringwald seconded; all concurred.



Clerk of Council  
Lisa K. Hartsock



Council President  
Thad R. Eikenbary

March 25, 2024  
DATE