

**MINUTES OF THE
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**

April 22, 2024

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

Pastor Gerald Baker gave the invocation.

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

Dettrow made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR: The Mayor indicated that there is an opening on the Board of Zoning Appeals after the resignation of Warren Foy. He is unable to confirm a selection at this time.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Fleming informed that Mark Barna, a city employee of the Waste Management Department for over 20 years, died unexpectedly. At retirement Mr. Barna would have received 50% of his sick time but was unable to give a retirement notice due to his unexpected death and will only be receiving 25%. Fleming asked that an ordinance be passed to allow the 50% of the available sick time. Agler asked for an ordinance to be prepared to allow 50% of the available sick time. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Fleming also informed that the Leeson Avenue project is progressing well.

Fleming announced that CenturyLink and Brightspeed have merged and announced they are going to rewire the entire city to fiber optics starting in June.

AUDITOR: Blackmore asked that nine supplemental appropriations be passed.

LAW DIRECTOR: The Law Director was pleased at the amount of public that attended the council on the whole meeting regarding the consumption of marijuana.

Agler asked the Law Director if DORA covers the consumption of marijuana. The Law Director will do research but noted in order to consume alcohol through DORA you have to buy the alcohol at a DORA establishment.

COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main, agrees marijuana needs to be prohibited in certain areas.

Andrew Davis - 1051 Linden, suggested that any ordinance needs to list the exact locations that marijuana cannot be consumed. He also suggested that the council should figure out a good location where any dispensary should be located.

Brent Stevens, Van Wert Economic Development Executive Director, was present and announced a buyer has been found for the spec building in the Vision Industrial Park. He cannot name the buyer at this time but it will offer 50 to 60 high tech jobs.

Stevens reported the first quarter has been a busy one with five site visits in one week and four of those wanted to come to Van Wert but were all interested in the same building.

He also stated that a truck wash company, Highway 30 Truck Wash, is to go up on 3.3 acres of land near John Brown Road along Vision Park.

On July 17 between 2-4, JobsOhio Group will be coming to Van Wert and a presentation will be done on the four sites available to get a site certificate. All stakeholders are invited.

Mark Davis, 402 S. Tyler indicated council should start thinking of dispensaries now in case someone is interested in beginning a business in Van Wert. It was discussed how the State has not voted on legislation.

Kallas thanked students of the Goedde who gave away 525 free dinners to the community and sold out. He thanked the community for their support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Ringwald asked to have an ordinance prepared to make supplemental appropriations to funds. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

STREETS AND ALLEYS: No report

JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION: Bowers indicated that she is still doing research on the cottage/tiny homes.

PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT: Agler made a motion to amend ordinance 24-04-020 to list specific areas of consumption of cannabis including Smiley Park, Jubilee Park, Franklin Park, Fountain Park, Rotary Park, the reservoir, all city owned buildings including the Municipal Building and the Municipal Court and all city owned parking lots. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

PARKS AND RECREATION: No report

HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY: No report

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Marshall asked to be appointed on the board of Economic Development. Agler made a motion requesting that an ordinance be prepared adding Marshall on the board of Economic Development. Moore seconded. Ringwald, Kallas, Bowers, Agler, Dettrow and Moore voted yes. Marshall abstained.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The issue of the swimming pool was discussed with Marshall indicating he believes an ad hoc committee needs to be formed to examine the matter and believes it is too early to place an income tax issue on the November ballot. Bowers indicated she knows of a group of 30 citizens who have been researching the project.

NEW BUSINESS: Kallas made a motion for an ordinance to be prepared for the 2024-2025 ODOT salt contract. Agler seconded; all concurred

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Second Advisory Reading for **ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-04-018; AN ORDINANCE SETTING NEW WATER TAP FEES.** All concurred.

Second Advisory Reading as amended for **ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-04-020; AN ORDINANCE BANNING CANNABIS ON ALL DESIGNATED CITY PROPERTY.** All concurred.

Bowers made a motion to prepare **ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-04-023.** Moore seconded; All concurred.

Bowers made a motion to introduce **ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-04-023.** Moore seconded; All concurred.

Bowers made a motion to suspend statutory rules for **ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-04-023;** Agler seconded; all concurred.

Bowers made a motion to pass as an emergency **ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-04-023; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 24-04-019 FOR THE CITY OF VAN WERT TO ACCEPT THE FINAL PLAT FOR THE ENGLEWOOD PLACE SUBDIVISION AND TO DESIGNATE SAID SUBDIVISION AS A PLANNED URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Agler seconded; all concurred. Ordinance Passed.

Ringwald made a motion to prepare **ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-04-024.** Kallas seconded; All concurred.

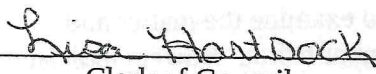
Ringwald made a motion to amend **ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-04-024.** Kallas seconded. All concurred.

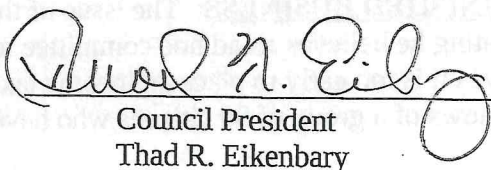
Ringwald made a motion to introduce **ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-04-024.** Kallas seconded; All concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to suspend statutory rules for **ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-04-024;** Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to pass as an emergency ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-03-024: AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO FUNDS 101, 225, 601, 602 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Kallas seconded; all concurred. Ordinance Passed.

Bowers made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Agler seconded; all concurred.


Clerk of Council
Lisa K. Hartsock


Council President
Thad R. Eikenbary

May 13, 2024
DATE