

**MINUTES OF THE  
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**  
January 13, 2025

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

President Eikenbary gave the invocation.

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

Ringwald made a motion to excuse Bowers. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda from the January 13th meeting. Moore seconded; all concurred.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**MAYOR:** The mayor presented a photo of “Blighted Property #1” and shared that after two and a half years as a blighted property, this dwelling has been torn down, debris moved, and the owner is in process of building a new dwelling.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR:** The Safety Service Director addressed two ordinances he would like to have prepared tonight. One that needs prepared each year that allows the city to sell unfit and unused items on government deals as an emergency but can be read three times. The second one that allows the city to start street painting in 2025.

A reminder that North bound Washington will be closed likely through the week for water and sanitary installations. CERT will be down by Ervin for the first few days of that closure to help direct traffic.

East Main waterline replacement from Cherry St. through Chestnut was projected to get started, but will be halted due to single digit temperatures.

**AUDITOR:** The city auditor reported year end financials including revenue, expenses and investments.

Blackmore shared some financial outlook on the increase in water rates by sharing balances, incoming and outgoing revenue and expenses, and ultimately thinks that the 10% is a fair and accurate amount to increase rates as of March of 2025.

The state will be auditing financials for the city any day now.

One Then & Now was presented to pay chemicals from 2024 to Usalco in the amount of \$6,720.22 from the waste water treatment plant.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** Hatcher reported some of the other Blighted Property cases. There are approximately 7 cases pending in common pleas court. With these 7 properties, there is a large chance the city will end up with several of them. In the history of blighted properties, the city has yet to own any to this point. A new update will occur around the end of February.

Municipal Court is going fine, cases ran through the most include texting and driving and shoplifting at Walmart.

Agler inquired on Chestnut and Central blighted property. Hatcher stated the next step is getting paperwork around to file against the property.

### **COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:**

Mark Davis, 402 S. Tyler, asked Fleming if opting not to paint the left hand turn chevrons would save money. Fleming stated they are phasing these out. Davis also mentions if the stop sign at Crawford and Market is necessary since it's a one way street. Fleming stated he would review this in person to make a call.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE:** Ringwald made a motion to approve the Then & Now in the amount of \$6,720.22 presented by the city auditor. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Agler is ready to address salaries of the council members. Ringwald stated the finance committee will get together to prepare something for a future council meeting. The law director reminds council that the pay would start for the upcoming terms; not current terms.

**STREETS AND ALLEYS:** Kallas made a motion for the law director to prepare an ordinance to allow the safety service director to advertise and award bids for street painting. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number 25-01-001. Moore seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number 25-01-002. Moore seconded; all concurred.

**JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION:** Not present.

**PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT:** Agler made a motion for the law director to prepare an ordinance to allow the safety service director to sell personal property that is unused or unfit for the city on govdeals.com for the year 2025 as an emergency. Moore seconded; all concurred.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** No report.

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

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** No report.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC:** Mark Davis, 402 S. Tyler St., complimented the new format of the agenda since the ordinance passed to restructure.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** The mayor spoke with Matthew Perry on staying on for Board of Tax Review for a 2-year term ending 12/31/2026 in which he agreed to continue in the position. The mayor spoke with Jeanne Zeigler on staying on for Design Review Board for a 3-year term ending 12/31/2027 in which she agreed to continue in the position.

Roberts made a motion to appoint Matthew Perry to the Board of Tax Review for another term. Moore seconded; all concurred.

Moore made a motion to appoint Jeanne Zeigler to the Design Review Board for another term. Agler seconded; all concurred.

The mayor will organize letters to notify the respective parties.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

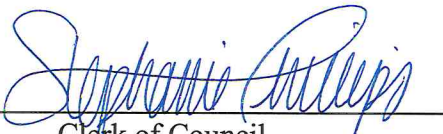
**RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:**

**Second Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number: 24-12-078. All concurred.**

**First Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number: 25-01-001. All concurred.**

**First Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number: 25-01-002. All concurred.**

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 6:59 p.m. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council  
Stephanie R. Phillips

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Council President  
Thad R. Eikenbary

January 27, 2025  
DATE

