

**MINUTES OF THE
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL
December 23, 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: Kallas, Bowers, Agler, Roberts, Moore and Marshall were present.

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

Agler made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda from the December 23rd meeting. Marshall seconded; all concurred.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR: The mayor mentioned the 3 kinds of boards in which appointments are made. One of which the official is appointed by the city council, a second that the mayor appoints, and a third in which the mayor nominates a person and the city approves of. Markward recommends Randy Baer who filled the remainder of a vacated term to be reappointed for a new 5 year term. Agler made a motion to approve Randy Baer for a 5 year term on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: The Safety Service Director addressed the amount of flouridation cost inquired by Mr. Jared from the last council meeting. He stated it costs just under \$10,000 per year.

Mr. Fleming announced a Washington St. closure that will occur before the next council meeting. This will be the north bound lane of Bonnewitz which will be closed from January 13-January 20. Storm and Sanitary connection will be made which is why the lane will need closed.

An up date on the Crawford St. accident: The speed limit sign has been moved back approximately a block and a half which reduces speed to 25 mph sooner. A parking space was moved back and one space has been blacked out. During School Hours, morning and afternoon, the response time on the buttons by the crosswalk have also been updated to lessen the time a pedestrian has to wait before getting a walking signal. Fleming needs the removal of the parking spot and the speed limit change will need codified by council.

AUDITOR: The city auditor reported a few year end supplementals including PERS for shifting in employment, job duties, retirement percentage adjustments for matching pension, street lighting, hotel motel tax and retirement liability that needs appropriated,

The auditor introduced two Then & Now's. One for \$30,472.50 to Step Mobile for OCSS Installation at Municipal Court, the second for \$5,100.00 to Backdraft Woodworking for a dining table for the Fire Department.

Lastly, she mentioned an amendment to Ordinance -073 would need made in order to fix an error in a transfer that was passed last meeting.

LAW DIRECTOR: Hatcher reported a meeting he held with Council Woman Julie Moore. They came up with a plan to start emailing quarterly reports on statuses of Blighted Properties. January is a large month for court dates on these blighted properties, so Hatcher plans to have a lot of movement on these.

Hatcher proposes a new idea to firm up action plans and standards on junk and rubbish cases. A suggestion being if a failure to maintain or junk & rubbish does not solve an issue with a tenant/occupant, the landlord/property owner would be involved on the second and any subsequent charges, subject to some discretion per case.

Agler mentioned the property on Jackson & Franklin (northeast corner), has been out of control for 6 weeks or more. Hatcher stated he will get the police down there to file a report.

COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

Mark Davis, 402 S. Tyler, investigated the Washington/Crawford intersection and stated the button is hard to find since it is on the box and not the pole. Additionally, he mentioned there is confusion on the downtown crosswalk buttons on which one button controls which crosswalk (NS or EW).

Davis also suggests with the speed change on Washington, to add a warning sign to the speed change saying something such as “reduced speed ahead” for drivers who are used to driving faster as an extra warning.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Not present.

STREETS AND ALLEYS: Kallas made a motion for the Law Director to prepare an ordinance that would remove an east side parking spot off of Washington/Crawford. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion for the Law Director to prepare an ordinance that reduces the speed limit at South Ave going north on Washington St. to 25 mph. Agler seconded; all concurred.

JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION: No report.

PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT: No report.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Roberts reported a meeting with Kyle Klinker on a pickleball meeting that took place. In Franklin Park, the group is requesting lights and paddle racks. Smiley Park there are requests to resurface the tennis courts and paint lines for pickleball courts. The

school and YMCA have pickleball courts for use. There was plans for Council on Aging to develop courts, but a grant was denied. Scheduling lessons and open play is also in talks. Roberts has an additional meeting scheduled for Friday to talk over more details.

HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY: No report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No report.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Kallas made a motion to pass two Then & Now's. One for \$30,472.50 to Step Mobile for OCSS Installation at Municipal Court, the second for \$5,100.00 to Backdraft Woodworking for a dining table for the Fire Department. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to prepare an ordinance the would rescind ordinance 24-09-056 and declared an emergency. Moore seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to introduce ordinance number 24-12-077 to council. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to suspend statutory rules. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to pass, on it's first and final reading, ORDINANCE Number 24-12-077; AN ORDINANCE RESCINDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-09-056 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Agler seconded; all concurred. Ordinance Passed.

Kallas made a motion to introduce ordinance number 24-12-078 to council. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to prepare an ordinance to make supplemental appropriations to funds 101, 230, 550, 601, and 602 and declaring an emergency. Moore seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to introduce ordinance number 24-12-079. Moore seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to suspend statutory rules. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to pass, on it's first and final reading, ORDINANCE Number 24-12-079; AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO FUNDS 101, 230, 550, 601, 602 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Agler seconded; all concurred. Ordinance Passed.

Kallas made a motion to prepare an ordinance to amend ordinance 24-12-073 to transfer funds from fund 602 to 603 and declaring an emergency. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to introduce ordinance number 24-12-080. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to suspend statutory rules. Moore seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to pass, on it's first and final reading, ORDINANCE Number 24-12-080; AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 24-12-073 TRANSFER FUNDS FROM FUND 602 TO FUND 603 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Moore seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

Markward reviewed terms coming due to keep them on councils radar since they are in charge of appointing these individuals. For example, Matthew Perry, for Board of Tax Review's 2 year term ends 12.31.2026. Jeanne Zeigler for Design Review Board 3 year term ending 12.31.2027. Kallas suggests reaching out to the current individuals and if they are both interested in continuing their terms to allow them to continue and they would be appointed at next meeting.

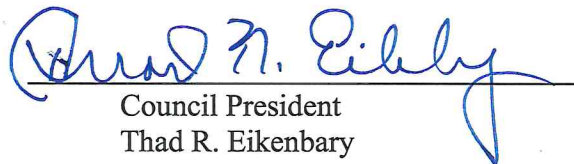
RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

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

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. Kallas seconded; all concurred.



Clerk of Council
Stephanie R. Phillips



Council President
Thad R. Eikenbary

January 13, 2025
DATE