

**MINUTES OF THE
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**
February 10, 2025

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

Pastor Jim Burns from Liberty Baptist Church gave the invocation.

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

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

Kallas made a motion to amend the Agenda to move the executive session for the purpose of purchasing real estate from the mayor's report before administrative reports. Roberts seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda from the February 10th meeting. Ringwald seconded; all concurred.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Mitch Price, Director of Main Street Van Wert brought an updated DORA Map to include VFW in the DORA Map while including the sidewalk on the North side of Main Street in front of YMCA and Brumback. Price reiterated that the YMCA Board and the Brumback Library board are both in agreement with including the sidewalk, but with a reminder that the DORA Beverages would not be allowed on either property or in the establishments.

Agler made a motion to move into executive session for the purpose of purchasing real estate. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR: The mayor reported a property adjacent to Smiley Park is for sale and the city has been in negotiations with the current owner. After a settlement on purchasing this property in the amount of \$180,000.00 with the present owner agreeing to knock down the existing structure.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: The Safety Service Director stated the Main St. Waterline replacement project is going well. Fleming reported they are about 2.5 blocks away from the main line; once they reach that point, they will go back through and make all of the service connections.

Bonnewitz Sanitary is done, weather pending, Bonnewitz water will be finished once some main water parts arrive.

A letter was sent about sewer issues to multiple members of council by Mr. Freeman on Linden Drive. Freeman called on New Years Day of this year and reported a sewer blockage that the city

resolved. This follows a few other reports of blockages over the years that were consumer (not city) issues. Fleming stated once nice weather returns, he would like to send plumbing cameras through the sewer and storm lines as he suspects a few replacements or improvements may need to be made. Fleming will follow up on communications with Mr. Freeman.

Lastly, to follow up from last city council meeting, Fleming brought proposals and information for 3 intersections he would like to address old traffic lights on. His proposal includes beginning April 1st, Stop signs would be installed both directions on Cherry St. and if capability allows, the traffic light would flash yellow for east and west travellers on Main and red for north and south travellers on Cherry for 30 days. After 30 days, the traffic light would be removed. July 1st, Market & Walnut would be addressed with stop signs erected in all four directions, the traffic light would be set to flashing for 30 days, then it would be removed. Lastly, October 1st, Central & Walnut would be addressed in the same manor as Market & Walnut. Market & Walnut intersections would potentially include stop signs on both sides of the road in case of potential visual blockage from angle parking.

AUDITOR: The city auditor reported January Financials.

Blackmore reported several appropriations the largest one for workman's comp that were not included in the budget that need prepared and introduced tonight. The city pays a workman's comp premium once a year, which is an estimation. The "true-up" amount to pay the actual balance off in January was not accounted for in the budget; therefore, some appropriations need made to get that fully paid. A few other appropriations include Fire Arm certifications for the Police Department, Debris escrow for a fire, and a municipal court donation.

The auditor reported 3 Then & Now's to be passed at tonight's meeting. The first, an invoice to Regional Planning Commission for their per capita rate in the amount of \$8,319.00. Another for \$6,940.00 to Henschen and Associates (municipal court software) for 2025 Annual's, and finally, a then and now to CIH for a Garage Door for Street/Eng Building in the amount of \$15,109.24.

LAW DIRECTOR: Mr. Hatcher shared a general public service announcement that in any administrative case involving the public vs. the city for something such as debris, junk and rubbish, blighted property, property taxes, income tax, etc. the best results come from the public responding to the city. In cases where there is no response whatsoever gives the city no option but to take corrective action instead of a mutual plan between public and city.

COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main St., shares concerns on the water need of the new data center. Jared states he's worried that public drinking water would be diminished and citizens would potentially have to be put on standby until water was replenished. Fleming reiterated that this would never be the case and the request for 1.7 million gallons may not even be an option. Fleming states it will have to come from an alternate source of water and he reiterates that the people are priority over the data center.

Jared also mentioned to Mr. Hatcher that the Bell Ave. mobile home park was sold to an out of state company that has doubled rental rates. Jared reiterates that if any blighted properties could be saved and turned into low income housing, that it would be important to some of the lower income citizens. Hatcher reiterates how difficult it is to continue providing housing for everyone in need in Van Wert as a whole.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Ringwald made a motion to approve the Then & Now's as presented by the city auditor. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion for the law director to prepare an ordinance to make supplemental appropriations to funds 101, 208, 301, 601, 602, and 701 and declaring an emergency. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number 25-02-005. Moore seconded; all concurred.

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

Ringwald made a motion to pass on it's first and final reading, ORDINANCE Number 25-02-005; AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO FUNDS 101, 208, 301. 601, 602, 701 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Agler seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

Ringwald made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number 25-02-006 as an emergency. Marshall seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to suspend statutory rules. Roberts seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to pass, on it's first and final reading, ORDINANCE Number 25-02-006; AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF VAN WERT AND INTERPLAS PACKAGING SOLUTION, INC. AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Agler seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

Ringwald made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number 25-02-007. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to amend Ordinance Number 25-02-007 to declare as an emergency. Agler seconded; all concurred.

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

Ringwald made a motion to pass on it's first and final reading, ORDINANCE Number 25-02-007; AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF THE COMMUNITY

REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF VAN WERT AND V WERT 2 FROM V WERT 2 TO INTRAPLAS PACKAGING SOLUTIONS, INC. AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Moore seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

Ringwald made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number 25-02-008. Moore seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to amend Ordinance Number 25-02-008 to declare as an emergency. Moore seconded; all concurred.

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

Ringwald made a motion to pass on it's first and final reading, ORDINANCE Number 25-02-008; AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF VAN WERT AND THE EDITION, LLC TO MAC WHITE, LLC AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Moore seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

Ringwald made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number 25-02-009. Moore seconded; all concurred.

STREETS AND ALLEYS: No report.

JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION: Not present. Vice chair has no report.

PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT: Agler made a motion to have the law director prepare an ordinance that would allow the mayor and safety service director to purchase and sign any legal documentation to execute the sale of the property they are purchasing on John Brown Rd. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

PARKS AND RECREATION: No report.

HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY: No report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No report.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC: Kallas made a motion to amend the current resolution in place for the DORA laws and replace the map with the new proposal as an emergency. Moore seconded; all concurred..

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Third and Final Reading for Ordinance Number: 25-01-001; THE ORDINANCE REMOVING THE FIRST PARKING SPACE ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE STREET SOUTH OF THE INTERSECTION OF SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET AT EAST CRAWFORD STREET. All concurred. Ordinance passed.

Third and Final Reading for Ordinance Number: 25-01-002; THE ORDINANCE REDUCING THE SPEED LIMIT FROM 35 MILES PER HOUR TO 25 MILES PER HOUR ON SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET FROM INTERSECTION OF SOUTH AVENUE NORTH THROUGH THE INTERSECTION WITH SYCAMORE STREET. All concurred. Ordinance passed.

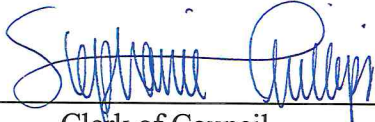
Second Reading Advisory for Resolution Number: 25-01-003. All concurred.

Second Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number: 25-01-004. All concurred.

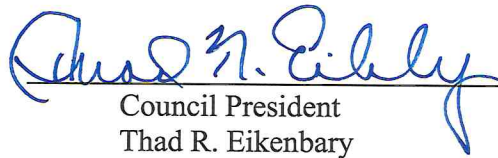
First Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number: 25-02-009. All concurred.

Agler made a motion to move into executive session for the purpose of discussion of council salaries. Ringwald seconded; all concurred.

After reconvening from the executive session, Agler made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Roberts seconded; all concurred.



Clerk of Council
Stephanie R. Phillips



Council President
Thad R. Eikenbary

February 24, 2025
DATE

