

MINUTES OF THE VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL

April 28, 2025

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, Roberts Moore and Marshall were present.

Agler made a motion to approve tonight's Consent Agenda and minutes from the April 14th meeting. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Kim Laudick and Julie Burenga were in attendance to present the YWCA's Capital Campaign. Laudick, CEO of YWCA shares appreciation of city support on letters pertinent to applications for loans/grants. Laudick gave a quick summary of who the YWCA is, how they started and what they have done for our community. Survivor services, youth development program and advocacy and education are the focus. Annually, around 1500 individuals (and growing) have been served through the YW from VW County and surrounding counties.

Julie Burenga, Board and Campaign Chair, takes over to explain why a new facility is necessary. She explains while the board looked at remodeling the current facility, the amount it would cost to completely remodel would cost more than a new building and still wouldn't complete all needs and future goals for the YW along with not being completely handicap accessible. Garmin Miller will be the architect on the project while the Marsh Foundation donated the land the new facility will be built on. The new facility is planned to be about 32,000 sq feet with a cost of just over \$14 Million and expected to add 5 to 8 jobs. The current Capital Campaign has raised \$3 Million in pledges thus far. Burenga explains that the board's goal is to raise about half of the total funds (~\$ 8 Million) within the community through businesses and private donors while the other "half" will be Capital Stack, applying for State and Federal funding. After the YW finishes their requests with the state and federal funding, there is a chance, around budget time, the YW will be returning to council to request money from the city.

Marshall asked about time line and repurposing of the old building. The goal for the YWCA is to break ground on the new building by next spring. As for repurposing the old building, the board plans to list the building for sale. A potential investor discussed the idea of event space and VRBO spaces. If there is no success in selling the building, the cost of knocking the building down is estimated in the Capital Campaign.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR: Mr. Markward announced a reminder for brush pickup starting next Monday, May 5th.

The Main/Cherry stoplight will be turned off for citizens (was flashing prior) to prepare for stop signs only.

The request for an updated definition on an Ordinance for Data Center ended up needing two separate ordinances prepared for two different sections.

Moore proposed extending brush pick up into October after hearing from citizens. The mayor and safety service director said they would look at extending that.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Mr. Fleming curbs will be poured on Bonnewitz Crossing next week.

Leeson paving will begin May 12 for the final top coarse, weather permitting.

City auditor is not present, so SSD is reminding council of 2 supplemental appropriations that will need to pass tonight, one for the airport and one for BDC. The BDC \$10,000 request from the budget was inadvertently left out of the budget, so it will need appropriated now.

Another reminder that the fraud risk assessment needs completed immediately.

Lastly, the state auditors have done income tax office, water & sewer office and auditors office who all have been in compliance.

AUDITOR: Not present.

LAW DIRECTOR: Mr. Hatcher reports changes regarding the OVI law that went into effect on April 9th. The mandatory fine has gone up and the penalties involved on the administrative side for refusing to take a test; penalties are more punitive. Other issues involving payment of fines that used to allow the court to suspend your license if they were unpaid is no longer allowed, but instead the court can issue body attachment warrants.

Hatcher also made an announcement that he will be leaving the next meeting early for a family obligation.

COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main, is asking why we would need to pass ordinances on the data center if it is not guaranteed to be coming to the city. He suggests an ordinance to ban it instead due to what he thinks will be infrastructure issues. The mayor explained if the infrastructure was an issue the city wouldn't allow it to come.

Mark Davis, 402 S. Tyler, asks Fleming if regrind of streets is part of the plan this summer. Fleming stated he plans to request the regrind ordinances next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: No report.

STREETS AND ALLEYS: No report.

JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION: No report.

PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT: No report.

PARKS AND RECREATION: No report.

HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY: Moore is notifying the public and council of completion of the 3 hour sunshine law training, financial disclosure, and fraud assessment all completed on March 25.

Moore also asked for an update on blighted properties. He stated a few cases will be coming shortly before the next meeting and he will update then.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Marshall made a motion to reappoint Randy Agler to VWAEDC for the 07/01/25-06/30/28 term. Agler seconded; all concurred. The mayor will send a formal letter to Randy Agler although he is already aware.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC: Joe Jared asked when the water fountain was going to be turned on at Fountain Park. Fleming said he was unaware that it was not working and would look into it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: President Eikenbary advised council of a liquor notice where MAW SKI will be transferring their liquor license to R Place Stone Grill.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Second Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number: 25-03-014. All concurred.

Bowers made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number: 25-04-019. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

First Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number: 25-04-019. All concurred.

Bowers made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number: 25-04-020. Marshall seconded; all concurred.

First Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number: 25-04-020. All concurred.

Marshall made a motion to amend a motion to prepare ordinance from last meeting on supplemental appropriations to add the appropriation to the BDC. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number: 25-04-021. Agler seconded; all concurred.

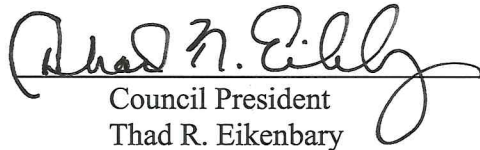
Ringwald made a motion to suspend statutory rules. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to pass, on it's first and final reading, ORDINANCE Number: 25-04-021; AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO FUNDS 101 AND FUND 215, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Bowers seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

Bowers made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Ringwald seconded; all concurred.



Clerk of Council
Stephanie R. Phillips



Council President
Thad R. Eikenbary

May 12, 2025
DATE