

**MINUTES OF THE
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**
May 12, 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, Bowers, Agler, Roberts, Moore and Marshall were present.

Agler made a motion to approve tonight's Consent Agenda, Council of the Whole minutes of April 28th and minutes from the April 28th meeting. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC SPEAKERS

NONE.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR: Mr. Markward is asking for an Ordinance to be prepared to do street paving. In addition, the mayor explains how the city is going about which streets to pave. The city has a program that attached to a truck which takes snapshots of the pavement as the truck drives, and after analyzing the snapshots, it gives a rating of the pavement.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Not present.

AUDITOR: Mrs. Blackmore reported April financials.

LAW DIRECTOR: Mr. Hatcher reports an email received from Fire Chief Jon Jones requesting a revision to City Ordinance 34.05 - Fees for Inspection Services Provided by the Fire Department. Law Director is asking the Finance chair to ask for an Ordinance to be prepared to revise this referenced ordinance.

Additionally, a Van Wert Citizen reached out to ask if a private poker club would be allowed in the city limits of Van Wert. Hatcher stated step one is to review Ohio Revised Code to see if it is allowed and will report back to council at the next meeting.

No updates were reported for municipal court.

COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main reported his objection to allowing a data center as permitted use, so even if the current proposed data center does not come, it does not allow others to come in either. Jared is fearful of the city being overloaded.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Ringwald made a motion to prepare an ordinance to revise Ordinance 34.05 to update fire department inspection fees. Kallas seconded; Ringwald, Kallas, Bowers, Roberts, Moore and Marshall voted yes. Agler voted no.

Ringwald made a motion to prepare an ordinance to base salaries of council, council president, city treasurer, and mayor based on median income on the most recent census as of June 1 of election year rounded to the nearest \$10 for one elected term. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to amend Chapter 30.01 adding rule 31 salaries to say the salaries rule needs 75% vote in order to change. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

STREETS AND ALLEYS: Kallas made a motion to prepare an ordinance to advertise for and award bids to pave streets as an emergency. Moore seconded; all concurred.

JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION: Bowers reported answering questions and obtaining information on the data center for a few citizens.

Bowers reports and alley behind Forge Church for two blocks that is in poor shape and would like Streets and Alleys to do some investigating. Kallas reported he will take a look at that before next meeting.

PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT: No report.

PARKS AND RECREATION: No report.

HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY: Moore reported receiving some information on a blighted property who now has a contractor in place. Moore reporting this information to the Law Director prior to the meeting.

Agler proposed having a Council of the Whole Meeting based on Blighted Properties to address and reorganize how owners of properties on the blighted properties list are being addressed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No report.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Third and Final Reading for Ordinance Number: 25-03-014; AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL CHAPTER 113 TITLED "GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALES" OF VAN WERT CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES. All concurred. Ordinance Passed.

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

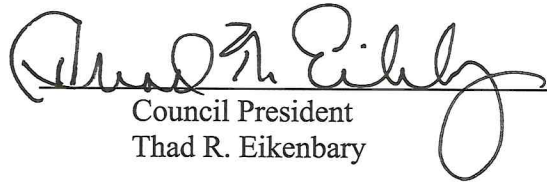
Second Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number: 25-04-020. All concurred.

Jim Hoops, who represents District 81 of Ohio House of Representatives was present at the council meeting and introduced himself along with sharing he plans to run as State Senator at the next election.

Kallas made a motion to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. Agler seconded; all concurred.



Clerk of Council
Stephanie R. Phillips



Council President
Thad R. Eikenbary

May 28, 2025
DATE

