

# MINUTES OF THE VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL

June 9, 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.

Bowers made a motion to approve tonight's Consent Agenda, Council of the Whole Minutes on the Topic of Blighted Properties and minutes from the May 28th meeting. Moore seconded; all concurred.

## SCHEDULED PUBLIC SPEAKERS

NONE

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

**MAYOR:** Mr. Markward reminded the public about the intersection and proposed change to four way stops and bagging traffic lights at Central and Market and Central and Walnut. The test period will start July 1 and last for approximately 30 days before council will move to make these permanent four way stops with an ordinance.

Vantage is getting ready to bid at an auction on a land bank property for their students to build a house on the corner of Walnut and Second St.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Mr. Fleming Bonnewitz will wrap up paving soon. Washington will be difficult/slow to navigate as a patch will need filled in.

Manholes on Leeson are being finished up. Signage and final paving will occur very soon.

**AUDITOR:** Mrs. Blackmore presented 1 Then & Now: \$5,492.57 to Havel for heating and cooling system repair.

The auditor reported May financials. Interest earnings have seen an increase since moving from a broker to an investor. Prior years, Van Wert was earning 6-7% interest on funds/ year and now the city is earning around 15% for this year already.

Bond payments are soon due and Mrs. Blackmore plans to pay these at the end of June as a large transaction item.

A list of supplementals will be prepared for the next meeting.

Hotel/Motel taxes are already 50% collected.

The auditor presented a preliminary tax budget that includes police and fire pension and cemetery budget with numbers that came straight from the county auditor. Blackmore would like the first reading on this budget to be performed tonight and also for the finance chair to request a public hearing for the tax budget on July 14. June 23 the auditor will present the budget again with changes. The tax budget must be passed by July 7 because it has to be to the county by July 20.

July 3 a meeting for a tax hearing will happen among the administrators.

Lastly, the auditor shared that state legislation future unknowns are making her 5 year projection difficult and uncertain. She warns that because of the uncertainty, she plans to be quite conservative on the revenue and appropriation budget.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** Mr. Hatcher gave an update on three blighted properties that were brought in front of the judge since last meeting. The first of three, the city was granted summary judgement on; we are waiting on Judge Burchfield's signature to grant the judgement.

The update on the second property is that it will be auctioned in late July (Blighted Property #13).

The third property is supposed to have repairs made to it and then the city will take another look.

July has 3 more properties set to go to court.

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

Mark Davis, 402 S. Tyler St., addressed Mr. Fleming asking about angle of vision/safety for the Central/ Walnut intersection. Davis compared these intersections to Jackson/Jefferson which only is a two way stop allowing traffic to flow without stopping on Jefferson. Fleming and Markward together explained these are separate traffic issues and Central should have stop signs to discourage traffic from speeding and additionally, buildings on Central are an angle of vision problem. Next, Davis wants Fleming to look at the Crawford/Market three way stop; Davis states there are no line of sight issues and would like the stop sign on Crawford to potentially be removed. Bowers suggested leaving the stop signs for safety reasons, as students walk Crawford to school.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE:** Ringwald made a motion to approve the Then & Now as proposed by the auditor. Kallas seconded all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to prepare an ordinance accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor as an emergency. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to introduce ordinance 25-06-028. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to amend 25-05-023 adding the word “now”. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made an announcement to hold a public hearing on the tax budget for July 14, 2025 at 6:15PM. No action will be taken during this meeting.

**STREETS AND ALLEYS:** Kallas made a motion to introduce resolution 25-06-027. Bowers 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 & final reading, Resolution 25-06-027, A RESOLUTION REMOVING THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE INTERSECTION OF EAST MAIN STREET AND CHERRY STREET AND TO PLACE STOP SIGNS ON CHERRY STREET IN EACH DIRECTION AT EAST MAIN STREET AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Agler seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

**JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION:** No report.

**PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT:** No report.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Roberts gave an update on smiley park foul ball nets. After talking with Mr. Klinker, the parks director, Roberts learned that the park already have nets to fix that issue, but it would require poles in the ground which poses an issue with the park being busy with people walking and equipment being in the way. Additionally, the squirrels eat/chew on the net and damage it.

**HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY:** Moore shared some citizens where complaining of noise of motorcycles in town including streets like Market, Shannon, Leeson, Woodlawn, Jefferson and 118. Moore wants to know what these residents should do when the loud noise occurs all day and sometimes through the night. Fleming stated this could be tricky but he will touch base with chief of police and follow-up.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Van Wert Area Economic Development will hold their annual meeting June 16, 2025 at Vantage at 4:00PM.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC:** Kallas will not be present at the next council meeting.

Agler complimented the drone show and concert in the park over peony festival.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:**

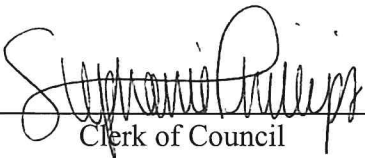
Second Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number 25-05-022. All concurred.

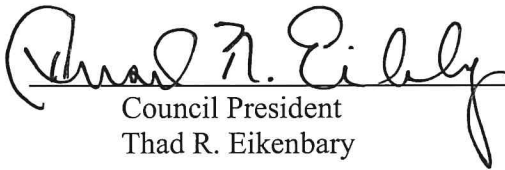
Second Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number 25-05-023. All concurred.

Second Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number 25-05-025. All concurred.

First Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number 25-06-028. All concurred.

Bowers made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Agler seconded; all concurred.

  
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Clerk of Council  
Stephanie R. Phillips

  
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Council President  
Thad R. Eikenbary

June 23, 2025

DATE