

**MINUTES OF THE  
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**  
June 23, 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, Roberts, Moore and Marshall were present.

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

Moore made a motion to amend the agenda to remove Ordinance -027 that was passed at last meeting. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Moore made a motion to approve tonight's amended Consent Agenda and minutes from the June 9th meeting. Roberts seconded; all concurred.

**SCHEDULED PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

NONE

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**MAYOR:** Mr. Markward shared with the recent wind storm there has been more than average brush. The city was already scheduled to start brush pickup July 14th, but advised public it would be helpful to start setting brush on the curb now as the city plans to take some extra trips to clear up the brush. There will still be a brush pickup on July 14th.

The Bonnewitz Extension road painting is almost finished. It should finish this week.

Moore asked if the city would be interested in doing brush pickup once a month instead of 3 times a year; especially for elderly people who do not have access to having it removed other times of the year. Markward stated that more than 5 years ago this is how the city operated, but has been changed over time due to demand, but is not out of the question to switch back if there was a demand for it.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Not present.

**AUDITOR:** Mrs. Blackmore presented via email, a preliminary tax budget exhibit with raw numbers. She would entertain any questions from council, but she expects to have final numbers next week.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** Mr. Hatcher gave details on a few new pieces of legislation, one being the petition for annexation of about 770 acres to the city from the Marsh foundation. A little over 200 acres of this land will be for the data center. This was approved by commissioners, Hoaglin

and ridge townships. The additional acreage was annexed over now with no set plans, so that the Marsh did not have to continually prepare annexations each time a section of land needed annexed.

Another new piece of legislation is for the approval of the annexation. This “pre-approves” any future land that will be annexed to the city. It was explained by Van Wert Area Economic Development Director as a “pact”. While the city will still have to go through the work of getting each approved, this is an agreement that the land will be approved with no issues since it was agreed upon prior. This shows commitment to any interested parties that the city is truly committed to the deal they may be working on.

Another piece of legislation allows the zoning to be changed to I-2 upon annexation.

Additionally, another piece of legislation the law director brought up involves citizens not paying income taxes. Several cases have come across in court in the county. If a person files, but does not pay, it will be a civil case. If a person does NOT file, it is a criminal case. Mr. Hatcher just wanted to remind public that the city is willing to work with it’s citizens and to come explain situations to help work something out and avoid court.

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

Mark Davis, 402 S. Tyler St., left a message to the mayor to trim a branch that is hanging in the 400 block that has still not been taken care of. He also shared input on monthly brush pick up, that it used to occur and the city limited trips for budget cuts. Additionally, Davis shares he witnessed a golf cart pass a vehicle in a no passing zone. Davis wanted to send a reminder that they are treated like vehicles and should not pass in no passing zones.

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main, reports on concerns of resources in the data center once again. Mr. Stevens shared details of what the city has agreed upon with the data center in terms of resources including how water would be put in a reservoir and only be used in the hottest 2 months of the year and not putting citizens at risk. The data center also is looking at other options including a closed loop water cooling system. Stevens also shares that if the reservoir would be necessary, it would be at the cost of the data center, not the city.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE:** No report.

**STREETS AND ALLEYS:** Kallas has made contact with Jay Fleming to work on updating some alleys that need maintenance.

Kallas has also reported a potential blighted property to administration.

**JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION:** No report.

**PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT:** Not present. Vice chair, Ringwald has no report.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** No report.

**HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY:** No report.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Marshall turned his report of to Brent Stevens, Director of Van Wert Area Economic Development who held their annual meeting June 16, 2025 at Vantage to review the last 12 months of activity. He gave a summary of the meeting to council and the public.

Moore asked how jobs are being provided to the city with all of the new factories and business developing. Stevens shared that as the companies present jobs to the city, the city adds them to the Van Wert Works Websites.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** President Eikenbary shared the Jack Patel along with his attorney would potentially be present at a July meeting to present and answer any questions on the private poker club that has been mentioned a few times in council meetings.

**RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:**

Third Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number 25-05-022; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VAN WERT CODE OF ORDINANCES 30.01 COUNCIL RULES. All concurred. Ordinance passed.

Third Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number 25-05-023; AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE SALARY FOR THE POSITIONS OF CITY COUNCIL, COUNCIL PRESIDENT, CITY TREASURER AND MAYOR. All concurred. Ordinance passed.

Third Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number 25-05-025; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VAN WERT CODE OF ORDINANCES 34.05 FIRE INSPECTION SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. All concurred. Ordinance passed.

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

Bowers made a motion to prepare an ordinance to accept the application for the annexation of 773 acres from the marsh foundation to the city of van wert as an emergency. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Bowers made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number 25-06-029. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

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

Bowers made a motion to pass on it's first and final reading, Ordinance Number 25-06-029; AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE APPLICATION FOR THE ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE CONTAINING 773.565 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, FILED BY THE MARSH FOUNDATION, NORTH OF US 30 IN RIDGE TOWNSHIP AND HOAGLIN TOWNSHIP TO THE CITY OF VAN WERT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Ringwald seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

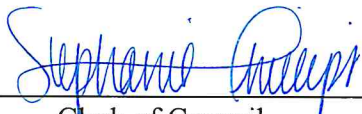
Bowers made a motion to prepare an ordinance to set zoning upon annexation of property mentioned in Ordinance 25-06-029 to I-2 as an emergency. Moore seconded; all concurred.

Bowers made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number 25-06-030. Moore seconded; all concurred.

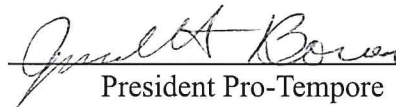
Bowers made a motion to suspend statutory rules. Moore seconded; all concurred.

Bowers made a motion to pass on it's first and final reading, Ordinance Number 25-06-030; AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY TO SET THE ZONING UPON ANNEXATION AS I-2 INDUSTRIAL FOR THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE PETITION OF ANNEXATION CONTAINED ORDINANCE 25-06-029 PURSUANT TO RC 709.024 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Moore seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

Kallas made a motion to adjourn at 7:14 p.m. Bowers seconded; all concurred.



Clerk of Council  
Stephanie R. Phillips



President Pro-Tempore  
Judy Bowers

July 14, 2025  
DATE