

# MINUTES OF THE VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL

July 14, 2025

Council President Pro-Tempore Judy Bowers 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.

Kallas made a motion to amend the agenda to move the executive session to the end of the meeting since no action will be taken. Moore seconded; all concurred.

Moore made a motion to approve tonight's Consent Agenda and minutes from the June 23rd meeting. Roberts seconded; all concurred.

## **SCHEDULED PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

NONE

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**MAYOR:** Mr. Markward presented a list of accepted street paving after bids were approved that will happen in 2025 including parts of S. Chestnut, N. Chestnut, S. Tyler, Greenewald, Maplewood, S. Vine, E. Crawford, Cherry, Biltmore, Green, Gay, N. Franklin and chip and seal on S. Walnut. Walnut St. is chip and seal because the city is hopeful that this will become an ODOT project similar to Bonnewitz and Leeson.

ODOT's public meeting is one week from tonight at Vantage from 5:30 to 7:30. Three areas will be covered including the 30/224 intersection, 30/ John Brown Rd., and Bonnewitz/30 ramps. Typically, ODOT gives around 3 proposals, lists pros and cons and listens to citizens input on the options.

For brush pickup, the city anticipated due to the storm there would be a delay and still have city workers picking up brush so originally the July 14th brush pick up was cancelled, but due to timing, the city does plan to do a pick up this week for brush.

Three street lights are still awaiting to be installed on the Bonnewitz extension project.

The trial run on the Central 4-way instead of traffic lights is going well.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Not present.

**AUDITOR:** Mrs. Blackmore provided 2 Then & Nows to be passed this evening. One to J&K Communications in the amount of \$3528.78 for partial payment for new consoles for the fire and

police department. The second is to Vialytics in the amount of \$14,196.00 for their 2nd year service contract.

A few supplemental appropriations will need passed including: Municipal Court Phone Lines, Fringe/Health Benefits for the Mayor, Parks Department Operating Costs for Concession Stands, Economic Development Plat Map Recording Fee, Job Incentive for Police and Fire.

All preliminary reports from the audit have been received back. The council needs to decide if any of the members want a formal exit interview where the auditor will go line by line to explain their report, or the council members can waive the interview.

In the past, the city has had the mayor sign a yearly contract to fund the Van Wert Crime Victim Services. The auditor is proposing that the council passes a contract that would continue until the city or crime victim services decides to cancel the contract.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** Mr. Hatcher received a request from the fire department to review dash cameras on whether or not they can have them; Mr. Hatcher will review pros/cons of having these in the fire dept. truck.

The law director provided the current statuses of City Ordinance, Section 96, junk & rubbish and Section 98, duty to maintain your premises. He wanted council to understand where these codes stand before any new legislation is proposed on either of these Sections. He reminded council that if a person has a jail stay, the city is responsible for costs of their stay and/or any medical attention the inmate may need while incarcerated. Because of this, the city has, in the past, not made practice out of incarcerating citizens violating these Sections.

Blighted Property #18 court granted reconsideration for the owner.

Agler made a motion to schedule a Council of the Whole Meeting on the Topic of Penalties on Section 96 and Section 98 on July 28 at 6:00 p.m. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

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

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main St., brings up protection for citizens on resources if they are depleted. The mayor and law director responded by stating in general, there are safe guards in place including shutting down factories to save resources. Another point Jared felt that there was discrimination when handing out junk & rubbish violations in the past.

Agler has received calls on the old Hospital Building talking about juveniles playing on the old fire escape and "playing on the roof". Agler wants to see if the city would be liable if a child was to get injured. Hatcher leans on it being the responsibility of the property owner on private property.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE:** Ringwald made a motion to pass, as presented by the city auditor, 2 Then & Now's. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to prepare, as an emergency, an ordinance to prepare supplemental appropriations as presented in the City Auditors report. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number: 25-07-032. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

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

Ringwald made a motion to pass on it's first and final reading, Ordinance Number 25-07-032; AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO FUNDS 101, 215 301, 305, AND 601, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Roberts seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

Ringwald made a motion to prepare, as an emergency, an ordinance to authorize the mayor to sign contracts for Van Wert Victims Services inc. Moore seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number: 25-07-033. 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: 25-07-033; AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN CONTRACTS VAN WERT VICTIMS SERVICES, INC; AND DECLARING THE SAME AS AN EMERGENCY.

**STREETS AND ALLEYS:** Kallas was contacted by a citizen on 3 lights that were/are out on Rosalie. The mayor shares that any issues to do with light poles can be called directly in to the mayor's administrative secretary with the number/letter combo correlated on the pole.

Kallas made a motion to prepare an ordinance to authorize the mayor to sign all documents to allow the transfers of the real property at 133 Balyeat Ave. to the land bank and declaring an emergency. Ringwald seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number: 25-07-031. Ringwald seconded; all concurred.

**JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION:** No report.

**PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT:** No report.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** No report.

**HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY:** Moore looked at 812 Kear Rd. to be added as a blighted property. Blighted Property #3 has a crane in the yard and Moore was questioning if it was going to be knocked down. The law director and mayor both do not know.

Moore wants to propose brush pickup every month. The mayor states the city is not prepared to add this in as a monthly duty due to time commitments. In like fashion, she asks if the city would entertain a “clean up” for beds, tvs, sofas, etc. The mayor said that this has been done in the past, but that the voucher verbiage would need updated.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** No report.

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

Ringwald had a call from a citizen on requesting to make fireworks illegal for recreational use. The city has followed state regulations on this. Ringwald brings up the enforcement of this would be difficult.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

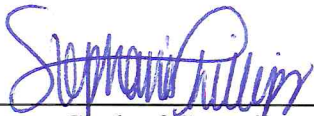
**RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:**

Third Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number 25-05-028; 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; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. All concurred. Ordinance passed.

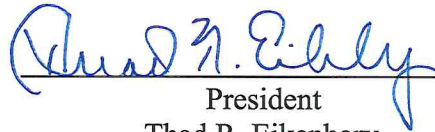
First Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number 25-07-031

Agler made a motion to go into Executive Session on the topic of Opioid Litigation. Roberts seconded; all concurred.

Following the executive session that adjourned at 7:14 p.m., Agler made a motion to adjourn at 7:14 p.m. Roberts seconded; all concurred.



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Clerk of Council  
Stephanie R. Phillips



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President  
Thad R. Eikenbary

July 28, 2025  
DATE