

**COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE MEETING**  
**Topic: Penalties on Section 96 and Section 98**  
July 28, 2025

Council President Thad Eikenbary called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted the topic was over penalties on Section 96 and Section 98 pertaining to nuisance properties.

Ringwald, Kallas, Bowers, Agler, Roberts, and Marshall were present.

Mr. Hatcher led the meeting by stating the news released an article on what the City of Celina has been handling their nuisance property. This article was emailed to council along with Van Wert's current ordinance states. The law director states Celina's ordinance appears to be a little more cut and dry than ours and that the city of Van Wert could make some moves to "clean up" our ordinance to closer match theirs.

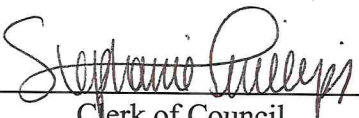
Hatcher reminds council that while the city of Van Wert *can* incarcerate an individual they have not resorted that in the past due to the financial responsibility the city would have over the inmate while they are in the jail's care.

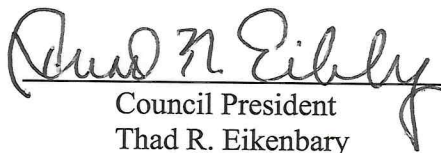
The mayor gathered some gestures from the council members to suggest our penalties could change verbiage from "up to" to "a minimum of" for example, on the second offense. Our current ordinance has no options for minimum offenses. Kallas and Agler both support this suggestion.

Agler mentioned specifically, a truck parked on the street with a large amount of the garbage in the bed and asked if this would apply under this penalty. Hatcher and Fleming both stated with this being on the street this could be taken care of by either the Health Department because of the trash or the police due to the flat tire.

Ringwald is asking the law director to "stream-line" compare the Van Wert ordinance to the Celina ordinance. He states they are very similar, but Celina's seems to be more specific. Ringwald requested Health, Service and Safety to summarize this for the council for a future meeting. Kallas is suggesting the law director propose reasonable new legislation with "stair-stepping" offences. Once this proposal is presented to the council, the council can tweak as they see necessary. Mr. Hatcher agreed, stating he already has an idea for this.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

  
Clerk of Council  
Stephanie R. Phillips

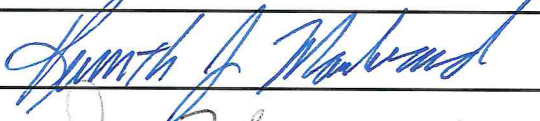






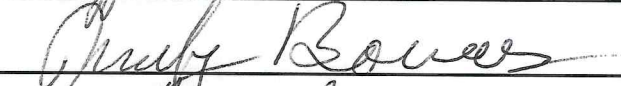


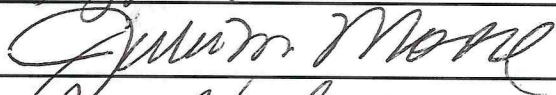

  
Council President  
Thad R. Eikenbary

DATE: August 11, 2025

**TOPIC: Council of the Whole Meeting for Penalties on Section 96 and Section 98**

**Date: 07/28/2025**

**COUNCIL/CITY MEMBERS**

Mayor Ken Markward	
Safety Service Director Jay Fleming	
Auditor Erika Blackmore	
Law Director John Hatcher	
President Thad Eikenbary	
Jana Ringwald	
Jeff Kallas	
Judy Bowers	
Jeff Agler	
Greg Roberts	
Julie Moore	
Bill Marshall	

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**Date: 07/28/2025**

## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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