

# **MINUTES OF THE VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**

July 28, 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.

Kallas made a motion to approve tonight's Consent Agenda and minutes from the July 14th meeting. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

## **SCHEDULED PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

Robert Dove, Attorney for Jack Patel, shared a summary of the proposal Mr. Patel is each member would pay a periodic fee along with a door fee. The members would then gain access to all of the gaming options, snacks and refreshments. Attorney was clear that no alcohol would be served at these locations.

Moore asked if Patel had a location or hours in mind. Dove answered, there is no location in mind currently, and hours would be late afternoon and into the evening, but no set hours due to not having a location and wanting to have hours approved by council.

Moore is asking to have a comparable location for the council to research. Mad River in Dayton, Shark Tank in Columbus, another location in Toledo and Dayton know by "Joker" and "River", Deepstack in Hilliard. Mr. Patel would look to grow more restaurants and gas stations in the area with a successful opening of the private club business.

Bowers wants the research Patel has done to decide to come to Van Wert. He stated just simply by searching that there are gambling locations, but no Poker locations.

Ringwald would look to have answers on dates, game types, and full business plan. Dove answered that this would definitely be in the plan to have a follow-up, but that this seems to be a great first step to make sure it's something the city would be interested in entertaining in the first place.

The mayor wanted to know if Mr. Patel had already viewed zoning areas and potential asking for conditional use in a certain zone because "typically" opening a business does not need council permission. Dove answered it is still in beginning stages and they have not established a location yet.

Marshall wanted details on if food and beverages would be involved. Although in beginning stages, the plan would be concession style chips, candy and soda, but NO alcohol would be served at the business or allowed to be brought in.

Mark Davis questioned what geographical age Mr. Patel would look to draw in. Dove answered that this is still under evaluation.

Jody Huth 668 N. Walnut St., asked how this was different than the 2 clubs already in town. He also would like to know if Patel has intentions on giving back to the community and also if there would be cash tournaments on occasions. Mr. Dove states Patel has clear intentions of giving back and also being heavily involved in the community for his benefit and the communities.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**MAYOR:** Mr. Markward stated blighted property #3 has closed it's case and has been torn down by the owners. Blighted property #15 is being put on hold due to a pending sale by the owner.

The mayor also has followed up on council woman Julie Moore's request for city clean up vouchers. The announcement will be on the August water bill. He stated these vouchers would be good for September 2025. Residents can begin picking up vouchers starting August 18th. Statements will be produced on water bills to notify the public. The wording on the vouchers will be updated from prior similar pickups to only include things citizens can NOT bring. The city is focusing on bring things to the station that cannot be easily thrown away in the trash. Hours to pick up vouchers

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Mr. Fleming introduced Sydni Winkler, External Affairs Representative from Enbridge Gas Ohio who is here to observe the council meeting and a new face to the area.

Leeson Avenue phase two will happen in 2027. As part of the project, the city is in the right of way phase. The east end of Smiley Park to the West end of Smiley Park will need more room, currently the plat goes to the middle of the road. To extend the space the city will need a dedication plat to give  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre land from the city to the city to give about 32 feet of space. This eliminates the ODOT involvement to save time. Sidewalk will now extend clear across the front of Smiley Park.

The traffic lights on Central and Walnut and Central and Market have been bagged. Fleming has recommended to council to codify those four-way stop lights.

Bowers stated that she would like to see something to grab driver's attention like maybe a flashing stoplight. Mayor Markward stated they were already potentially looking at painting the word "STOP" there on the pavement to help grab attention.

**AUDITOR:** Mrs. Blackmore stated the exit interview from the state of Ohio audit has been waived due to lack of interest from council wanting to hear the interview. This was signed off on by the mayor, the auditor and one council member.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** No report.

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



Hall Block, 401 S. Washington St., suggested a reassessment of a stop sign east bound at Market St. that is a little too far to the right; Block suggests moving this to be more visible. Additionally, Block requested a status update on the TTHM's in the city's water. Fleming answered that the city is in the design phase with a general plan in place with Ohio EPA. Fleming stated they will be putting mixers in circulation pumps in the clearwell as well as mixers in both water towers. The water tower mixers may take place this year if the budget will allow. The rest of the project is estimated to cost upwards of a million dollars and will plan to take place in 2026.

Mark Davis, 402 S. Tyler St., commented on the stop sign changes and suggested a "change of traffic pattern" sign just ahead of the stop sign. Additionally, the "use right lane" sign/barricade on East Main Street is nearly in the lane and it is difficult to navigate with a larger vehicle, truck/trailer, semi, etc. Fleming stated he has a meeting with the group in charge of these barricades tomorrow and would give the suggestion then. Davis also mentions the mini bikes becoming more frequently down town and if traffic laws apply to them to which Hatcher stated they do and police are aware as they become more prevalent to make sure traffic laws are being enforced.

Huth asked if it was possible to put the stop signs above on the poles where the traffic lights used to be. Fleming stated there would still be a \$28/month/pole charge to maintain. Fleming states he takes precautions to observe traffic frequently to make sure changes are being followed as intended.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE:** No report.

**STREETS AND ALLEYS:** Kallas made a motion to allow the city to dedicate  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre of land in front of smiley park to the city for the purpose of a right of way. Ringwald seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to prepare an ordinance to codify the four-way traffic lights at Market and Central and Walnut and Central. Agler seconded; all concurred.

**JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION:** Bowers is suggesting an ordinance to enforce noise levels on radios/stereos within the city limits. The noise ordinance now only applies to automobile noise according to Mr. Hatcher. Hatcher also mentions how difficult this ordinance is to enforce unless police are nearby when it happens or it is still occurring when the police show up. Mr. Fleming suggests citizens still calling the police department.

**PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT:** No report.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** No report.

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

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** No report.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC:** None.

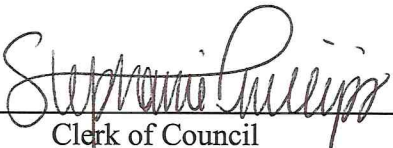
**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

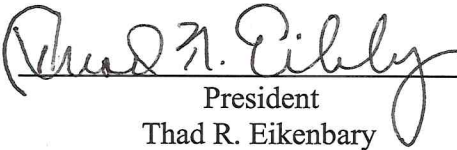
**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:**

Second Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number 25-07-031. All concurred.

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 7:12. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

  
Clerk of Council  
Stephanie R. Phillips

  
President  
Thad R. Eikenbary

August 11, 2025  
DATE