

**MINUTES OF THE  
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**  
August 11, 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 amend the agenda to move the Executive Session for the purpose of the Opioid Litigation update to the beginning of the agenda. Marshall seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to approve tonight's Consent Agenda, minutes from the July 28th meeting, special minutes for a Council of the Whole Meeting held on July 28th on the topic of penalties for sections 96 & 98, and special minutes for a Public Hearing held on July 14th on the topic of the tax budget. Ringwald seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of an opioid litigation update. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

The regular council meeting resumed session at 6:53 p.m.

**SCHEDULED PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main St., presented council with a lead presentation and has brought it to the attention of the city he thinks his wife's health decline was due to lead poisoning via absorption through water she was consuming from their home. After some self testing and treating, his wife's health seems to be improving. Jared is suggesting the city potentially hand out all city residents who pay a water bill with two lead test strips. Fleming explained there is already a process in place in which the city regularly checks residences for lead and keeps stringent records on these tests.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**MAYOR:** Mr. Markward stated the topic for the Executive Session at the end of the agenda is for the purchase of real estate. No action will be taken on this topic tonight.

Markward reported an open house for the live burn demonstration at the new fire training facility at Vantage next Tuesday. RSVP's are due tomorrow.

Additionally, Markward reported an example of the vouchers was provided to council for review; the vouchers were slightly updated from the last use and now list only items that can NOT be taken. If an item is not on the list, it can be taken to the dump with the voucher. The city will be providing these to residents who come up to the water department. Starting next Monday, residents will be able to obtain these vouchers although they will not be usable until September.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Mr. Fleming reported street painting will begin soon although no schedule is established yet. Additionally the “STOP” at the Central intersection will be painted soon.

Leeson Ave. will be chip and sealed from the end of construction to John Brown Rd. to make it through 2 more winters before being redone in 2027.

**AUDITOR:** Mrs. Blackmore reported July financials.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** Mr. Hatcher sent council junk/rubbish/weeds suggested penalties for section 96 & 98 of the city ordinances to review.

**COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:**

Mark Davis, 402 S. Tyler St., wants a left turn light at the Washington/Bonnewitz intersection. Fleming answered this is part of a safety upgrade to the intersection for next summer.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE:** No report.

**STREETS AND ALLEYS:** No report.

**JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION:** No report.

**PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT:** No report.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** No report.

**HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY:** Requested an update on blighted properties. Law Director Hatcher stated there are no updates at this time, but court will take place in August and then he will update council on those specific properties.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** No report.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:**

Third and Final Reading for Ordinance Number 25-07-031; AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS TO ALLOW THE TRANSFER

OF THE REAL PROPERTY AT 133 BALYEAT AVENUE TO THE LAND BANK AND  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. All concurred. Ordinance passed.

Kallas made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number 25-08-034. Bowers seconded; all  
concurred.

First Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number 25-08-034. All concurred.

Kallas made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number 25-08-035. Ringwald seconded; all  
concurred.


First Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number 25-08-035. All concurred.

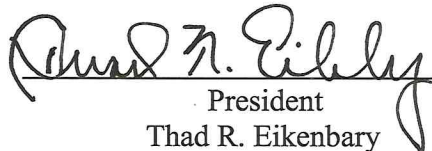
**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Kallas made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the purchase of  
real estate with no action taken at this time; Bowers seconded; all concurred.

Council reconvened following the executive session at 7:26 p.m.

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

  
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Clerk of Council  
Stephanie R. Phillips

  
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President  
Thad R. Eikenbary

August 25, 2025  
DATE

