

**MINUTES OF THE  
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**  
October 27, 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 and Marshall were present.

Agler made a motion to excuse Moore. Ringwald seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to approve tonight's Consent Agenda and minutes from the October 13th meeting. Roberts seconded; all concurred.

**SCHEDULED PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

Mitch Price, Director of Main Street Van Wert, gave a year-to-date update on Historic Main Street Van Wert including summarizing some events Main Street hosted this year, highlighted spring and fall beautification, new business, volunteers and Placier AI. Looking ahead, MSVW looks to increase brand awareness, activate, recruit and continue to retain downtown businesses, and continue partnership with Van Wert Forward. Lastly, Price asked for \$26,500.00 from the city in support.

Kim Laudick, CEO of YWCA, presented a quick summary of who the YWCA reaches within the community before Julie Burenga, Campaign Chair took over to present a project overview to cover why the YWCA is running a capital campaign to build a new facility (expanding programs, creating space and privacy for victims/residents). Laudick is requesting a one time city contribution of \$15,000 on behalf of the YWCA Capital Campaign.

Jennifer Adams, City of Van Wert Tax Administrator, shares that the city will be implementing a new tax software that will offer a service called "Watcher" that will track delinquent accounts and allow delinquent/past due tax payers to be submitted to the Ohio Attorney General for tax to be collected from Ohio Income Taxes or Gambling winnings after a third and final bill instead of the city needing to take each delinquent individual to court. This is at no additional cost to the city. Adams is requesting that an ordinance be prepared to allow the mayor to sign a Collection Agreement with the Ohio Attorney General. This agreement will allow taxes to be collected without taking those individuals to court. The Attorney General will collect 10% from the tax payer as a fee.

Agler made a motion to prepare an ordinance to allow the mayor to sign a collection agreement with the Attorney General for delinquent tax payers as an emergency. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**MAYOR:** Mr. Markward touched on an ordinance that will be asked to be prepared tonight referencing 150.03 definitions. The mayor clarified that the ordinance is being updated to make the language more clear on the “Public Service Facility” section to make it easier for a “reader” to understand that this section covers *any* publicly or privately owned facilities where as the current ordinance could read that it applies to only *some* privately owned facilities.

An announcement will occur in the November Water Bill on leaf pick-up that will begin the week of November 24 and will run for roughly one month.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Not present.

**AUDITOR:** Mrs. Blackmore went over September financials. Blackmore also presented one Then & Now to Ohio EPA in the amount of \$8,985.56 for DSW-PTI/Plan Approval.

As Blackmore works on the appropriation budget, she also plans to work on a “in history to the future” type forecast to showcase the trends of “where we’ve been and where we’re going”. She will plan several drafts of the appropriation budget as council discusses throughout each meeting.

A salary ordinance will need prepared for the safety, service, and municipal court.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** Mr. Hatcher has two things he would like Judiciary & Annexation ask to be prepared for the next meeting that he already sent out to council for review. One is to authorize the mayor to sign a petition for annexation for a 2.5 acre property that the city purchased earlier in the year on Woodland and John Brown Rd. Also another ordinance he would like to be prepared to authorize the mayor to sign fire contract agreements with Pleasant and Hoaglin townships. These have been approved/reviewed by the fire chief.

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

None.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE:** Ringwald made a motion to pass as presented by the city auditor, a Then & Now to Ohio EPA in the amount of \$8,985.56 for DSW-PTI/Plan Approval. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to prepare a salary ordinance for safety, service and municipal court. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to allow the Mayor to sign the fire contract agreements with the respective townships. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

After some discussion of the two monetary “asks” from our public speakers tonight, council clarified that the “ask” from MSVW would go into the budget as normal and be approved with that. Since the YWCA is a one time contribution to a capital campaign, it would be decided upon outside of the budget. Agler made a motion that the city pay \$15,000 to the YWCA’s capital campaign out of the 2025 budget (before year end). Kallas seconded; Ringwald abstained, Kallas and Agler voted yes. Bowers, Roberts and Marshall voted no.

**STREETS AND ALLEYS:** Kallas made a motion to introduce 25-10-046. Agler seconded; all concurred.

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

Kallas made a motion to be passed, on it’s first and final reading, Ordinance Number: 25-10-046; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 24-08-046 MAKING A NO PARKING ZONE ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE STREET FROM THE NORTH PROPERTY LINE OF 800 SOUTH TYLER CONTINUING SOUTH TO THE END OF THE STREET AND DECLARING THE SAME AS AN EMERGENCY. Agler seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

**JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION:** Bowers made a motion to prepare an ordinance to amend code of ordinances 150.03 definitions. Kallas seconded; Ringwald, Kallas, Bowers, Agler and Marshall voted yes; Roberts abstained.

Bowers made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number 25-10-047. Kallas seconded; Ringwald, Kallas, Bowers, Agler and Marshall voted yes; Roberts abstained.

\*\*\*Roberts discovered during Resolutions & Ordinances that he had abstained from the incorrect ordinance and will resurrect going forward; Roberts will be abstaining from 25-10-043 due to conflict of interest.

Bowers made a motion to have the law director prepare an ordinance to authorize the mayor to sign a petition for annexation for 2.5 acres at Woodland and John Brown. Agler seconded; all concurred.

**PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT:** No report.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** No report.

**HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY:** Not present. Agler has no report.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** No report.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC:** Hatcher shared a council member brought to his attention that potentially a recreational THC product is being sold at a local store. He plans to investigate before revealing any additional information, if any.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.



**NEW BUSINESS:** President Eikenbary received a letter from the Van Wert Planning Commission stating they held a public hearing for two zoning changes. One with WWKL Holdings for an Edwards St. Parcel going from an R-2 to I-2 zoning and second, with Toasted Buckeye, LLC for a parcel on Route 127 going from R-2 to B-3. Eikenbary is scheduling a public hearing in the council chambers at 6:15 on December 8th for these two zoning changes.

**RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:**

Third and Final Reading for Ordinance Number 25-09-039; AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO TRANSFER PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF EAST CRAWFORD STREET AND SOUTH MARKET STREET AND DECLARING THE SAME AS AN EMERGENCY. All concurred. Ordinance passed.

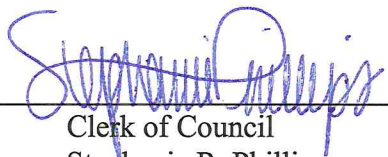
Third and Final Reading for Ordinance Number 25-09-040. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO TRANSFER PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF EAST MAIN STREET AND NORTH FRANKLIN STREET AND DECLARING THE SAME AS AN EMERGENCY. All concurred. Ordinance passed.

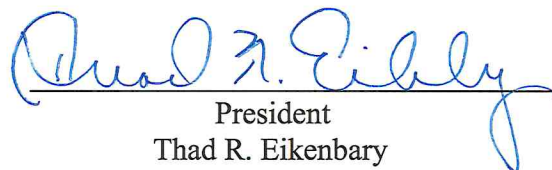
Second Reading Advisory for Resolution Number 25-10-043. Ringwald, Kallas, Bowers, Agler, and Marshall voted yes, Roberts abstained.

First Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number 25-10-047. All concurred.

Kallas made a motion to move into executive session for the purpose of discussion of litigation. Agler seconded; all concurred.

After reconvening from the executive session, Agler made a motion to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council  
Stephanie R. Phillips

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President  
Thad R. Eikenbary

November 10, 2025  
DATE