

**MINUTES OF THE  
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL  
November 24, 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, Bowers, Agler, Roberts, Moore, and Marshall were present.

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

Bowers made a motion to approve tonight's Consent Agenda and minutes from the November 10th meeting. Agler seconded; all concurred.

**SCHEDULED PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

None.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**MAYOR:** Mr. Markward introduced VWAED Chair, Brent Stevens who was present to put in a request to the city of \$80,000.00 (\$20,000 quarterly) for 2026 to help continue economic development in the community.

Mr. Markward reported an error discovered that tracks back to the 2017 tax year. In September of 2017, council doubled the tax credit from 25 to 50 percent for city residents who paid/worked outside of the city. It was done with the thought it would be rescinded if an income tax increase that was on the ballot failed. The tax issue on the ballot did indeed fail, but the council at the time never formally passed legislation to drop the credit back down to 25 percent, meaning people should have been getting 50 percent, but were only receiving 25 percent. Markward stated the city has a "rainy day fund" or a cash carryover fund for when the city has more income than expense for a year; all people who were affected will be credited back from this fund. The tax department is currently reviewing all city returns for the last 8 years. Markward then gives council a heads up that the transfer of money to take care of this will hopefully take place in 2 weeks, and if not, as soon as possible. Additionally, he reminds council they may make a decision tonight to address the ordinance on the tax credit.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Mr. Fleming reminded council leaf pickup started today and will continue for the next few weeks until they are all picked up.

Warren Straley requested a utility and road dedication of the Jennings Crossing Subdivision infrastructure.

The 25 mph solar flashing speed limit sign on Washington right before Crawford was just erected.

An ordinance in the agenda tonight that needs asked for tonight for TAP funding through ODOT; this funding will be for sidewalks and pathways that will amount to \$740,000 in relation to the Walnut job.

**AUDITOR:** Mrs. Blackmore reviewed October financials.

Blackmore requested one Then & Now be passed tonight to Ohio EPA in the amount of \$4,043.75 for public drinking water plan review.

Blackmore reminded council there are several items in ordinances tonight to be addressed including the appropriation budget ordinance and 3 salary ordinances.

Blackmore went through several lines of the budget with council to explain differences, expenses and percentages. Several discussions for line items took place. No questions from council followed. As we near end of year, more items will be finalized.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** Mr. Hatcher followed up with council on an email sent earlier in the afternoon for a proposed change to -047 that he would now like to tweak again to not contradict what the city is trying to do. Hatcher explains zoning in more detail to assure council and public understand the zoning changes.

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

Eric Hurless, addressed the tax issue with the mayor. Hurless stated if the person(s) responsible for the mistake are still employed with the city of Van Wert, as a resident, he feels they should be held accountable.

Hall Block, 401 S. Washington St., addressed council to speak on the zoning ordinance set to pass tonight. He feels the issue is the way the ordinance is currently written, the city is opening a broader door to public utility and feels instead, we should tailor specific zoning changes to allow/disallow public utilities.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE:** Ringwald made a motion to pass the Then & Now as presented by the city auditor for Ohio EPA. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion for the law director to prepare an amendment to change city tax credit from 50% to 25% for Van Wert residents who work outside of the city, as an emergency. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number: 25-11-053. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

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

Ringwald made a motion to pass, on it's first and final reading, ORDINANCE Number: 25-11-053; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 22-12-061 BY AMENDING THE SALARY ORDINANCE SAFETY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES PROVIDING FOR THE SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND FIRE DEPARTMENT, NON-BARGAINING UNIT MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF VAN WERT, ESTABLISHING JOB CLASSIFICATIONS, SALARY RANGES AND LIMITATIONS, AUTHORIZING SPECIFIC NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, PROVIDING IMMUNIZATION AGAINST COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, AND OTHER BENEFITS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Bowers seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

Ringwald made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number: 25-11-054. Agler seconded; Ringwald, Bowers, Agler, Moore and Marshall voted yes. Roberts abstained.

Ringwald made a motion to suspend statutory rules. Bowers seconded; Ringwald, Bowers, Agler, Moore and Marshall voted yes. Roberts abstained.

Due to Roberts abstaining, council does not have 6 votes to suspend statutory rules. Statutory rules were not suspended at this time.

Ringwald made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number: 25-11-055. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

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

Ringwald made a motion to pass, on it's first and final reading, ORDINANCE Number: 25-11-055; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 24-10-061 PROVIDING FOR THE SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES IN THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT, AUDITOR'S OFFICE, INCOME TAX AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF VAN WERT, ESTABLISHING JOB CLASSIFICATIONS, SALARY RANGES AND LIMITATIONS, AUTHORIZING SPECIFIC NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, ALLOWANCES, IMMUNIZATION AGAINST COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, AND OTHER BENEFITS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Bowers seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

Ringwald made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE Number 25-11-056. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

**STREETS AND ALLEYS**: Not present. Roberts made a motion for the law director to prepare a resolution authorizing the Safety Service Director to apply for TAP funding through ODOT, as an emergency. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Roberts made a motion to introduce RESOLUTION Number 25-11-057. Agler seconded; all concurred.

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



Roberts made a motion to pass, on it's first and final reading, RESOLUTION Number 25-11-057; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF VAN WERT OHIO TO APPLY TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) FUNDING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Agler seconded; all concurred. Ordinance Passed.

Roberts made a motion to have the law director to prepare a dedication ordinance for Jennings Crossing. Agler seconded; all concurred.

**JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION:** Bowers made a motion to amend ORDINANCE Number 25-10-047 to restrict power plants I2 zoning only. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Bowers made a motion to pass, as amended, on it's Third and Final Reading, ORDINANCE Number 25-10-047; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VAN WERT CODE OF ORDINANCES 150.03 DEFINITIONS. Agler seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

**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:** President Eikenbary presented two liquor license notices, one renewal for Beer Barrel and one new license for the VW Smoke Shop. Eikenbary reminds council they have 30 days to voice any objections.

Eikenbary reminded council there are several council appointed positions throughout the city. The city was contacted by Leslie Wilkin who was appointed by council to Brumback Library Board of Trustees for a 3 year term that expires 01/31/2026; Leslie expressed interest in being reappointed if council so chooses.

Eikenbary also reminded everyone of the public hearing in the council chambers at 6:15 on December 8th 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.

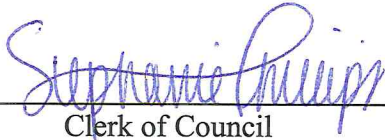
**RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:**

Second Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number: 25-11-048. All concurred.

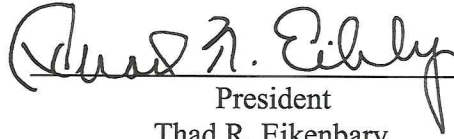
Second Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number: 25-11-049. All concurred.

First Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number: 25-11-056.

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Moore seconded; all concurred.



Clerk of Council  
Stephanie R. Phillips



President  
Thad R. Eikenbary

December 8, 2025  
DATE

