

# MINUTES OF THE VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL

*May 11, 2026*

Council President Pro Tempore Eric Hurless announced due to a prior excused absence of Mayor Ken Markward, Council President Thad Eikenbary would be “Acting Mayor” for tonight’s meeting. Eikenbary cannot act as Mayor and Council President together; therefore, Chairman of the Judiciary & Annexation Committee, Eric Hurless, serves as Council President Pro Tempore. After this announcement, Hurless called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

President Pro Tempore Hurless gave the invocation.

On call of the roll: Ringwald, Johnson, Block, Agler, Roberts, Moore, and Hurless were present.

Hatcher requested a motion be made to amend the agenda to reflect a change in the title of prepared Ordinance 26-05-028 to read “...Type 1...” instead of “...Type 2...” for a typographical error in the agenda only, the Ordinance title is true and accurate. Block made that motion. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to approve tonight’s consent agenda as amended. Ringwald seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to approve minutes as presented from City Council Meeting of April 27, 2026 and Public Hearing Minutes of May 4, 2026. Block seconded; all concurred.

## **Scheduled Public Speakers:**

None.

## **Administrative Reports:**

**Mayor:** Acting Mayor Thad Eikenbary had no report.

**Safety Service Director:** Fleming stated a CSO project bid came in at \$2.1 Million (estimate was \$1.85 Million). This was the only bid for the project, the city is obligated to move forward under Ohio EPA guidelines therefore the bid will be awarded to move the project forward and money will need appropriated to cover the difference from the sewer fund.

The gas restoration project is almost complete after blacktop is finished.

A 25-mph sign within the Dickinson Landing subdivision was erected today.

**City Auditor:** Blackmore reiterated the request that a supplemental appropriation be prepared to allow \$700,000.00 be moved from the sewer fund in order to cover the full bid amount for the upcoming CSO project.

Blackmore also read the following:

“Mr. President, Members of Council:

On March 11, 2026, the Office of the City Auditor received from the Clerk of the Van Wert County Board of Commissioners the official transcript of proceedings relating to the annexation petition filed by The Marsh Foundation and Van Wert East Owner LLC for certain territory proposed to be annexed to the City of Van Wert.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 709, when the legislative authority of a municipality receives an annexation transcript from the county commissioners, the city is required to wait sixty (60) days before the annexation may be presented to City Council for consideration.

The 60-day holding period expired on May 10, 2026.

Ohio law further provides that after that waiting period expires, the City Auditor shall present the annexation transcript to the legislative authority of the municipality at its next regular meeting.

Accordingly, at this time, and in compliance with Ohio law, I am formally presenting the annexation transcript for the Marsh Foundation and Van Wert East Owner LLC annexation to the Van Wert City Council at this regular meeting of May 11, 2026.

Mr. President, I now respectfully submit the annexation transcript to Council for its consideration and for any action that Council determines appropriate under Ohio law and that the Council minutes so reflect this presentation.

Thank you.”

Blackmore then handed the transcript to President Pro Tempore Eric Hurless.

**Law Director:** No report.

**Comments, Communications, and Petitions:**

None.

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance:** Ringwald made a motion to have the law director prepare an ordinance, as an emergency, to make a supplemental appropriation from the sewer fund for the CSO Project bid in the amount of \$700,000. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to introduce Ordinance 26-05-031. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to suspend statutory rules be suspended. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to pass, on it's first and final reading, Ordinance Number: 26-05-031; AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO FUND 602, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Agler seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

**Economic Development:** No report.

**Streets and Alleys:** Block inquired on audible and tactile push buttons on the Main/Washington crosswalk. A further discussion will ensue with Fleming on this topic.

**Properties and Equipment:** No report.

**Parks and Recreation:** No report.

**Health, Service, and Safety:** Moore is working with Hatcher on an unmentioned city ordinance relating to a homeowner.

**Judiciary and Annexation:** Hurless noted for the record, City Auditor Erika Blackmore formally presented the petition and related materials to council in relation to the annexation and related zoning ordinances of approximately 902 acres. Hurless also noted for the record, a public hearing occurred on May 4, 2026 concerning amendments to the city code regarding adding a definition for data center, adding a definition for public service facility, and amending section 150.15 to include data centers as a permitted use in the I-2 zoning district.

Before Hurless opened the floor to recognize comments from the public regarding the proposed annexation, a presentation was given by Charles Koch, landowner's agent. Hurless opened for public comment and noted this is the time for council to receive public comments on this annexation and may include any additional comments on the proposed amendments to the city code. Hurless reviewed public comment rules. Hurless also inserted written comments from the public that are included with the minutes. See complete list of speakers attached to these minutes.

During Public Comment Councilman Roberts asked to be excused from the meeting due to needing to abstain from voting or commenting on the annexation matter; Councilman Roberts is an employee of the Marsh Foundation. Hurless excused Roberts. Block assured the public of his confidence in the process.

**Questions and Comments from Council and Public:**

Joe Jared, 233 Burt St., made a public comment about reverse aging.

Brock Roehm, Willshire, OH, inquired on a resolution to the junk and rubbish ordinance. Hurless stated that is on unfinished business and the topic will be addressed in the upcoming meetings.

Dave Roehm, Willshire, OH, states additional concerns on data center environmental usages.

**Unfinished Business:**

Fleming stated an agreement has been made with AEP on a 10 year contract. This info will be presented to council prior to the next meeting in an effort to work toward a signed Lease Agreement for the city.

Agler wants to address door hangers on the junk & rubbish ordinance. If homes are unoccupied, door hangers are ineffective. This will be part of a later discussion on potential amendments to the junk & rubbish ordinance.

**New Business:**

None.

**Resolutions and Ordinances:**

Second Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number: 26-04-024. All concurred.

Second Reading Advisory for Ordinance Number: 26-04-025. All concurred.

Hurless made a motion to suspend statutory rules for Ordinance Number: 26-04-026. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Hurless made a motion to pass, on it's second and final reading, Ordinance Number: 26-04-026; AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF VAN WERT AND TRUE NORTH PARTNERS HOLDINGS, LLC AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Ringwald seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

Hurless made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number: 26-05-028. Agler seconded; all concurred.

After Hurless made comment on the lengthy process leading up to preparing and passing these ordinances, which included many weeks of research, public hearings and zoning meetings, he made a motion to suspend statutory rules. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Hurless made a motion to pass, on it's first and final reading, Ordinance Number: 26-05-028; AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE EXPEDITED TYPE 1 ANNEXATION OF 901.698+/- ACRES FROM HOAGLIN TOWNSHIP, PLEASANT TOWNSHIP, AND RIDGE TOWNSHIP TO THE CITY OF VAN WERT, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Agler seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

This EXPEDITED TYPE 1 ANNEXATION is consistent with the change in the Agenda at the start of the meeting and is consistent with the heading of Ordinance 26-05-028 itself.

Hurless made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number: 26-05-029. Agler seconded; all concurred.

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

Hurless made a motion to pass, on it's first and final reading, Ordinance Number: 26-05-029; AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND VAN WERT CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 150.03 TO ADD THE TERM "DATA CENTER" AS A DEFINED TERM AND TO MODIFY THE DEFINITION OF THE TERM "PUBLIC SERVICE FACILITY", TO AMEND VAN WERT CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 150.15(h)(1) BY ADDING DATA CENTERS AS A PERMITTED USE IN THE I-2 GENERAL INDUSTRIAL ZONING CLASSIFICATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Moore seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

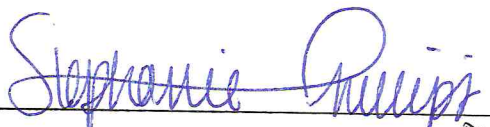
Hurless made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number: 26-05-030. Agler seconded; all concurred.


Hurless made a motion to suspend statutory rules. Johnson seconded; all concurred.

Hurless made a motion to pass, on it's first and final reading, Ordinance Number: 26-05-030; AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF VAN WERT ZONING MAP BY APPROVING A CONDITIONAL ZONING PETITION FILED PURSUANT TO VAN WERT CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 150.12 (C) TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY CONSISTING OF 901.698+/- ACRES WITH THE I-2, GENERAL INDUSTRIAL ZONING CLASSIFICATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Agler seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm. Block seconded; all concurred.

Approved on 5/27/2026

  
Clerk of Council, Stephanie E. Phillips

  
President of Council, Thad R. Eikenbary

Members of the Public who spoke in regards to annexation:

Brock Roehm, 3046 Willshire Eastern Rd., Willshire, Ohio

Corann Linser, 423 N Cherry St.

Joe Jared, 233 Burt St.

Rylee Oliver, 837 Elson Ave.

Faith Wallace, 1014 E Crawford St.

Dave Roehm, 3145 St. Rte. 81, Willshire, Ohio

Theresa Singer, 8680 Boroff Rd.

Kelly Ripley, 8847 Germann Rd.

Mark Davis, 402 S Tyler St.

Randy Agler, 1043 Mendon Rd.

John Tomlinson, 315 Gordon Ave.

Darin Figel, 325 N Franklin St.

Randy Gardner, 1324 Larry St.

Van Ripley, 8847 Germann Rd.

Faye Craig, 116 (? inaudible)

Brian Zizelman, 5145 St. Rte. 117, Rockford, Ohio

Lisa McDougal, Van Wert

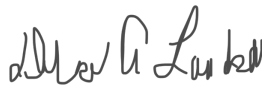
Arlene Hurless, 5 Willow Ln.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip</b>
Debra Laudick	1192 Nanette Ln	Van Wert	OH	45891
Diane Couch	121 E 2nd St	Van Wert	OH	45891
Duane Fuerst	1017 Maxine Ln	Van Wert	OH	45891
Eric Couch	121 E 2nd St	Van Wert	OH	45891
Gregory Jeffrey	315 E 1st St	Van Wert	OH	45891
Jeff Bockey	21497 Jennings Delphos Road	Delphos	OH	45833
Jeremy Laukhuf	1211 David St	Van Wert	OH	45891
Johanna Quarles	133 Boyd Avenue	Van Wert	OH	45891
John Sudduth	235 Webster Ave	Van Wert	OH	45891
Kurt Muntzinger	1372 Rye Drive	Van Wert	OH	45891
Larry Mengerink	812 Elson Ave	Van Wert	OH	45891
Mary J Geesey	921 Pearson Street	Van Wert	OH	45891
Mary Karl	715 Perry St	Van Wert	OH	45891
Mel Hurless	5 Willow Ln	Van Wert	OH	45891
Michael Joseph	927 Metbliss Ave	Delphos	OH	45833
Michael Learned	205 E 3rd St	Van Wert	OH	45891
Paula Stabler	777 South Race Street	Van Wert	OH	45891
Richard Ford	5 Warren Rd	Van Wert	OH	45891
Richard Jacobs	222 W 2nd Street	Van Wert	OH	45891
Ronald Johnson	621 S Walnut St	Van Wert	OH	45891
Ronald Klaus	12117 Dolt Rd	Delphos	OH	45833
Scott Heffner	674 N Washington St	Van Wert	OH	45891
Theodore Waters	732 N Washington St	Van Wert	OH	45891
Tillnam Karl	715 Perry St	Van Wert	OH	45891
Traci Brake	1081 Rosemont Dr	Van Wert	OH	45891

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I believe this project represents a balanced approach to growth, combining economic opportunity with environmental responsibility and community input. From the early stages in 2024, it has undergone extensive review and refinement, resulting in a plan that addresses many of the concerns typically associated with large developments.

With strong job creation, infrastructure improvements, and safeguards to protect local resources, this project offers a clear path forward for Van Wert. I encourage you to support it as an investment in the community's long-term prosperity and stability.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra A. Laudick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Debra" being the most prominent.

Debra A Laudick

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I am writing in support of the Van Wert data center project, as it reflects thoughtful planning, responsible development, and strong community protections.

The site has been designated and pre-annexed for industrial use since 2007, demonstrating that this type of project has long been part of the city's vision. The development also includes significant infrastructure improvements funded by the operator, including road upgrades and power transmission enhancements—without increasing residential utility costs.

Additionally, the facility will use modern, efficient technology such as a closed-loop cooling system that minimizes water usage and avoids drawing from local municipal supplies. With oversight from multiple regulatory agencies, the project prioritizes safety, environmental responsibility, and transparency.

This project aligns with Van Wert's long-term planning and represents smart, forward-looking growth for the community.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Gouch".

ok

Dear Members of the Council,

After carefully reviewing the available information about the proposed data center project, I would like to offer my strong and unequivocal support. This development represents a rare and significant opportunity for Van Wert—one that has the potential to shape the community's future for decades to come.

The scale of investment alone is remarkable, exceeding \$10 billion. That level of commitment brings with it not only immediate economic activity but also long-term stability. The projected \$200 million in local revenue over the next 20 years will provide sustained support for essential services, including education, infrastructure, and public safety.

Equally important are the employment opportunities. The combination of up to 1,500 construction jobs and 200 to 250 permanent positions with competitive wages offers both short-term and long-term benefits. These are the kinds of opportunities that allow families to build stable lives and encourage young people to remain in the community.

I am also encouraged by the planning and safeguards associated with the project. The use of a site that has been designated for industrial development since 2007, the investment in infrastructure by the developer, and the attention to environmental considerations all point to a well-conceived and responsibly managed project.

In many ways, this is the type of opportunity communities hope for but rarely receive—a project that brings economic growth, aligns with long-term planning, and minimizes negative impacts. It is difficult to imagine a better use of the Megasite or a more promising investment in Van Wert's future.

For all of these reasons, I strongly encourage the Council to approve and support this project. Doing so will demonstrate leadership, vision, and a commitment to the long-term success of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Duane Fuerst". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Duane Fuerst

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I am writing in support of the Data center in Van Wert. This project would provide many long term benefits to the city without negatively impacting the environment and residents. It is time for Van Wert to position itself for the future by inviting in modern infrastructure to be apart of the digital growth that is happening.

The project's benefits to the community are numerous. 200-250 permanent high paying jobs, 1000-1500 construction jobs, \$200 million in local revenue that would go to things like schools and roads, and infrastructure improvements paid for by the data center. That is investment that will benefit Van Wert long term by strengthening our economy and community for the future.

Modern data centers are built to be efficient and sustainable and this project is an example of that. It includes a closed loop water cooling system, meaning water will be pumped in at the beginning but then will be reused over and over again to cool the data center. The electricity for it will come through a separate line than the local distribution lines so the city's power grid will not be impacted.

Overall, this project provides many direct community benefits while protecting the community's resources. I urge you to support this project.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Couch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Eric Couch

Dear Members of the Van Wert City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed data center development in Van Wert. This project represents a transformative opportunity for our community, with an investment exceeding \$10 billion. Opportunities of this magnitude are rare, especially for a community of our size, and they deserve careful consideration with an eye toward long-term prosperity.

The projected \$200 million in community revenue over the next 20 years will provide meaningful and sustained support for our schools, public safety services, and infrastructure improvements. This type of revenue can reduce pressure on local taxpayers while enhancing the quality of life for residents.

In addition, the creation of 200 to 250 permanent, high-paying jobs—with average salaries around \$80,000—will provide stable career paths for local residents. The construction phase alone is expected to generate up to 1,500 jobs, bringing immediate economic activity to the area.

This project is not speculative or out of place—it aligns with nearly two decades of planning for the Van Wert Megasite, which has been designated for industrial use since 2007. Supporting this project is consistent with the vision our community has already embraced.

I encourage the Council to support this development and help position Van Wert for long-term economic success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory O. Jeffery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gregory" being more prominent than the last name "Jeffery".

Gregory O Jeffery

Dear Members of the Van Wert City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed data center development in Van Wert. This project represents a transformative opportunity for our community, with an investment exceeding \$10 billion. Opportunities of this magnitude are rare, especially for a community of our size, and they deserve careful consideration with an eye toward long-term prosperity.

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I encourage the Council to support this development and help position Van Wert for long-term economic success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Bockey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" and last name "Bockey" clearly distinguishable.

Jeff Bockey

Dear Members of the Council,

After carefully reviewing the available information about the proposed data center project, I would like to offer my strong and unequivocal support. This development represents a rare and significant opportunity for Van Wert—one that has the potential to shape the community's future for decades to come.

The scale of investment alone is remarkable, exceeding \$10 billion. That level of commitment brings with it not only immediate economic activity but also long-term stability. The projected \$200 million in local revenue over the next 20 years will provide sustained support for essential services, including education, infrastructure, and public safety.

Equally important are the employment opportunities. The combination of up to 1,500 construction jobs and 200 to 250 permanent positions with competitive wages offers both short-term and long-term benefits. These are the kinds of opportunities that allow families to build stable lives and encourage young people to remain in the community.

I am also encouraged by the planning and safeguards associated with the project. The use of a site that has been designated for industrial development since 2007, the investment in infrastructure by the developer, and the attention to environmental considerations all point to a well-conceived and responsibly managed project.

In many ways, this is the type of opportunity communities hope for but rarely receive—a project that brings economic growth, aligns with long-term planning, and minimizes negative impacts. It is difficult to imagine a better use of the Megasite or a more promising investment in Van Wert's future.

For all of these reasons, I strongly encourage the Council to approve and support this project. Doing so will demonstrate leadership, vision, and a commitment to the long-term success of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Laukhuf', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeremy Laukhuf

Dear Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed data center project in our community. This development represents a significant opportunity for economic growth, workforce development, and long-term investment in our region.

Data centers are critical infrastructure in today's economy. Beyond their technical role, they bring substantial local benefits. The construction phase alone will generate numerous jobs for contractors, engineers, and skilled tradespeople. Once operational, the facility will continue to provide stable, high-quality employment opportunities in IT, maintenance, security, and facility management.

In addition, the presence of a data center often attracts complementary businesses and encourages broader economic development. Increased tax revenues generated by the project can support public services such as schools, infrastructure improvements, and emergency services—benefiting all of Van Wert.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage approval and support of this data center project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Quarles', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Johanna Quarles

Dear Members of the Council,

I am encouraged by the environmental considerations included in the proposed data center project and would like to express my support. Responsible development is essential, and this project appears to take that responsibility seriously.

One of the most important aspects is the use of a closed-loop cooling system, which minimizes water usage and avoids drawing from local water supplies. This is a critical feature, particularly in agricultural regions where water resources must be carefully managed.

The project also incorporates modern design standards aimed at efficiency and sustainability, reflecting the broader industry trend toward environmentally conscious operations.

Economic development does not have to come at the expense of environmental stewardship, and this project demonstrates that balance effectively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Sudduth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized 'J'.

John A. Sudduth

Dear Members of the Van Wert City Council,

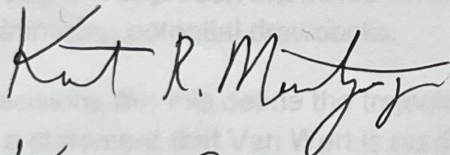
I am writing to strongly encourage you to vote in support of the proposed data center project. One of the most compelling reasons to approve this development is the significant strengthening of our local tax base that it will provide over time.

With an estimated \$200 million in community revenue over the next 20 years, this project offers a stable and predictable funding source for essential services. Schools, emergency services, and infrastructure all depend on reliable funding, and this type of long-term revenue can reduce the need for future tax increases on residents. In many communities, large-scale developments like this have helped ease the financial burden on homeowners while still improving public services.

Beyond direct revenue, the presence of a major data center can also increase surrounding property values and attract additional commercial investment. A stronger tax base benefits everyone by creating a more financially secure and resilient community.

This is a practical, forward-looking opportunity to improve Van Wert's financial health while maintaining affordability for residents. I respectfully urge you to vote yes and support this project.

Sincerely,



KURT R. MUNTZINGER

Dear Council Members,

The infrastructure improvements tied to this project are a major benefit for our community. Planned upgrades to Mendon Road and Bonnewitz Crossing, along with a dedicated construction entrance on US-30, will help manage traffic flow and reduce congestion. These changes are especially important for keeping heavy truck traffic away from schools and residential areas.

In addition, the project will fund necessary electrical infrastructure upgrades. With oversight from AEP and state regulators ensuring the facility pays its fair share, these improvements could even help stabilize or reduce power costs for residents. This is a clear example of private investment delivering public benefits.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Mengerink". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Larry Mengerink

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to offer my strong and enthusiastic support for the proposed data center project and to encourage you to vote yes. Opportunities like this are rare, and the decisions made at this moment will have lasting effects on the future of Van Wert.

This project represents a level of investment—estimated in the billions of dollars—that most communities only hope to attract. It brings with it immediate benefits, such as construction jobs and local spending, as well as long-term advantages, including permanent employment and substantial tax revenue.

The projected financial contribution to the community over the next two decades has the potential to strengthen schools, improve infrastructure, and enhance public services. These are the building blocks of a thriving community, and they will benefit residents for generations to come.

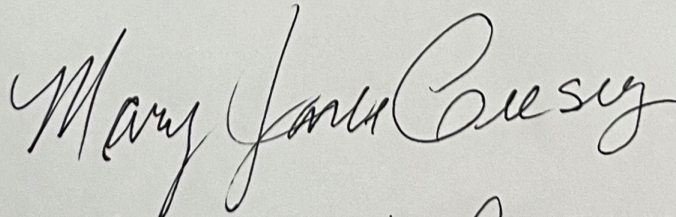
What makes this opportunity especially compelling is that it aligns with long-standing planning efforts. The site has been designated for industrial use for many years, meaning this development fulfills a vision that the community has already invested in. It is not a departure from our goals—it is the realization of them.

In addition, the project has been designed with attention to important considerations such as infrastructure, environmental impact, and community integration. This thoughtful approach increases confidence that the benefits can be achieved while minimizing potential drawbacks.

Decisions like this define the trajectory of a community. Choosing to support this project is a statement that Van Wert is ready to grow, to adapt, and to invest in its future. It is a chance to create lasting opportunity not just for today's residents, but for future generations.

I strongly encourage the Council to vote yes and take advantage of this generational opportunity.

Sincerely,

  
Mary Jane Geesey

Dear Members of the Council,

The scale of job creation associated with this project is significant and deserves strong support. The construction phase alone is expected to generate between 1,000 and 1,500 jobs, providing immediate economic benefits.

Following construction, the facility will support 200 to 250 permanent positions with competitive wages. These jobs offer stability and long-term opportunity for local residents.

This is a meaningful investment in our workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Karl". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line through the "y" and "l".

Mary Karl

Dear Council Members,


I support the Van Wert data center project because of the significant infrastructure improvements it will bring to our community. Large-scale developments like this often require upgrades to roads, utilities, and energy systems, and in this case, those improvements will be funded by the developer rather than local taxpayers.

This includes enhancements to transmission infrastructure and roadway access, which will benefit not only the data center but also the broader community. These upgrades can improve safety, efficiency, and long-term capacity for future growth.

It is also important to note that the project is not expected to increase residential electric rates, which is a common concern with developments of this scale. The planning appears to have accounted for this, ensuring that residents are not negatively impacted.

This is a thoughtful and well-structured project that delivers both economic and infrastructure benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mel Hurless". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a small dot at the end.

mel hurless

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I am writing to express my support for the development of a data center in our community and hope to encourage you to support it as well. The AI race has already started and will accelerate these next few years. To protect American computing dominance data centers must be built in communities like ours. Ohio is a major data center market because of our cheap land, available energy, and proximity to major American cities.

Given this context, denying any data centers to be built in Van Wert would be foolish. If we reject a data center here, the developers will simply build it in another part of Ohio. It is important that we understand our role in the data center boom and include ourselves in it.

Approving this project will bring positives such as economic investments and jobs. This data center will bring \$200 million in local revenue to be shared amongst our social services, which will help improve our schools. Additionally, the construction phase will bring about 1500 jobs, and the completion of it will bring 250 permanent, high-paying jobs. Finally, approval of this project will show that Van Wert is ready for business and that Van Wert embraces the future, which will hopefully attract future investment into our city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Joseph".

michael joseph

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support the proposed data center project in Van Wert. This project represents a transformational opportunity for our community, with more than \$10 billion in planned investment and an estimated \$200 million in local revenue over the next 20 years.

The economic benefits are clear. The project is expected to create 1,000–1,500 construction jobs and 200–250 permanent high-paying positions, with average salaries of around \$80,000. In addition, each job created will support additional employment across local businesses and services.

This is exactly the kind of long-term, sustainable investment that strengthens schools, public services, and the overall financial future of Van Wert. I strongly encourage support for this project.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Learned". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michael Learned

Dear Council Members,

I would like to express my support for the data center project, particularly because it aligns with long-standing plans for the Van Wert Megasite. This site has been designated for industrial use since 2007, reflecting years of strategic planning and community foresight.

Too often, communities invest time and resources into preparing sites for development only to see those plans remain unrealized. This project represents the successful execution of that vision.

Approving this development is not a departure from community planning—it is the fulfillment of it. It demonstrates that Van Wert is ready to attract and support large-scale investment.

This is a moment to follow through on nearly two decades of preparation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula Stabler".

Paula Stabler

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I am pleased to offer my support for the development of a new data center in our area. As our society becomes increasingly reliant on digital services, the importance of reliable, secure, and efficient data infrastructure cannot be overstated.

A local data center enhances connectivity and strengthens the reliability of essential online services for businesses, schools, and residents. This improved digital infrastructure can help bridge gaps in access to technology and enable innovation across multiple sectors.

Furthermore, modern data centers are designed with sustainability and efficiency in mind. Many utilize advanced cooling systems, renewable energy sources, and energy-efficient technologies, contributing to environmentally responsible growth while meeting increasing data demands.

The presence of such infrastructure also improves resilience. By hosting critical data closer to users, communities are better equipped to maintain operations during disruptions, ensuring continuity for essential services.

Supporting this project is an investment in our digital future, strengthening both our technological capabilities and our community's ability to thrive in an increasingly connected world.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Ford".

Richard Ford

Dear Council Members,

The data center project positions Van Wert as part of the growing digital infrastructure that supports modern life. From cloud computing to online services, data centers are essential to the global economy.

By welcoming this project, our community becomes part of that network, gaining relevance and visibility in a high-growth industry.

This is an opportunity to move forward and embrace the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RJ' with a stylized flourish.

richard Jacobs

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed data center project in Van Wert. This project represents a responsible and appropriate use of land that has already been designated for industrial purposes since 2007, aligning well with the city's long-term planning and development goals.

The fact that this site has been zoned for industrial use for nearly two decades demonstrates clear foresight by community leaders to accommodate projects of this nature. A data center is not only consistent with that designation, but it is also one of the more modern, efficient, and low-impact forms of industrial development available today. Compared to traditional industrial operations, data centers typically generate less traffic, lower emissions, and minimal noise, making them a strong fit for the area.

In addition to being an appropriate land use, this project brings meaningful benefits to Van Wert. It represents a forward-looking investment that can strengthen the city's infrastructure, diversify its economic base, and reinforce its role in supporting digital innovation. The development also signals to other companies that Van Wert is a community that respects its planning framework and is open to responsible growth.

Supporting this data center is not just about a single project—it is about honoring the city's established land-use decisions and embracing opportunities that align with them in a thoughtful and productive way.

For these reasons, I respectfully encourage the approval and support of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ronald D. Johnson

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I believe this project represents a balanced approach to growth, combining economic opportunity with environmental responsibility and community input. From the early stages in 2024, it has undergone extensive review and refinement, resulting in a plan that addresses many of the concerns typically associated with large developments.

With strong job creation, infrastructure improvements, and safeguards to protect local resources, this project offers a clear path forward for Van Wert. I encourage you to support it as an investment in the community's long-term prosperity and stability.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Klaus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ronald" and last name "Klaus" clearly distinguishable.

Ronald Klaus

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support the proposed data center in Van Wert and to address some common concerns in a simple and clear way.

First, the project is designed to use very little water and will not rely on the city's water supply, so it will not impact residents or local agriculture.

Second, data centers are quiet compared to other types of industrial development. After construction, there is very little traffic and no loud daily operations like you would see in a factory.

It is also important to remember that this land has been zoned for industrial use since 2007. This means the area was already planned for this type of development, and a data center is actually a lower-impact option than many other industrial uses.

Overall, this project fits the site, addresses key concerns, and provides long-term benefits for Van Wert. I encourage support for it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Heffner". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

SCOTT HEFFNER

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I believe this project represents a balanced approach to growth, combining economic opportunity with environmental responsibility and community input. From the early stages in 2024, it has undergone extensive review and refinement, resulting in a plan that addresses many of the concerns typically associated with large developments.

With strong job creation, infrastructure improvements, and safeguards to protect local resources, this project offers a clear path forward for Van Wert. I encourage you to support it as an investment in the community's long-term prosperity and stability.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theodore Waters". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Theodore Waters

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I would like to highlight the thoughtful planning that has gone into minimizing the project's impact on the community. While some data centers are known for consuming large amounts of water, this one has committed to a new cooling system using technology pioneered by local manufacturers like Danfoss. As a result, it will use water less like an industrial facility and more like an office park, creating a low impact for our community.

The fact that the site has been designated for industrial use for nearly two decades further supports its suitability. This project aligns with existing zoning and planning decisions, ensuring that development occurs in an appropriate location. I ask that you do not turn around on this decision now that we are at the finish line.

Please continue to support this project.

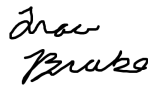
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tillnam Karl". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tillnam Karl

Dear Van Wert City Council,

I believe this project represents a balanced approach to growth, combining economic opportunity with environmental responsibility and community input. From the early stages in 2024, it has undergone extensive review and refinement, resulting in a plan that addresses many of the concerns typically associated with large developments.

With strong job creation, infrastructure improvements, and safeguards to protect local resources, this project offers a clear path forward for Van Wert. I encourage you to support it as an investment in the community's long-term prosperity and stability.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Traci Brake". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Traci Brake