

**CITY OF VANDALIA**  
**February 21, 2022**  
**City Council**  
**Study Session - 6:00 PM**

**CITY OF VANDALIA**  
**Council Study Session Minutes**  
**Municipal Building**  
**333 Bohanan Drive**  
**Monday, February 21, 2022**  
**6:00 P.M.**

**Councilmembers Present:** Mayor Richard Herbst, Vice Mayor David Lewis, Councilwoman Constance Woods, Councilman Michael Blakesly

**Members Absent:** Councilwoman Candice Farst, Councilman Robert Ahlers, and Councilman Corey M. Follick

**Others Present:** Jerry McDonald, Daniel Wendt, Missy Pruszynski, Amber Holloway, Darren Davey, Bridgette Leiter, Steve Clark, Chief Althouse, Chief Follick, Kristen Carnes, Rob Cron, Zak Karto, Luther Blakely, and Kyle Leber

**Remote Audience:** Councilman Robert Ahlers

Mayor Herbst called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. **Monday, February 21, 2022**

A. **Items on this evening's Council Meeting Agenda**

Mayor Herbst called for questions or comments regarding items on this evening's Council Meeting agenda. There were none.

B. **Demo: My Vandalia Citizen Engagement Platform**

IT Manager Davey delivered a demonstration for the City's new citizen tracking interface software - My Vandalia. This technology fits into the Sharpen the Saw policy goal as it will improve how issues are reported and how our team responds and tracks resolutions.

C. **Emergency Ordinance 22-09: Assessments**

Mrs. Leiter advised this emergency ordinance assesses properties for delinquent accounts related to storm water fees, trash collection, weed cutting & delinquent sewer and water.

D. **Resolution 22-R-17: Fire - Portable Radio Purchase**

Chief Follick advised the Fire Division budgeted \$75,000 for the first of a two-year P25 800 portable radio replacement project in 2022. P&R Communications is the sole source provider vendor for Motorola in this region and quoted \$60,744.25 for the

replacement project. The Division of Fire is asking for capital funds to replace ten (10) Motorola APX6000 portable radios that, according to Motorola, have technology that Motorola will no longer support. Most of these radios were the first generation P25 radios and are currently being used by the Command Staff, Fire Prevention, and administrative staff. The radios used by the line firefighters are scheduled to be replaced in phase two of this project in 2023.

2. **Monday, March 7, 2022**

A. **Resolution: Fire - Breathing Air Compressor/Fill Station**

Chief Follick explained the Division of Fire is recommending the replacement of its 1972 breathing air compressor, as it has reached the end of its useful life. The Division of Fire budgeted \$50,000 for this project. In anticipation of an SCBA replacement project (by grant award hopefully) in 2023 the Division of Fire will also need to include the replacement of its current SCBA fill station in this project as the current fill station will not meet the needs of new SCBA cylinder pressures in the future. The Division of Fire included \$50,000 in capital funds to complete this project in 2022. The Division of Fire advertised this project, sent out three bid specification packets to local/regional vendors that we knew could provide this equipment and on Monday, February 14, 2022 the Division of Fire held a public bid opening at Fire Station 1. We received two bid proposals as follows:

Vendor	Primary Bid	Alternate Bid
Atlantic Emergency Solutions	\$53,224.75	\$1334.00*
Breathing Air Systems	\$58,708.36	<b>\$46,769.74</b>

Breathing Air Systems, a company that has been the City’s breathing air service provider for many years, submitted a primary bid based on the specifications, which called for a full enclosed compressor, and they submitted an alternative to the primary bid which was the exact same compressor but in an “open” configuration. After careful review of each submission, the Division of Fire recommends that City Council award this project to Breathing Air Systems of Reynoldsburg Ohio, for the lowest and best (alternate) bid amount of \$46,769.74 and asks that City Council declare the Division of Fire’s current breathing air compressor and fill station surplus and allow to place this equipment on GovDeals for disposal.

B. **Resolution: Concrete Bid**

Public Service Director Cron advised bids were opened publicly for the Removal and Replacement of Certain Curbs and Sidewalk on Tuesday February 15, 2022. Three sets of specifications were issued, and all three contractors submitted bids for the project. Bids ranged from \$382,907.00 to \$424,738.50. Our estimate for the project was \$443,000. This project along with our street resurfacing project is a major part of the City’s Enhance Infrastructure policy goal. Not only are we replacing deteriorating section of curb and sidewalk, the City will be installing ADA Compliant handicap ramps at each intersection of the streets we will be resurfacing this year. I recommend

awarding the contract for this project to D.L. Smith Concrete, LLC of Norwalk, OH as the lowest and best bid at their bid price of \$382,907.00. He concluded by reminding council a map of the 2022 concrete program was included in Council's packets for their review.

C. Resolution: Motorola Annual Service Agreement

Chief Althouse advised in 2016, Vandalia Division of Police purchased new Motorola radio consoles during an upgrade and remodeling of the Communications Center. Vandalia Division of Police utilizes Motorola Solutions for maintenance and service of the MCS7500 radio consoles and equipment utilized in the Communications Center. Motorola Solutions' Astro 25 Advanced Plus Services provides an integrated and comprehensive sustainment program for fixed end network infrastructure equipment, including cybersecurity products and services. The 2022 annual service and maintenance agreement is \$29,989.40. VPD budgeted \$29,622.00 for this annual maintenance agreement. We will be utilizing \$367.40 from the same line item (110.231.5272) to cover the overage billed. I, respectfully, request that competitive bidding be waived, and we continue to contract with Motorola Solutions to provide maintenance and service for the radio consoles and equipment in VPD's Communications Center.

D. Variance: Audible Device within 150' of Residences – 335 S. Dixie

Mr. Karto explained the Applicant and building owner, Bison Commercial Investments, has requested a variance to allow for an audible device within 150' of a residential dwelling unit. The proposal is to construct an audible device and menu board approximately 125' from the nearest residential dwelling unit on the southern side of the building. The Board of Zoning Appeals voted 4-0 to recommend approval of the requested variance to City Code Section 1224.01 (e)(8)(A) "Drive-Through Facilities", to allow for an audible device within 150' of a residential dwelling unit.

E. Variance: Deck Setback – 1144 Rexford

Mr. Karto advised the Applicant, Kyle Leber, has requested a variance to allow for a screened-in deck within the rear yard setback of 35'. The proposal is to construct a screened-in deck within the rear yard approximately 29' from the rear property line and replace the existing uncovered deck. The deck is said to be at the end of its useful life and currently maintains a setback of 27.7' from the rear property line. The Board of Zoning Appeals voted 4-0 to recommend approval of the requested variance to City Code Section 1226.04 Table 1226-1, to allow for the reduction in the minimum rear yard setback as proposed in Council's packets.

F. Variance: Solar Panels - 375 Halifax Drive

Mr. Karto shared the Applicant, Ace Thompson, Fluent Solar, has requested a variance on behalf of Luther Blakley, property owner, to allow for 9 solar panels on the front face of the roof which faces a right-of-way, Halifax Drive. The Applicant stated in their letter of justification that if the panels were moved to the back of the home, the North side, the efficiency of the panels would drop by 50%. The Board of Zoning Appeals was split 2-2 on recommending denial of the requested variance to City Code Section 1224.01 (e)(24)(E)(ii) "Roof-Mounted Solar Energy Systems", to allow for 9 solar panels to face a right-of-way, Halifax Drive. Mayor Herbst inquired about the 2-

2 vote. Mr. Karto explained the BZA was split noting that the time has come to consider solar panels. Brief discussion was held.

G. Resolution: Negotiate an Agreement for Brokerage and Consulting Services

Mr. Wendt explained this proposal does not modify current employee benefits provisions or plans. Over the last year, I have met with several firms to consider whether the City should migrate its brokerage services for health, dental, and ancillary services. After extensive research, I have determined that it is in the interest of the taxpayers, City organization, and employees to migrate our brokerage and consulting services.

3. Discussion

A. Fire – Confine Space Communications System under \$25,000

Chief Follick advised the Division of Fire budgeted approximately \$15,000 of its 2022 Radio Replacement CIP Project to cover the purchase of a confine space rated communications system. The Division of Fire carries a full complement of confine space rescue equipment and has for some time now. A radio communications system has been lacking for some time and is the only component of equipment that was keeping us from complying with a technical level team designation within the NFPA standards. The Division of Fire is the designated confine space rescue team for several of our larger manufacturing companies, as well as for our City Services [Public Works water and sewer services, Tri Cities (when working in Vandalia), and Recreation Center]. This means that when these company perform “permit required” confine space entries for cleaning or routine maintenance they have to designate us as their primary rescue team. We are committed to being a “full service” fire/EMS/rescue service so we will continually train personnel and with this purchase and maintain a full confine space rescue cache. This system is available via several vendors; however, I am recommending purchasing the system from “Rock-N-Rescue” from Pennsylvania, for \$10,986.75. The 2022 budget included \$15,000 for the project.

B. Downtown Overlay

Miss Holloway and Mr. Karto co-presented this item. The presentation walked Council through the “Vandalia City Center Overlay”; specifically, including the various purposes of the overlay and the purpose of the initiative.

C. 2022 Radio Maintenance Fees

Chief Althouse advised the Vandalia Division of Police transitioned public safety radio communications to the State’s Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS) in 2016. Additionally, VPD’s Communications Center was upgraded in 2015. P&R Communications provided the radio consoles and equipment and has serviced this equipment since the upgrade. P&R Communications provides exceptional service to the Division of Police and readily responds when there are any issues with the public safety radio equipment. He noted they also complete annual inspections and upgrades to the radio software. Chief Althouse concluded by noting the 2022 budget for radio maintenance with P&R Communications is \$11,112.00 and the annual maintenance & service fees are \$11,112.00.

D. December 2021 and 2021 End of Year Financials

Cognizant of Council's duty to monitor the City's financial activity, Mayor Herbst introduced Mrs. Leiter to timely provide financial information for Council's review and analysis. Mrs. Leiter reminded council the financial reports were previously provided in their council packets. Mrs. Leiter reviewed the December monthly reports in detail. She began by reviewing the Monthly Financial Variance Analysis: December 31, 2021 in detail, which included revenues and expenditures for the General Fund, the Police-Fire-Street CIP Fund, Golf Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund. Mrs. Leiter reviewed December cost recovery data for the golf course, recreation center, Cassel Hills Pool, and the Fund Statement report in detail. Brief discussion occurred. After a brief discussion with questions and answers, Council indicated approval of all reports..

4. 60-Day Calendar

Mayor Herbst solicited comments or questions on the 60-Day Calendar. Brief discussion was held regarding the upcoming solar panel variance.

5. **Executive Session** – No Executive Session was held.

The Study Session adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

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