

**CITY OF VANDALIA**  
**September 15, 2025**  
**City Council**  
**Study Session – 6:00 PM**

**CITY OF VANDALIA**  
**Council Study Session Minutes**  
**Municipal Building**  
**333 Bohanan Drive**  
**Monday, September 15, 2025**  
**6:00 P.M.**

**Councilmembers Present:** Mayor Herbst, Vice Mayor Mike Blakesly, Councilmember Amber Aivalotis-Weaver, Councilmember Cindy Doogan, Councilmember Candice Farst, Councilmember Corey M. Follick and Councilmember Dave Lewis.

**Others Present:** Jerry McDonald, Kurt Althouse, Angela Swartz, Rob Cron, Darren Davey, Ben Borton, Leann Hanf, Paul Pollard, Michael Hammes, Brian Krimm, Ben Lickliter, Alicia McCracken, Aaron Messenger, Bridgette Leiter, Kristen Carnes, Emily Huwer, Chris Royse, Marcus O'Brien, Laura Rohde, Jack Shirley, Aaron Hathaway, Rebekah Allendevaux and Scott Allendevaux.

**Mayor Herbst** called the Study Session to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Presentation**

Information Technology Department Update

**Mr. Davey** presented the Information Technology Department update to Council.

There was a brief discussion regarding the need to keep records, outsourcing cloud storage, and keeping the storage process in-house as much as possible, which **Mr. Davey** advised is currently a more cost-effective method. **Mr. Davey** advised Council on December 1st, he will give a summary presentation for the public during the Study Session on the Cyber Security Plan and request an Executive Session to go into more details of the Cyber Security Plan, with Council adopting a resolution at the December 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. There was a brief discussion regarding the switch from .org to .gov and how that will be monitored. There were no further questions or comments from Council.

Cassel Hills Golf Course Hospitality & Food Service Operation

**Mr. Royse** presented to City Council a proposal, Socialite Vandalia, to offer hospitality services including food and beverage service at Cassel Hills Golf Course. **Mr. Royse** introduced the owners of Socialite Café, Rebekah Allendevaux and Scott Allendevaux. There was a brief discussion regarding the previously proposed food and beverage service being rushed, the effect of revenues on the operations of the golf course for future budget projections, the possibility of a lease agreement instead of a revenue sharing agreement, the existing liquor licenses being transferred to the business with an agreement in place to transfer back to the City if they defaulted on the lease and this proposal being more invigorating and what the community is looking for. There were no further questions or comments from Council.

**Monday, September 15, 2025**

Items on this evening's Council Meeting Agenda

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

## **Monday, October 6, 2025**

### **Boards & Commissions Appointment – Laura Rohde – Vandalia Arts Council**

**Mr. Althouse** introduced Laura Rohde, advising Council at the October 6th Council Meeting, they will be asked to consider the appointment of Laura Rohde to the Vandalia Arts Council. A memo from Deputy Clerk of Council Swartz, Ms. Rohde's application and the Vandalia Arts Council roster are included in the Council packets. **Ms. Rohde** addressed Council sharing she is looking forward to working with Council and the team. There were no questions or comments from Council.

### **Boards & Commissions Appointment – Marcus O'Brien – Vandalia Planning Commission**

**Mr. Althouse** introduced Marcus O'Brien, advising Council at the October 6th Council Meeting, they will be asked to consider the appointment of Marcus O'Brien to the Vandalia Planning Commission. A memo from Deputy Clerk of Council Swartz, Mr. O'Brien's application and the Vandalia Planning Commission roster are included in the Council packets. **Mr. O'Brien** addressed Council sharing he is looking forward to serving the community. There were no questions or comments from Council.

### **Resolution: Recreation Center & Senior Center Fees**

**Mrs. McCracken** provided information to City Council relating to Parks & Recreation Department Fees for the Vandalia Recreation Center and Vandalia Senior Center. **Mrs. McCracken** provided a historical breakdown, cost recovery analysis and recommendations to update user fees for Vandalia Recreation Center and Vandalia Senior Center. Following a comprehensive review of the Vandalia Senior Center and Vandalia Recreation Center fees—considering policy goals, historical context, research, cost recovery analysis, and overall financial sustainability, **Mrs. McCracken** recommended that City Council approve the updated rates and fees as proposed. There was a brief discussion regarding the value of the senior center and positive feedback from citizens with the change in opening the Recreation Center earlier.

### **Resolution: Contribution to the Vandalia Development Corporation**

**Mr. Cron** advised Council for many years, the City has appropriated \$100,000 annually to contribute to the Vandalia Development Corporation (VDC) for use in incentivizing economic development projects. The VDC typically leverages these incentives in coordination with the Montgomery County Economic Development/Government Grant program (EDGE), the Dayton Development Coalition, and JobsOhio. **Mr. Cron** advised in the past, contributions to the VDC were made only when there was an active project under consideration. However, with the discontinuation of the EDGE program this year, fewer incentives are now available to support prospective developments. In addition, many projects move quickly and require timely responses to incentive requests. **Mr. Cron** proposed that City Council consider a resolution to authorize a contribution for the \$100,000 appropriated in this year's budget directly to the VDC for use in economic development assistance and incentives. This would allow the VDC to approve the distribution of funds by majority vote at its meetings, ensuring a quicker turnaround for prospective developments. **Mr. Cron** advised VDC meetings may be called at any time by the chairman, with two City Council Members serving on the VDC board, as a by law requirement. There were no questions or comments from Council.

### **Resolution: Contract with AG's Office for collection of delinquent income tax balances**

**Mrs. Huwer and Mrs. Leiter** advised Council of proposed legislation to partner with the Ohio Attorney General's Office and enter into a debt collection agreement for the collection of delinquent income tax balances due. There were no questions or comments from Council.

## **Discussion**

### **August 2025 Financial Reports**

Cognizant of Council's duty to monitor the City's financial activity, **Mayor Herbst** introduced Mrs. Leiter to provide timely 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 August monthly reports in detail. She began by reviewing the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures: August 31, 2025 in detail, which included revenues and expenditures for the General Fund, the Police-Fire-Street CIP Fund, Golf Fund, Water Fund and Sewer Fund. **Mrs. Leiter** reviewed the August cost recovery data for the golf course, recreation center, Cassel Hills Pool, and the Fund Statement reports in detail dated August 31, 2025. There was a brief discussion regarding the hospital fund, with adjustments being made due to the significant increase in healthcare cost and cost of the postage for the courts, regarding civil cases involving other jurisdictions. There were no further questions or comments from Council.

#### Legislative Calendar

**Mayor Herbst** solicited comments or questions on the Legislative Calendar. There were none.

Study Session adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

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