

Council Action

In an effort to increase awareness and understanding, this publication was created to detail and explain the actions of the Vandalia City Council. We hope this promotes a better understanding of the role Council plays in keeping Vandalia a great place to live, work and play.

Council took the following actions at the Special Council Meeting held Monday, November 18, 2019:

- ✓ Appointed Ms. Kristin Cox to the Vandalia Cultural Arts Committee
- ✓ Adopted Resolution 19-R-57, approving the renewal of the City's participation the Montgomery County Economic Development/Government Equity (ED/GE) program for the years 2020-2029. The ED/GE Program was established by the Montgomery County Commissioners in 1992 to attract jobs and retain the County's tax base, reduce inter-local competition for development, enable the County to successfully compete as a region in national and international markets, and to share the benefits of county-wide economic prosperity among all jurisdictions in the County. Since 1992, the City of Vandalia has been awarded \$5,190,324 in ED/GE funding to support economic development projects in the City and create 1,538 and retain 2,710 jobs.
- ✓ Gave first reading to Ordinance 19-24, authorizing appropriations for Fiscal Year 2020. Council conducted budget review workshops on November 9th and 11th.
- ✓ Tabled Ordinance 19-25, which is an Ordinance that would establish City Council pay as the Ohio Public Employee Retirement System minimum earnable salary for full service credit less \$2,000. The current OPERS minimum earnable salary is \$660 per month, or \$7,920 annually, Therefore, Council's annual salary would be \$5,920. The Mayor's annual salary would be the OPERS minimum earnable salary less \$1,500, or \$6,420.
- ✓ Gave first reading to Ordinance 19-26, approving up to a 2% cost-of-living increase, effective the first pay period of 2020, for all non-union, full-time and permanent part-time employees, within their respective pay ranges. This ordinance also increased the top pay rate for all non-union, full-time and permanent part time pay classifications.

Additionally, merit increases for 2020 will be based on the following scale:

Merit = 2.5%

 - Significantly Fails to Meet Expectations (0%)
 - Fails to Meet Expectations (0%)
 - Meets Expectations – (100%) – 2.5% merit increase
 - Exceeds Expectations (125%) – 3.125% merit increase
 - Significantly Exceeds Expectations (150%) – 3.75% merit increase
- ✓ Gave first reading to Ordinance 19-27, a property maintenance nuisance ordinance. The “Property Maintenance Nuisance” ordinance is somewhat of a supplement to our existing property maintenance code and not a replacement. While it can be used for most property maintenance situations, it is primarily designed for severe violations where the property owner is unknown or gone and/or unresponsive. It allows for a quicker process for abating the nuisance than under our property maintenance code and will allow the City to abate severe nuisances (tear down houses) without court intervention. Under the law, destruction of property without court involvement is done at the risk of the City, and as such we would use this process very sparingly.
- ✓ Gave first reading to Ordinance 19-28, a criminal nuisance ordinance. The “Criminal Nuisance” ordinance allows the City to declare property a nuisance based on criminal activity occurring at a given location over time. Closing a business or forcing a building to be vacated due to a criminal nuisance should always go through the court. What this ordinance does is two things. First, it provides a thorough process to declare property a public nuisance so once we go to court (if needed) we can make a strong showing of the nuisance and that we took into account constitutional safe guards. It has been drafted to cover many of the concerns and issues with these types of ordinances which includes using actual convictions or pleas rather than just calls for service, and not having a “penalty” for domestic violence situations (which tend to punish the victim living in the premises). Secondly, even if the City does not take the owner to court to close the nuisance operation, if a property is declared a chronic nuisance under this ordinance (due to too many criminal activities occurring within stated time frames) any subsequent calls can result in the cost of addressing the nuisance being charged to the owner along with civil fines; all being assessable against the property.
- ✓ Adopted, as an emergency, Ordinance 19-22, to assess properties for delinquent accounts related to storm water fees, trash collection, property cleanup and weed cutting.

The next regularly scheduled Vandalia City Council meeting will be held in the Vandalia City Council Chambers, 333 J.E. Bohanan Drive, on Monday, December 2 at 7pm.