



Citywide Policy Goals

Live



Small City Big Opportunity: Be known regionally as a top-tier suburb through top-tier City services. Enhance social and economic investment by promoting the City's high-quality services, well-performing schools, available workforce, escalating quality-of-life, and growing sense of place. Incentivize developments that improve life in Vandalia.



Safe and Secure: Ensure that Vandalia remains a safe and secure community by investing in both traditional public safety operations and creative outreach efforts to meet the evolving needs of our residents and visitors.



Enhance Infrastructure: Protect public assets and infrastructure by making calculated and deliberate investments in roadways, utilities, park spaces.

Work



Fiscal Sustainability: Leverage the operating position of the City to seize strategic opportunities for improving quality of life, while maintaining sustainable fiscal practices.



Trust and Confidence: Promote an open approach to government through coordinated, transparent, and evidence-based engagement practices. Empower residents, business owners and community stakeholders to partner in City programs.



Sharpen the Saw: Commit to process improvements by purposefully refining practices and leveraging technology to improve internal and external customer service.

Play



Vibrant: Be a vibrant community that uses its amenities and growth mindset to create a warm and welcoming environment in which to live, work, and play.

Now there's a new and easier way to connect with the City of Vandalia!



Introducing My Vandalia, the fast, easy and free way to connect with the City for just about anything!



MY andalia^{ohio}

Request a "vacation house check."

Report property maintenance issues in an instant.

Report a pothole in seconds! Snap a photo and the app lets us know exactly where to send the crew!

Ask a question or submit a general comment.

It's your direct access line to the City!

Download the My Vandalia app today!



The Blue Letter

December 22, 2023

Honorable Mayor Herbst & Esteemed City Councilmembers:

This is the last Blue Letter of 2023! Thank you for the teamwork, support, and collaboration this year. I hope that you and your families have a blessed Christmas, happy new year, and great set of holidays with your families and friends.

This has been a year full of great accomplishments by our teammates. We cannot wait to showcase all the great developments in the forthcoming State of the City video next year.

As a team, we appreciate your support through policies, public recognition, and by strategically allocating the public's resources so that we have what we need to make incremental improvements to quality of life in Vandalia. I am encouraged and excited by some of our learning leaders who are advancing through the ranks and the supervisors who are coaching them along the way.

To our teammates who are looking to stretch and to make a bigger splash in our organization – I encourage them to speak with their supervisors about helping them to set “reach” goals that will give them experience just beyond their job description. This is a great time of year to be thinking about *what-is* and to dedicate some focus to *what-could-be*.

Focus Vandalia: Not that we are going to need it ... uhhh... but just incase the white stuff shows up... [Click here to see the Focus Vandalia episode on snow removal \(LINK\).](#)

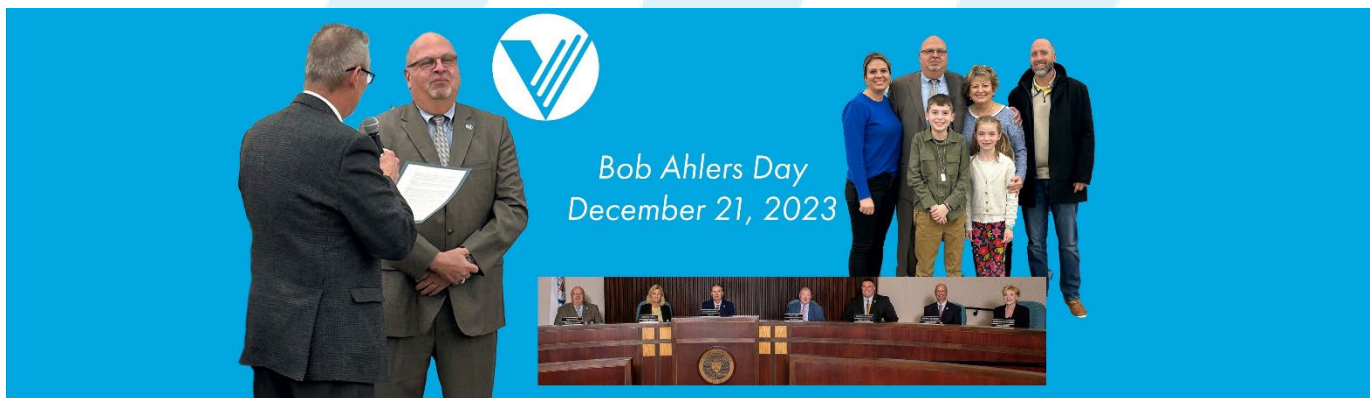
Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024 Council Meeting: The Organizational Meeting will begin at 6:00 pm. Study Session will begin at 6:30 pm. The Council meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.

City Offices Closed: City offices will be closed **Monday, December 25** and **Tuesday, December 26** in observance of the Christmas holiday. City offices will also be closed on **Monday, January 1, 2024** in observance of the New Year holiday. City offices will be closed **Monday, January 15, 2024** in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The second meeting in January will be held on **Tuesday, January 16.**

Christmas Tree Recycling: The Parks and Recreation and Public Works Departments are offering Vandalia residents free recycling of their Christmas trees. Residents can drop off their trees at the Sports Complex until January 31. Beginning the first week of January, residents can also dispose of Christmas trees by placing them at the curb for pickup by Rumpke on your regular trash day.



This week, we celebrated **Constance Woods Day** and **Bob Ahlers Day in the City of Vandalia**. Thank you to both Councilmembers Ahlers and Woods for your guidance, leadership, and service to our community! Being a City Councilmember is tough work, you have performed your duties with honor, and it has been a pleasure to work for you.



Organization Meeting:

Oath of Office – City Law Director Gerald McDonald will administer the Oath of Office to Mayor Herbst, Councilmember Aivalotis-Weaver, Councilmember Doogan and Councilmember Follick.

Nominations and Election of Vice-Mayor – Council will nominate and elected the Vice Mayor, who will be given the Oath of Office by the City Law Director, Gerald McDonald.

Nominations and Appointments of Council to Committees – At the December 18th Study Session, Council discussed the nominations and appointments of Council to Committees. In this discussion, it was agreed upon for each Councilmember to remain on the Board/Committee they are currently serving on, with the exception of the Vandalia Development Corporation, which Councilmember Aivalotis-Weaver will be appointed to serve on in the odd years.

Setting of Meetings: Under Charter Section 3.4 every 2 years Council is to set their regular meeting schedule – Council will confirm that the Council meetings will continue to be on the first and third Monday at 7 pm, except for the Summer Session meetings, which are held on the 3rd Monday in June, July and August.

Study Session:

Tuesday, January 2, 2024 Items:

Items on this evening's Council Meeting agenda

Resolution: Firefighter Protective Clothing - The Division of Fire budgeted (\$50,000) for the replacement of twelve sets of firefighter protective clothing in 2024. Our vendor has agreed to hold our 2023 "state pricing" until February 1, 2024. The Division of Fire is asking City Council to review its request during its workshop on January 2, and then to take action to purchase twelve sets of firefighter PPE at the January 2nd meeting to avoid a significant price increase. These sets are replacing sets of PPE that are at or approaching the end of their "useful lives as front line PPE", as defined by the NFPA guidelines, an industry best practice.

Resolution: Replacement of Shift Supervisor Vehicle – The Division of Fire budgeted (\$50,000) for the replacement of twelve sets of firefighter protective clothing in 2024. Our vendor has agreed to hold our 2023 "state pricing" until February 1, 2024. The Division of Fire is asking City Council to review its request during its workshop on January 2, and then to take action to purchase twelve sets of firefighter PPE at the January 2nd meeting to avoid a significant price increase. These sets are replacing sets of PPE that are at or approaching the end of their "useful lives as front line PPE", as defined by the NFPA guidelines, an industry best practice.

Resolution: ED/GE Agreement - On December 12, 2023 the City of Vandalia was awarded a \$150,000 ED/GE grant for MLC, Inc. an Ohio corporation dba Electro-Polish, through the Montgomery County Fall 2023 ED/GE Program. Electro Polish intends to purchase the facility located at 6161 Ventnor Avenue, conduct renovations, and purchase new machinery and equipment. These proposed renovations include updating the office area, adding a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment system, and adding air pollution control. The company, a metal finishing company, would invest approximately \$12.3 million in the project and relocate 30 jobs from their Dayton facility over the next three years. In total, the Company anticipates having 40 employees with a payroll of \$2.6 million annually.

We are asking that City Council adopt a resolution authorizing you to enter into an Economic Development Government Equity agreement with Montgomery County Office of Economic Development and to enter into an agreement with Electro Polish regarding the ED/GE funding.

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 Items:

Resolution: Managed Endpoint Detection and Response Service - In recent years, our city has taken significant strides to bolster network security and safeguard data against potential threats. In 2023, we introduced SentinelOne, an advanced antivirus utilizing AI for virus, malware, and external attack prevention. Despite a year without incidents, we aim to enhance cybersecurity in 2024 by considering a 24/7 monitoring and response layer through a third-party cybersecurity company, aligning with practices akin to fire alarm or security monitoring services. Challenges arise from limited IT staff availability during regular business hours, affecting our responsiveness to after-hours attacks and compliance with continuous monitoring requirements. Evaluating managed endpoint detection and response services from FortiEDR, Arctic Wolf, and SilverSky, we selected SilverSky due to its unique alignment with our needs, offering a user-friendly interface, compatibility with SentinelOne Complete, and flexibility for gradual system integration. For the 2024 budget, we propose shifting SentinelOne licensing to SilverSky, incurring a \$19,639.34 annual increase for a three-year term, totaling \$33,300 per year, with an initial setup fee, resulting in a recommended total cost of \$34,687.50. Given SilverSky's compatibility, features, and phased expansion approach, we recommend council approval for a three-year MEDR services agreement, waiving formal bidding.

Discussion Items:

60-Day Calendar - The calendar is included in your packets for your review.

Council Meeting:

Action Item: 2024 Council Appointments to Board/Commissions - Council will consider annual appointments for the following organizations:

- **2024 MVRPC & TC Representatives:** Annually a representative and alternate are appointed to the MVRPC. Currently Mayor Herbst is the representative and Rob Cron is the alternate. Annually a representative is appointed to the Technical Committee. Ben Borton is the current Technical Committee representative.
- **2024 First Suburbs Consortium of Dayton:** Annually Council appoints two representatives and an alternate to this consortium. The current representatives are Mayor Herbst and Councilman Ahlers. Vice Mayor Lewis is the alternate. At the December 18th Study Session, Council recommended appointing Councilmember Doogan and the newly elected Vice Mayor as the alternate.
- **2024 Montgomery County Community Improvement Corporation:** This committee requires the annual appointment of the Mayor.
- **2024 Vandalia Development Corporation:** This board requires two councilmembers appointments – one Council appointment to be made in even years, the current Council Representative is Councilmember Blakesly.

Resolution 24-R-01: Stop Eight Road Resurfacing Agreement with Montgomery County Engineers Office – Assistant City Manager Cron is recommending entering into an agreement with the Montgomery county Engineer's office for the resurfacing of Stop Eight Road from Webster Street to I-75. The City of Vandalia's southern corporate boundary falls approximately on or around the centerline of Stop Eight Road. The Engineer's office has requested that we enter into a "Participatory Agreement" to share the cost of this work proportionally by the amount of work that falls in each jurisdiction. As part of our pavement assessment program, we agree that this section of roadway is in need of resurfacing and that it makes sense to have it all resurfaced at the same time. Montgomery County will be soliciting bids for their project in January of 2024.

Resolution 24-R-02: Firefighter Protective Clothing - The Division of Fire budgeted (\$50,000) for the replacement of twelve sets of firefighter protective clothing in 2024. Our vendor has agreed to hold our 2023 "state pricing" until February 1, 2024. The Division of Fire is asking City Council to review its request during its workshop on January 2, and then to take action to purchase twelve sets of firefighter PPE at the January 2nd meeting to avoid a significant price increase. These sets are replacing sets of PPE that are at or approaching the end of their "useful lives as front line PPE", as defined by the NFPA guidelines, an industry best practice.

Resolution 24-R-03: Replacement of Shift Supervisor Vehicle - The Division of Fire budgeted (\$50,000) for the replacement of twelve sets of firefighter protective clothing in 2024. Our vendor has agreed to hold our 2023 "state pricing" until February 1, 2024. The Division of Fire is asking City Council to review its request during its workshop on January 2, and then to take action to purchase twelve sets of firefighter PPE at the January 2nd meeting to avoid a significant price increase. These sets are replacing sets of PPE that are at or approaching the end of their "useful lives as front line PPE", as defined by the NFPA guidelines, an industry best practice.

Resolution 24-R-04: ED/GE Agreement - On December 12, 2023 the City of Vandalia was awarded a \$150,000 ED/GE grant for MLC, Inc. an Ohio corporation dba Electro-Polish, through the Montgomery County Fall 2023 ED/GE Program. Electro Polish intends to purchase the facility located at 6161 Ventnor Avenue, conduct renovations, and purchase new machinery and equipment. These proposed renovations include updating the office area, adding a state-

of-the-art wastewater treatment system, and adding air pollution control. The company, a metal finishing company, would invest approximately \$12.3 million in the project and relocate 30 jobs from their Dayton facility over the next three years. In total, the Company anticipates having 40 employees with a payroll of \$2.6 million annually.

We are asking that City Council adopt a resolution authorizing you to enter into an Economic Development Government Equity agreement with Montgomery County Office of Economic Development and to enter into an agreement with Electro Polish regarding the ED/GE funding.

The next Council meeting is on **Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 7:00 pm**. The meeting will be an in-person meeting in Council Chambers. The meeting is open to Council, staff and the public to attend in-person. The meetings will be accessible for viewing on through Zoom. Please note, no comments, electronic or oral, will be allowed by people that are participating electronically through Zoom. Anyone wishing to be heard on a topic will need to appear personally at the meeting. **The Organizational Meeting will begin at 6:00 pm. The Study Session will begin at 6:30 pm followed by the City Council Meeting at 7:00 pm.**



Congrats to Crime Prevention Officer Rich Sommer! Officer Sommer has served since 2001 and he is a Butler High graduate.

Community Events: In 2024 – there is no doubt that we are going to create some great memories as we build on our efforts to build community through events. [Click here to watch the Focus Vandalia episode on community events \(LINK\).](#)



There are exciting things that could be coming in 2024. The City of Vandalia is in a strong operating position with a diverse and solid economy. There are strong employers who could be joining our community. We have strategic policy and comprehensive planning documents that are setting the course for achieving our long-term goals, in-depth financial forecasting, and fund balances that will allow us to invest in improving how we do business. Right now, WDC Group is working to plan and to design the new public works facility on land that was donated to the City. This could be out for a bid and award in 2024 with construction to follow in 2025 - 2026. We are in the final stages of reviewing the City's downtown market study – which is going to recommend that we put a strong focus on residential development and redevelopment to build the necessary mass to support sit down restaurants, shops, and other amenities.

The City has awarded contracts to extend water and wastewater utilities west of Dog Leg Rd. to provide utilities across our entire corporate boundaries. We will continue to chip away at the Vandalia Bikeway Connector from Bunkers to Taylorsville Metro Park. We have awarded a contract, and by the end of May, we should see great progress on the upgrades to the signs at our gateways, parks, and facilities. Vancon General Contractors will be building a restroom in Robinette Park, and the City has capital funds designated for an inclusive playground and will seek approval this year. It won't be long before we will be advertising for competitive bids to build-out the stage and amphitheater seating at Art Park because of state capital grant funds that the City was awarded. Finally, we have completed the design of the golf course irrigation system and could see a contract be awarded for construction in late 2024 / early 2025.

2023 has been a year of strategic planning and execution. I am thankful for the opportunity to lead this team, and to build on a great tradition of service at the City of Vandalia.

Please contact me directly with comments and questions. Merry Christmas.

Very Respectfully,

Dan Wendt
City Manager

CC: Board and Commission Members
All City Employees