
VILLAGE OF VANDALIA

18035 State Street, Vandalia, MI 49095

REGULAR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING Minutes

Date: February 9, 2026 Time: 6:00 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Trustee Cassandra Bennett – Present

Trustee John Bennett – Present

Trustee Myrick – Present

President Hickman - Present

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Trustee Cassandra Bennett made a motion to approve the Jan 5th regular business meeting minutes. Trustee John Bennett seconded the motion.

Everyone was in favor, none opposed – Motion approved

4. Presidents Report

Statement from the Village President

As we move toward summer, it is time to turn a new leaf and refocus on what truly matters: serving the people of the Village of Vandalia.

The Board remains committed to doing exactly what we were elected to do—work for our residents and act in their best interests. Anything outside of that mission is a distraction from our responsibility to move this village forward.

As reflected in the materials attached to your agenda, we recently uncovered burned and shredded documents. On December 15, 2025, former DPW employee Earl instructed Jerome Wares to dispose of bags containing these shredded materials as he was leaving his position. I was present that morning to inform him of his termination.

At that time, I did not disclose the full scope of his termination, as Michigan is an at-will employment state. What is important for the public to understand is that from the beginning of this administration, it was communicated to multiple members of our office that Earl intended to retire within a year. Our decision to bring Jerome on was part of a standard transition plan—to ensure continuity in a critical department.

More recently, Earl informed us that he intended to continue working longer in order to maximize his Social Security earnings. This was not something the village had planned for. The DPW position is essential, and we must always ensure it is properly staffed. For that reason, we proceeded with the planned transition.

This decision was consistent with prior conversations and was made in the best interest of the village.

Earl is now requesting a \$44,500 compensation package from the village. I want to be clear: the Board will not agree to any such demand. We will not allow taxpayer funds to be used inappropriately, and we will not engage in any form of pressure or improper claims. The termination was lawful under Michigan law, and this matter will not be further addressed.

Our focus now is on the future.

With warmer weather approaching, we are turning our attention to growth and opportunity. My office has been contacted by several potential investors interested in bringing new housing to Vandalia. Recent media coverage has helped introduce our community to a wider audience, and we intend to use that attention in a positive way.

This administration's mission is to build on that momentum and continue working toward responsible development, strong infrastructure, and a better quality of life for our residents.

I remain fully committed to serving the people of this village with integrity, transparency, and determination. Together, we will continue moving Vandalia forward.

5. Old Business Generations Forward Rezoning & Alley Vacation

- A. Consideration and adoption of Resolution No. 2026-1-3R2 regarding rezoning to R-2 MultipleFamily Residential - Passed
- B. Consideration and adoption of Resolution No. 2026-1-3R2 supporting the vacation of a public alley. – Passed

6. New Business

A. Recognition of Treasurer Resignation and Bank Account Authorization Update

The Village Council will formally recognize the resignation of Treasurer Ashli Hickman, submitted on January 6, 2026.

The resignation has been acknowledged and accepted by the President.

This action includes authorization to remove Ashli Hickman as a signatory on the Village's accounts held with G.W. Jones Bank and to update authorized banking access in accordance with current Village appointments and policies.

B. Recognition of Trustee Resignation

The Village Council will formally recognize the resignation of Trustee Karen Young, which was submitted to the Board during the January 5, 2026 meeting.

The resignation has been acknowledged and accepted by the President.

C. Appointment of Village Treasurer

Consideration of the appointment of Khalil Brown to the position of Village Treasurer. The President recommends Mr. Brown based on his qualifications, experience, and ability to fulfill the duties of the office.

Trustee Sharon Myrick made a motion to approve the appointment of Khalil Brown to the position of Village Treasurer, and to be placed on the Village GW Jones bank account as authorized signer.

Trustee John Bennett seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

Trustee Cassandra Bennett –Yes

Trustee John Bennett – Yes

Trustee Myrick – Yes

President Hickman – Yes

All in favor, and motion approved Khalil Brown is now Village treasurer.

E. Appointment of Trustee to Fill Vacant Position

Consideration of appointment of Marianne Behrends to the position of Village Trustee.

Trustee Sharon Myrick made a motion to approve the appointment of Marianne Behrends to the position of Village Trustee.

Trustee John Bennett seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

Trustee Cassandra Bennett –Yes

Trustee John Bennett – Yes

Trustee Myrick – Yes
President Hickman – Yes

All present in favor, and motion approved Marianne Behrends is now Village trustee.

7. Clerks Report

Trustee Cassandra Bennett made a motion to pay the bills.
Trustee John Bennett seconded that motion.

Roll call vote

Trustee Cassandra Bennett –Yes
Trustee John Bennett – Yes

Trustee Myrick – Yes
President Hickman – Yes

All in favor, and motion approved bills are to be paid.

8. Committee Reports

A Street Committee – President Hickman made a Motion to Transfer January MSF funds to General fund which is 50% of \$22,231 = \$11,115.50

Trustee Myrick seconded that motion.

Roll call vote

Trustee Cassandra Bennett –Yes
Trustee John Bennett – Yes

Trustee Myrick – Yes
President Hickman – Yes

All in favor, and motion approved.

C. Recreation Committee

Trustee Myrick spoke about black history month.
She shared some Swahili language and meanings, and talked about the long fight for freedom.

C. Cemetery Committee

8. Public Comment

- Each speaker is allotted up to three (3) minutes.
- For additional questions or concerns, please contact:

Village Clerk Email: Villageofvandaliainmi@frontier.com

Phone: (269) 476-2344.

James T. stood up and expressed his interest in the village of Vandalia and the want to bring opportunities to the area for the youth through music.

Adjournment

President made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and all were in favor.

Prepared by: Ashley Hickman, Village Clerk

Approved by: Evan Hickman, Village President