

## Minutes of Vandalia Village Council Meeting

**Date:** December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Meeting Type:** Vandalia Village Monthly Meeting

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Village President Evan Hickman at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### Roll Call:

- Village President Evan Hickman – Present
- Trustee Karen Young – Present
- Trustee Cassandra Bennett – Present
- Trustee Sharon Myrick – Present
- Trustee John Bennett – Present

### Special Guests:

- Ashley Hickman
- Ashley Wences-Young
- Erika Willis
- Several members of the community

### Approval of Previous Minutes:

• Trustee Sharon Myrick motioned to approve the previous minutes from November 11th and the special meeting on November 22nd.

- Trustee John Bennett seconded the motion.

• Trustee Cassandra Bennett approved the motion with amendments to correct the spelling of Beverly Young, Don Damron, and Dona Donald's names in the November 22nd special meeting minutes.

- Trustee Karen Young – Nay
- President Evan Hickman – Aye

### Motion to approve minutes with amendments: Approved Appointments:

1. President Hickman emphasized the urgency of appointing a Village Clerk and Treasurer to properly conduct Village business.

- Trustee Myrick motioned to appoint Ashli Hickman as Vandalia Village Treasurer.

- Trustee John Bennett seconded the motion.

- President Hickman – Aye

- Trustee Cassandra Bennett – Abstain

☐ Trustee Karen Young – Nay

☐ **Motion Adopted** ○ Trustee Myrick motioned to appoint Ashley

Wences-Young as Vandalia Village Clerk.

☐ Trustee John Bennett seconded the motion.

☐ Trustee Cassandra Bennett – Abstain

☐ Trustee Karen Young – Nay

☐ President Hickman – Aye

☐ **Motion Adopted**

- Trustee John Bennett motioned to appoint Erika Willis as the Village of Vandalia Office Assistant.

☐ Trustee Myrick seconded the motion.

☐ Trustee Cassandra Bennett – Aye

☐ Trustee Karen Young – Nay

☐ President Hickman – Aye

☐ **Motion Adopted**

- 2. Trustee Cassandra Bennett motioned to move the Vandalia Village monthly meeting to the first Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. ○ Trustee John Bennett seconded the motion.

- Trustee Karen Young – Nay ○ Trustee Myrick – Aye ○ President Hickman – Aye ○

**Motion Adopted**

- 3. Trustee Myrick motioned to dissolve the current Planning Commission Committee (due to a need for restructuring) and replace it with the creation of the Vandalia Beautification and Development Council.

- Trustee Cassandra Bennett suggested the motion be opened for discussion. ○

President Hickman pushed to proceed with the motion.

- Trustee Myrick decided to table the motion for further discussion at a later date.

- 4. **Presidents Report:** Vandalia Village Clerk, Ashley Wences, and Vandalia Village Treasurer, Ashli Hickman, are hereby designated as authorized signatories for the Village of Vandalia accounts at G.W. Jones Exchange Bank.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- **Recreation Committee:**

- Vandalia Coat Drive scheduled for Sunday, December 22nd, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Bianca May hosted a 4-H Christmas party at the Vandalia Youth Center on December 8th. A vent cover on the ceiling was damaged; maintenance addressed the issue on December 9th.
- **Cemetery Committee:** ○ Bill Vaughn will continue to assist with Vandalia Cemetery operations.
- **Road Committee:** ○ No updates at this time.

#### **Approval of Bills:**

- Trustee John Bennett motioned to pay the bills.
  - Trustee Cassandra Bennett seconded the motion.
  - Trustee Sharon Myrick – Aye
  - Trustee Karen Young – Nay
  - President Hickman – Aye
  - **Motion Adopted Public Comments:**
1. Mr. Hawthorn asked if President Hickman would review the 2025 budget.
    - President Hickman stated he would review all budgets with council members and a qualified CPA.
  2. Mrs. Wall thanked the council for changing the monthly meeting time to the first Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.
  3. Mrs. May expressed that the Village should seek advice beyond Penn Township.
    - President Hickman reassured that the council would attend classes from the MMLA and pursue continued education from various sources.
  4. Ms. Retima Bennett reported she had not received her November pay from the previous administration.
    - Newly appointed Clerk Ashley Wences-Young addressed the issue and processed her payroll.
  5. Mr. Hagamen thanked President Hickman for helping shovel snow so Midwest Energy could deliver heating fuel.

#### **Adjournment:**

- Trustee John Bennett motioned to adjourn the December 9, 2024, Vandalia Village meeting.
- All members present voted in favor.

- **Meeting Adjourned.**

**Prepared by:** Vandalia Village Clerk Ashley Wences/Young

**Approved by:** Vandalia Village President Evan Hickman

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