

# VILLAGE OF VANDALIA COUNCIL MEETING

**DATE: October 14, 2024**

**TIME: 7:00 Regular Meeting**

## Minutes

### CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE

#### Roll Call

**Present:** President Beverly Young, Councilwoman Theresa Damron, Councilman Don Damron, Councilwoman Karen Young, Jack Young, Zoning Administrator, Councilwoman Cassandra Bennett, Beth Pompey, Code Enforcement, and Beth James, Clerk

**Absent:** Dana Donald, Treasurer

**Guest (s):** Amber Velthouse, Kenyetta Buck, Gregory Hageman, Amber Bishop, Randy James, John L. Bennett and Aaron Bontrager

#### Public Comments:

Kenyetta Buck and Amber Velthouse announced that they purchased property from the Damron's and that they plan to build a duplex and further develop the property in stages as time goes on.

Gregory Hageman stated that he came to the meeting to clear up some things that were said about his daughter Amanda Hageman, that were put in the minutes of the meeting and he didn't agree with that because it had nothing to do with the Village of Vandalia. He wanted it known that there is no CPS case, and there is nothing that has to do with their household and what their household is doing that is anyone's business. He said if there's a problem it should be taken to CPS or the Cass County Sheriff Department. (He was speaking of the minutes from the August 2024 council meeting where a visitor from Cassopolis wanted to lodge a complaint concerning Amanda Hageman).

Councilwoman Karen Young asked if the complainant should have contacted the complainant and not the Village Council with this complaint since she was the one that made the complaint to the Village and they didn't know what she would be complaining about. She further stated that the complainant was told that the Village meeting wasn't the place to make the complaint

and was given the number for CPS. All people can come and speak at the meeting and we can't stop people from talking.

Amber Bishop introduced herself and said she is from Vandalia. She said that what Greg was saying was that what was said shouldn't have been made public. She further stated that the Village Council should have gone to the Hageman's and asked if there was anything they could help them with. She indicated that it wasn't anything personal but as a Village we should come together and help each other. Amber introduced her husband Joseph, they own Born Again Design, they build and remodel homes, they're licensed and insured in Michigan. She said they reached out to Hope Anderson and she had her introduced to Bianca. She and Bianca brainstormed to come up with some ideas for the Village and Bianca said the Village had some land available and they had a vision to build on that land. It's a crisis, people need housing, we want more people to move into the community and people come to the meetings as well. Amber asked the President why she hadn't called her, and she stated Bianca said it was because she, Amber, didn't know what Juneteenth was.

Kenyatte Buck stated that he has been coming to meetings and there are usually maybe one or two people in attendance, it's good to see so many people in the building. For someone that comes to the meetings most of the times, it sucks to hear that every time you come, we talk about all the positive things going on in the Village and all these things that everyone's happy about. One thing happens and then you get a group of people show up to complain. We would love to have representation of this Village before it came to something negative. He also stated that people that live in the Village don't support events that go on in the Village. He also stated that President Young wants the best for the Village.

John L. Bennett introduced himself and stated he was running trustee. He said it's the slander part of the situation with the Hageman's.

Randy James introduced himself. He stated that the person that started the whole situation, he could be wrong because he heard some things, wasn't present and the person that started the problem was Sharon Myrick. Not many people come to the meetings and no one knows what goes into the minutes, and no one would have known if she hadn't shared the minutes with other people.

Aaron Bontrager, introduced himself to the everyone, he lives in Aubrey Evans old home.

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Motion made by Councilwoman Karen Young, seconded by Councilwoman Theresa Damron to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. All ayes. Carried.

### **President's Report**

\* A 2024 Black ford F-250 was purchased on September 13, 2024 for \$49,000.00.

\* Halloween, October 31, 2024, from 5p – 7p, Trunk or Treat at Sherry Lee's.

\* The Village participates in the Fire Withholding program, and the home on Christian St. that burned was demolished and the check that was submitted to the Village covered the cost of the demolition of \$11,000.00 and the balance was returned to the home owner.

\* The Village attorney was contacted concerning the Council Meeting Minutes from August 2024, and it was confirmed that nothing illegal was stated in the minutes.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**CEMETERY COMMITTEE:** Selessie Winters was buried AT THE Bogue St. Cemetery on September 21, 2024.

**RECREATION COMMITTEE:** Trunk or Treat will be held at Sherry Lee's on October 31, 2024, from 5p -7p.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Beth Pompey stated zoning is going into their slow season, finishing open cases. Hired environmental company to deal with home on Marble St. that wants to be re-inhabited, due to mold being an issue in the home. It was explained that anytime a home is boarded up it is for safety reasons, and services that are needed are offered, such as food, help finding a place to stay and other services as needed.

**STREET ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** Motion made by Councilman Don Damron seconded by Councilwoman Karen Young to transfer 25% of MTF & LRP funds for month end August 2024 in the amount of \$1,486.00.

**VOTE:** President Beverly Young, Councilwoman Cassandra Bennett, Councilwoman Theresa Damron, Councilman Don Damron, and Councilwoman Karen Young. All ayes. Carried.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**Budget Amendments:** Motion made by Councilwoman Theresa Damron seconded by Councilwoman Karen Young to accept the Budget Amendments.

**ROLL CALL VOTE** President Beverly Young, Councilwoman Cassandra Bennett, Councilwoman Theresa Damron, Councilman Don Damron, Councilwoman Karen Young. All ayes. Carried.

**ACCEPTANCE OF BILLS:** Motion made by Councilwoman Thersa Damron seconded by Councilwoman Cassandra Bennett to pay the bills.

**ROLL CALL VOTE** President Beverly Young, Councilwoman Cassandra Bennett Councilwoman Theresa Damron, Councilman Don Damron, Councilwoman Karen Young, All ayes. Carried.

Motion made by Councilwoman Karen Young to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Beverly Young**  
Village President

**Beth James**  
Village Clerk