

Village of Vandalia Meeting Minutes

Date: January 6, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM

Meeting Called to Order:

Village President Evan Hickman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Attendance:

- **Trustees Present:** Myrick, John Bennett, Cassandra Bennett, Karen Young
- **Officials Present:** Clerk Ashley Wences, Treasurer Ashli Hickman, Office Assistant Erika Willis

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

- **Motion:** Trustee Myrick made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2024, meeting.
 - **Seconded by:** Trustee John Bennett
 - **Vote:** All in favor. Motion carried.

Resident Concerns

President Hickman reported:

- Concerns from residents about blight issues on Bogue Street, particularly related to house remodeling and individuals residing in campers within the Village.

Appointments and Recommendations

- **Code Enforcer:**
 - **Discussion:** President Hickman suggested appointing the current Building Inspector, Rich McGrew, as the Village's new Code Enforcer.
 - **Motion:** Trustee John Bennett made a motion to appoint Rich McGrew as the Village Code Enforcer.
 - **Seconded by:** Trustee Cassandra Bennett
 - **Vote:** All in favor. Motion carried.
- **Zoning Administrator:**
 - **Discussion:** President Hickman recommended Roger Leach, an experienced Zoning Administrator, to fill the vacant Zoning Administrator position.

- **Action:** The Council requested an interview with Mr. Leach and agreed to table the decision until a future meeting.

New Business

- Clerk Ashley Wences attended a Zoom meeting with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) to discuss new grant opportunities.
- Trustee Myrick and Treasurer Ashli Hickman attended the Cass County Master Plan meeting.

Old Business

- President Hickman clarified that the November 11, 2024, meeting minutes were prepared by the previous administration and approved by the current administration to ensure continuity of Village business.

Committee Reports

Recreational Committee:

- The Vandalia Village Coat Drive, held on December 22, 2024, was a success, with over 100 attendees receiving coats, hats, boots, and clothes.
- Special thanks were given to Trustee Myrick and Trustee John Bennett for their dedication to the event.

Approval of Bills

- **Motion:** Trustee John Bennett made a motion to pay the bills for January 2025.
 - **Seconded by:** Trustee Myrick
 - **Vote:** All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comments

- **Beverley Young:** Expressed concerns about tax money paid to Penn Township and its legal expenses.
 - **Response:** President Hickman advised her to address these concerns directly with Penn Township, as they do not involve the Village of Vandalia.
- **Amber Bishop:** Complimented the board on their excellent work.

Adjournment

- **Motion:** Trustee John Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - **Seconded by:** Trustee Myrick
 - **Vote:** All in favor. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM.

Prepared by: Clerk Ashley Wences-Young

Approved by: Village President Evan Hickman

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