Legislative Session Minutes

July 28, 2025

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mount Vernon City Council
Committee Meeting Schedule
July 28, 2025

5:55-6:07 p.m.	CORPO funds for N, Sandusky St.	Streets & Public Buildings Severns
6:07-6:20 p.m.	Code Enforcement Department	Employee & Community Relations Woods
6:20-6:30 p.m.	Fire Department staffing	Employee & Community Relations Woods
6:30-6:44 p.m.	Chapter 1309: Motor Vehicle Storage	Land Use & Development Keener
6:44-6:55 p.m.	Chapter 149: Deer Management	Land Use & Development Keener
6:55-7:28 p.m.	H2Overhaul Project	Finance Seavolt

- 07-28-25 Committee Meeting Schedule

MEETING WILL RECESS UNTIL 7:30 P.M.

MOTION ON COUNCIL CLERK POSITION

Woods made a motion to make an offer of employment to Zac Sherman for part-time Council Clerk, with a second by Hager. Motion approved by a roll-call vote of 7-0.

CALL TO ORDER

Attendee	Title	Status
Janis Seavolt	At Large	Present
Tammy Woods	Third Ward	Present
Amber Keener	At Large	Present
Mel Severns	Councilman	Present
James Mahan	First Ward	Present
John Ruckman	Second Ward	Present
LeNan Hager	Fourth Ward	Present
Bruce Hawkins	President	Present

<RollCallList Status="Absent">

{Attendee(*):First Last}	{Attendee(*):Title}	Absent

INVOCATION

John Todd delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All recited in unison.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Seavolt made a motion to approve the minutes of the Legislative Session of July 14, 2025 and the special meeting of July 21, 2025. Woods seconded the motion, which passed by a voice vote of 7-0.

- City Council - Legislative Session - Jul 14, 2025 7:30 PM
- City Council - Special Meeting - Jul 21, 2025 5:30 PM

RECEIVE PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None.

RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

The minutes for the Employee and Community Relations Committee and Utilities Committee meetings of July 14, 2025 were accepted without comment.

- 07-14-25 Employee and Community Relations Committee Meeting
- 07-14-25 Utilities Commission Meeting Minurtes

LIQUOR CONTROL LICENSE

None.

PROCLAMATION

None.

PERSONS SPEAKING ON MATTERS OF CITY CONCERN

Knox Public Health Commissioner Zach Green provided a quarterly update from his agency. He noted that Lyme disease cases are rising and that a case of West Nile virus was reported in Danville. He also highlighted National Health Center Week, back-to-school immunizations, and the importance of property taxes for keeping local infrastructures intact.

Olivia Toth of the Knox County Convention and Visitors Bureau spoke about the County's plans for America 250, or semiquincentennial, next year, including hand-painted utility boxes, Ohio Goes to the Movies and applying for a William F. Semple historical marker. She added that Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Kenyon College and local high schools are also involved in the project.

Kaleb Quinn spoke in opposition to Flock safety cameras, which come equipped with license plate readers, noting that one is located on West High Street by Riverside Park. He contended that concerns about the cameras outweigh any benefits and that they're a Fourth Amendment violation, adding that the data collected by the cameras is kept by a private company for up to 30 days. Police Chief Robert Morgan noted that his department retains the data for 30 days.

RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD READING

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-65

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING OHIO HOUSE BILL 335 AND URGING THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REJECT LEGISLATION THAT ELIMINATES INSIDE MILLAGE AND TRANSFERS LOCAL BUDGETARY AUTHORITY TO COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSIONS.

Finance and Budget: Seavolt, Woods

Seavolt made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-65, with a second by Woods. Mayor Matthew Starr noted that the Ohio Municipal League is opposed to House Bill 335, and that the City receives 2.6 in inside millage for capital improvements, and 0.6 mills each for Police and Fire pensions. Hawkins explained what is meant by inside millage. Motion to adopt passed by a roll-call vote of 6-1, with Keener voting no.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [6 TO 1]**
MOVER:	Janis Seavolt, At Large
SECONDER:	Tammy Woods, Third Ward
AYES:	Seavolt, Woods, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman, Hager
NAYS:	Keener

R E S O L U T I O N N O . 2 0 2 5 - 7 2

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS.

Finance and Budget: Seavolt, Woods

Seavolt made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-72, with a second by Woods. Safety-Service Tanner Salyers and Deputy Auditor Emily Vandebrake commented on the legislation. Motion to adopt passed by a roll-call vote of 7-0.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Janis Seavolt, At Large
SECONDER:	Tammy Woods, Third Ward
AYES:	Seavolt, Woods, Keener, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman, Hager

R E S O L U T I O N N O . 2 0 2 5 - 7 3

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON TO PAY BILLS PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.41 (D), THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATION.

Finance and Budget: Seavolt, Woods

Seavolt made a motion to amend Resolution No. 2025-73 to add a third item to Section 1, with a second by Woods. Motion to amend passed by a roll-call vote of 7-0. Seavolt made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-73, with a second by Woods. Safety-Service Director Tanner Salyers, Deputy Auditor Emily Vandebrake and the Council Clerk commented on the legislation. Motion to adopt as amended passed by a roll-call vote of 7-0.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Janis Seavolt, At Large
SECONDER:	Tammy Woods, Third Ward
AYES:	Seavolt, Woods, Keener, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman, Hager

R E S O L U T I O N N O . 2 0 2 5 - 7 4

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON TO TRANSFER CERTAIN FUNDS.

Finance and Budget: Seavolt, Woods

Seavolt made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-74, with a second by Woods. Engineer Brian Ball noted that the transfer is to fund a flood plain study on Kokosing River tributaries. Motion to adopt passed by a roll-call vote of 7-0.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Janis Seavolt, At Large
SECONDER:	Tammy Woods, Third Ward
AYES:	Seavolt, Woods, Keener, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman, Hager

RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-71

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR CORPO DEDICATED FUNDS PROGRAMMED BY THE CENTRAL OHIO RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CORPO) TO IMPROVE THE INTERSECTION OF NORTH SANDUSKY STREET (STATE ROUTE 13), UPPER FREDERICKTOWN ROAD AND CASSELL ROAD (STATE ROUTE 13); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Streets and Public Buildings: Severns, Ruckman

Severns made a motion to suspend the rule requiring three separate readings of Resolution No. 2025-71, with a second by Ruckman. Motion to suspend passed by a roll-call vote of 7-0. Severns made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-71, with a second by Ruckman. Motion to adopt passed by a roll-call vote of 7-0.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Mel Severns, Councilman
SECONDER:	John Ruckman, Second Ward
AYES:	Seavolt, Woods, Keener, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman, Hager

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-75

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY TO PURCHASE CERTAIN SECURITIES AND FOR A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO PAY FOR THE PURCHASE.

Finance and Budget: Seavolt, Woods

Resolution No. 2025-75 was given a second reading. Seavolt requested a 30-minute meeting of the Finance and Budget Committee for August 11, 2025.

RESULT:	**SECOND READING**	**Next: 8/11/2025 7:30 PM**

RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING

None.

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING

O R D I N A N C E N O . 2 0 2 5 - 1 7

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT AND TO AMEND SECTION 129.02 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Employee and Community Rel.: Woods, Keener

Woods made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-17, with a second by Keener. Motion to adopt passed by a roll-call vote of 7-0.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Tammy Woods, Third Ward
SECONDER:	Amber Keener, At Large
AYES:	Seavolt, Woods, Keener, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman, Hager

O R D I N A N C E N O . 2 0 2 5 - 2 1

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 755 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON REGULATING WASTE HAULERS, REQUIRING RECYCLING PERMITS, MANDATING ANNUAL REPORTS, ENSURING SECURE HAULING, AND ESTABLISHING AN APPEALS PROCESS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Utilities: Ruckman, Hager

Ruckman made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-21, with a second by Woods. Woods asked if the legislation allows the City to inspect waste haulers' vehicles at any time. Safety-Service Director Tanner Salyers and Police Chief Robert Morgan explained that the legislation allows the City to check waste haulers' vehicles for compliance at any time. Motion to adopt passed by a roll-call vote of 6-1, with Woods voting no.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	John Ruckman, Second Ward
SECONDER:	Tammy Woods, Third Ward
AYES:	Seavolt, Woods, Keener, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman, Hager

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

O R D I N A N C E N O . 2 0 2 5 - 2 2

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE NUMBER OF HOURLY EMPLOYEES IN THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON FIRE DEPARTMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Employee and Community Rel.: Woods, Keener

Woods made a motion to suspend the rule requiring three separate readings of Ordinance No. 2025-22, with a second by Keener. Motion to suspend passed by a roll-call vote of 7-0. Woods made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-22, with a second by Keener. Motion to adopt passed by a roll-call vote of 7-0.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Tammy Woods, Third Ward
SECONDER:	Amber Keener, At Large
AYES:	Seavolt, Woods, Keener, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman, Hager

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-23

AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE CHAPTER 1309 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGULATING INOPERABLE, UNREGISTERED, AND JUNK VEHICLES, TRAILERS, AND OTHER MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT ON CITY STREETS AND PRIVATE PROPERTY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Land Use and Development: Keener, Mahan

Keener made a motion to postpone the second reading of Ordinance No. 2025-23 to Aug. 25, 2025, with a second by Mahan. Keener noted that there are still a lot of questions about the legislation, although it's moving in the right direction. Motion to postpone passed by a roll-call vote of 6-1, with Severns voting no.

RESULT:	**POSTPONED TO A CERTAIN TIME [5 TO 1]**	**Next: 8/25/2025 7:30 PM**
MOVER:	Amber Keener, At Large	
SECONDER:	James Mahan, First Ward	
AYES:	Seavolt, Woods, Keener, Mahan, Hager	
NAYS:	Severns	
RECUSED:	Ruckman	

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-24

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SELF-SUPPORTING UTILITY REVENUE BONDS IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED $2,000,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING AND INSTALLING WATER METERS AND PAYING OTHER COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THE WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY'S H2OVERHAUL PROJECT; AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING RELATED MATTERS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Finance and Budget: Seavolt, Woods

Ordinance No. 2025-24 was given a second reading.

RESULT:	**SECOND READING**	**Next: 8/11/2025 7:30 PM**

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-25

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND CREATING CHAPTER 149 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, WHITE-TAILED DEER MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, OHIO, AND MODIFYING ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT.

Land Use and Development: Keener, Mahan

Ordinance No. 2025-25 was given a second reading. Keener requested a 10-minute meeting of the Land Use and Development Committee on the legislation for August 11, 2025.

RESULT:	SECOND READING	Next: 8/11/2025 7:30 PM

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

None.

REMARKS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Matthew Starr apologized for the air conditioning not working properly, detailed materials he distributed from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), noted that he will be honoring the City's Volunteers of the Year at First Friday on Aug. 1, and thanked the Council Clerk for his time on Council.

Safety-Service Director Tanner Salyers thanked Council for its passage of legislation, noted that the annual budget process will be more streamlined this year, announced that the cemetery is expanding, and that the new salt barn is in design phase.

Brittney Whitney of the Law Director's office noted that the department has hired a third attorney.

REMARKS FROM COUNCIL

Woods asked how the City's newest water meters are performing, warned about certain measures in the new State budget, and noted that a resident suggested to her that the City's church bells all be rung on July 4 next year to celebrate America 250. Severns warned about the effect State House Bill 335 could have on property taxes, and thanked the Clerk for his time on Council. Keener noted that State House Bill 335 was passed in an attempt to offset a potential ballot issue that would eliminate property taxes in the State altogether. Hager called attention to a family dance party at Ariel~Foundation Park on August 2, Dog Fountain-inspired art for sale at the park, and the Jay Leno performance at Knox Memorial Theater on August 23. Hawkins thanked the Clerk for his time on Council.

ADJOURN AT THE CALL OF THE PRESIDENT

Seavolt made a motion to adjourn, with a second from Woods. Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Bruce E. Hawkins, President of Council

Todd Hill, Clerk of Council

CD on file/th

PRESS RELEASE

City Hall
40 Public Square
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Todd Hill, Clerk of Council
740-393-9517 Fax: 740-397-6595

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 23, 2025

Mount Vernon City Council
Committee Meeting Schedule
July 28, 2025

5:55-6:10 p.m.	CORPO funds for N, Sandusky St.	Streets & Public Buildings Severns
6:10-6:20 p.m.	Code Enforcement Department	Employee & Community Relations Woods
6:20-6:30 p.m.	Fire Department staffing	Employee & Community Relations Woods
6:30-6:40 p.m.	Chapter 1309: Motor Vehicle Storage	Land Use & Development Keener
6:40-6:50 p.m.	Chapter 149: Deer Management	Land Use & Development Keener
6:50-7:15 p.m.	H2Overhaul Project	Finance Seavolt

The above listed meeting will be held to discuss the above items; but will not be limited to those listed.
Mount Vernon News - WMVO - WNZR – City Hall Bulletin Board

Communication: 07-28-25 Committee Meeting Schedule (Committee Meetings)

Mount Vernon

Employee and Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes
Committee Meeting
July 14, 2025 – 6:44 p.m. to 6:54 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT:	Bruce Hawkins, President Tammy Woods, Third Ward James Mahan, First Ward John Ruckman, Second Ward Mike Miller, Fourth Ward Janis Seavolt, At-Large Amber Keener, At-Large
ABSENT:	Mel Severns, At-Large
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Matthew Starr, Mayor Tanner Salyers, Safety-Service Director Rob Broeren, Law Director Dan Brinkman, Auditor Brian Ball, Engineer Scott Zimmerman, City Inspector Brian Marvin, Code Enforcement Officer Aaron Rinehart, Utilities Director Robert Morgan, Police Chief Todd Hill, Clerk Cheryl Splain, Knox Pages

The committee discussed Ordinance No. 2025-17, creating the Code Enforcement Department and amending Section 129.02 of the Codified Ordinances. Safety-Service Director Tanner Salyers noted that the legislation organizes duties that are already taking place and constitutes housekeeping. City Inspector Scott Zimmerman noted that property maintenance is a priority of his and the Code Enforcement Officer, as well as backflow inspections. Law Director Rob Broeren added that Knox Public Health's priorities are elsewhere, such as food safety inspections. The chair requested a 10-minute committee meeting on the legislation for July 28, 2025. Ordinance No. 2025-17 was up for a first reading at Council's Legislative Session later in the evening.

Respectfully submitted,

_____
Tammy Woods, Chair
Employee and Community Relations Committee
Mount Vernon City Council

TW/th

Communication: 07-14-25 Employee and Community Relations Committee Meeting (Receive Committee Reports)

Mount Vernon

Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2025 – 6:54 p.m. to 7:13 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT:
Bruce Hawkins, President
Tammy Woods, Third Ward
James Mahan, First Ward
John Ruckman, Second Ward
Mike Miller, Fourth Ward
Janis Seavolt, At-Large
Amber Keener, At-Large

ABSENT:
Mel Severns, At-Large

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Matthew Starr, Mayor
Tanner Salyers, Safety-Service Director
Rob Broeren, Law Director
Dan Brinkman, Auditor
Brian Ball, Engineer
Scott Zimmerman, City Inspector
Brian Marvin, Code Enforcement Officer
Aaron Rinehart, Utilities Director
Robert Morgan, Police Chief
Todd Hill, Clerk
Cheryl Splain, Knox Pages

The committee discussed Ordinance No. 2025-21, amending Chapter 755 of the Codified Ordinances regulating waste haulers, requiring recycling permits, mandating annual reports, ensuring secure hauling, and establishing an appeals process. Safety-Service Director Tanner Salyers noted that the Utilities Commission worked on the legislation, in consultation with DKMM and waste haulers. He added that secure hauling is a priority, that haulers' annual reporting will be monitored by Code Enforcement, and that the legislation is not substantially different from what's on the books now. Mayor Matthew Starr noted that transfer stations are utilized for paperwork, and that rules need to be tightened through Code Enforcement. He added that the market determines the waste haulers' rates. No further committee meetings on the matter were requested. Ordinance No. 2025-21 was up for a second reading at Council's Legislative Session later in the evening.

Respectfully submitted,

_____
John Ruckman, Chair
Utilities Committee
Mount Vernon City Council

TW/th

Communication: 07-14-25 Utilities Commission Meeting Minutes (Receive Committee Reports)

City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

ADOPTED

Meeting: 07/28/25 7:30 PM
Dept: Finance and Budget
Seavolt, Woods
Category: Finance
Prepared By: Todd Hill
Initiator: Todd Hill

RESOLUTION 2025-65

DOC ID: 4250

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING OHIO HOUSE BILL 335 AND URGING THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REJECT LEGISLATION THAT ELIMINATES INSIDE MILLAGE AND TRANSFERS LOCAL BUDGETARY AUTHORITY TO COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSIONS.

WHEREAS, Ohio House Bill 335 (HB 335), introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives as the "Property Tax Relief Now Act," proposes sweeping changes to the property tax system in Ohio, including the elimination of unvoted inside millage for counties, municipalities and school districts beginning in tax year 2025; and

WHEREAS, inside millage is a longstanding and vital source of revenue that supports the provision of essential local services such as Police and Fire protection, mandatory contributions to the Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund, infrastructure maintenance, and parks and recreation without the need for voter approval; and

WHEREAS, HB 335 would centralize fiscal oversight by granting county budget commissions new authority to limit local property tax rates, review and revise municipal budgets, and reduce levies based on their determination of carryover balances -- despite these commissions being largely unknown to the public and unelected by the residents they would impact; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of HB 335 would undermine the principle of local control by allowing a county-level body to override the budgetary decisions of locally elected officials and reduce revenues approved by voters or budgeted based on local priorities; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would create fiscal uncertainty for cities and villages across Ohio, many of which have responsibly managed their finances and rely on inside millage to fund operations without asking voters for additional taxes; and

WHEREAS, HB 335 imposes these changes without providing revenue replace by the state for municipalities, potentially threatening the delivery of basic public services and shifting the burden to income or sales taxes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Vernon supports meaningful, collaborative property tax reform, but believes HB 335's approach is unbalanced and detrimental to the financial health and self-determination of Ohio's local governments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Mount Vernon, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1: The City Council hereby expresses its strong opposition to House Bill 335 and urges the Ohio General Assembly to reject this legislation in its current form.

SECTION 2: The City Council specifically opposes provisions in HB 335 that:

(a) Eliminate municipalities' authority to levy inside millage; and
(b) Transfer budgetary authority from locally elected officials to unelected county budget commissions.

SECTION 3: The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to members of the Ohio General Assembly representing the City of Mount Vernon, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, and local media outlets.

SECTION 4: This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

HISTORY:

06/23/25	**City Council**	**FIRST READING**
07/14/25	**City Council**	**SECOND READING**

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Seavolt made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-65, with a second by Woods. Mayor Matthew Starr noted that the Ohio Municipal League is opposed to House Bill 335, and that the City receives 2.6 in inside millage for capital improvements, and 0.6 mills each for Police and Fire pensions. Hawkins explained what is meant by inside millage. Motion to adopt passed by a roll-call vote of 6-1, with Keener voting no.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [6 TO 1]**
MOVER:	Janis Seavolt, At Large
SECONDER:	Tammy Woods, Third Ward
AYES:	Seavolt, Woods, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman, Hager
NAYS:	Amber Keener

City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

ADOPTED

Meeting: 07/28/25 7:30 PM
Dept: Finance and Budget
Seavolt, Woods
Category: Finance
Prepared By: Rob Broeren
Initiator: Todd Hill
DOC ID: 4264

RESOLUTION 2025-72

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Mount Vernon, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1: That the Auditor for the City of Mount Vernon be, and he herewith is, authorized and directed to make supplemental appropriations as follows:

1. To account 224.2100.53111, Dues/Supplies/Incidentals, in the amount of $4,380.00(Marcs Grant).
2. To account 226.2100.55511, Equipment, in the amount of $4,000.00 (Benevolent and Protective Grant).
3. To account 101.1900.53216, K-9 Unit Expenses, in the amount of $4,000.00 (donation from the Dan Emmett Kennel Club to help with the cost of new police dog training).
4. To account 402.1300.54484, TIF-Local School District, in the amount of $161,061.20 (2025 payments to Mount Vernon City Schools and Knox County Career Center from TIF revenues).
5. To the following Mount Vernon Municipal Court Probation Department accounts:

230.1700.51111 Probation Officer	$52,780.00
230.1700.52121 PERS	$10,673.44
230.1700.52123 Workers Comp	$2,587.50
230.1700.52125 Employee Insurance	$16,818.75
230.1700.52125 Medicare & SS	$2,264.06
230.1700.53111 Due/Supplies	$1,000.00
230.1700.53112 Conference Registration	$1,000.00
230.1700.53113 Memberships	$375.00
230.1700.54112 Drug Testing	$5,800.00
230.1700.54113 Testing Supplies	$500.00
230.1700.54114 Confirmation Testing	$100.00
230.1700.54115 GPS Services	$2,145.00
230.1700.54116 Electronic Monitoring	$2,145.00
230.1700.54117 Substance Abuse	$12,000.00
230.1700.54118 Mental Health Services	$7,500.00
230.1700.54119 Anger Management	$3,431.25
230.1700.54120 Additional Treatment Srvcs	$6,268.50
230.1700.54121 Class Materials	$375.00
230.1700.54122 Hands Down Costs	$875.00
230.1700.54123 Incentives	$1,250.00
230.1700.54124 Transportation	$750.00
230.1700.54311 Training/Travel-In State	$1,000.00

(The Mount Vernon Municipal Court Probation Department was awarded a new CCA Grant of $526,554.00 over the next 2 year fiscal cycle, which is $131,638.50 every 6 months of appropriations).

SECTION 2: This Resolution provides for appropriations for the current expenses of the City, and therefore, pursuant to Revised Code Section 731.20, it shall become effective upon its date of passage and approval by the Mayor.

HISTORY:

07/14/25	**City Council**	**FIRST READING**
07/21/25	**City Council**	**SECOND READING**

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Seavolt made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-72, with a second by Woods. Safety-Service Tanner Salyers and Deputy Auditor Emily Vandebrake commented on the legislation. Motion to adopt passed by a roll-call vote of 7-0.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Janis Seavolt, At Large
SECONDER:	Tammy Woods, Third Ward
AYES:	Seavolt, Woods, Keener, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman, Hager

City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

ADOPTED

Meeting: 07/28/25 7:30 PM
Dept: Finance and Budget
Seavolt, Woods
Category: Finance
Prepared By: Rob Broeren
Initiator: Todd Hill
DOC ID: 4265

RESOLUTION 2025-73

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON TO PAY BILLS PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.41 (D), THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATION.

WHEREAS, the Safety-Service Director for the City of Mount Vernon did make the necessary inquiries that these billed amounts as indicated are legitimate and proper and did approve payment in the amounts shown; and

WHEREAS, at the time of the making of such contract or order and at the time of the execution of such certificate a sufficient sum appropriated for the purpose of such contract or order was in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Mount Vernon, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1: That the Auditor for the City of Mount Vernon be, and he herewith is, authorized and directed to pay bills as follows:

1. To Granicus, LLC in the amount of $9,123.73, from line number 101.3600.54494, Networking Systems.
2. To Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co. in the amount of $6,719.20: to be taken from account 101.3600.54117, state examiners fees, for $2,403.20 and account 101.1300.54111, services received, for $4,316.00 (2024 annual audit).

SECTION 2: This Resolution provides for appropriations for the current expenses of the City, and therefore, pursuant to Revised Code Section 731.30, it shall become effective upon its date of passage and approval by the Mayor.

HISTORY:

07/14/25	**City Council**	**FIRST READING**
07/21/25	**City Council**	**SECOND READING**

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Seavolt made a motion to amend Resolution No. 2025-73 to add a third item to Section 1, with a second by Woods. Motion to amend passed by a roll-call vote of 7-0. Seavolt made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-73, with a second by Woods. Safety-Service Director Tanner Salyers, Deputy Auditor Emily Vandebrake and the Council Clerk commented on the legislation. Motion to adopt as amended passed by a roll-call vote of 7-0.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Janis Seavolt, At Large
SECONDER:	Tammy Woods, Third Ward
AYES:	Seavolt, Woods, Keener, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman, Hager

City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

ADOPTED

Meeting: 07/28/25 7:30 PM
Dept: Finance and Budget
Seavolt, Woods
Category: Finance
Prepared By: Todd Hill
Initiator: Todd Hill
DOC ID: 4266

RESOLUTION 2025-74

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON TO TRANSFER CERTAIN FUNDS.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Mount Vernon, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1: That the Auditor for the City of Mount Vernon be, and he herewith is, authorized and directed to transfer funds as follows:

1: From account 710.3210.55511, Equipment (Stormwater), to 710.3210.54118, Env Consultants (Stormwater), in the amount of $18,934.02.

2. From account 710.3210.55521, C&G Rehab (Stormwater), to 710.3210.54118, Env Consultants (Stormwater), in the amount of $127,000.00.

SECTION 2: This Resolution provides for appropriations for the current expenses of the City, and therefore, pursuant to Revised Code Section 731.30, it shall become effective upon its date of passage and approval by the Mayor.

HISTORY:

07/14/25	**City Council**	**FIRST READING**
07/21/25	**City Council**	**SECOND READING**

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Seavolt made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-74, with a second by Woods. Engineer Brian Ball noted that the transfer is to fund a flood plain study on Kokosing River tributaries. Motion to adopt passed by a roll-call vote of 7-0.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Janis Seavolt, At Large
SECONDER:	Tammy Woods, Third Ward
AYES:	Seavolt, Woods, Keener, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman, Hager

City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

ADOPTED

Meeting: 07/28/25 7:30 PM
Dept: Streets and Public Buildings
Severns, Ruckman
Category: Streets
Prepared By: Todd Hill
Initiator: Todd Hill
DOC ID: 4261

RESOLUTION 2025-71

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR CORPO DEDICATED FUNDS PROGRAMMED BY THE CENTRAL OHIO RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CORPO) TO IMPROVE THE INTERSECTION OF NORTH SANDUSKY STREET (STATE ROUTE 13), UPPER FREDERICKTOWN ROAD AND CASSELL ROAD (STATE ROUTE 13); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the redesign of the intersection of North Sandusky Street (State Route 13), Upper Fredericktown Road and Cassell Road (State Route 13) is important to the City of Mount Vernon in order to improve safety and reduce congestion; and

WHEREAS, this need to improve safety and reduce congestion is vital to improve the quality of life for the citizens and motoring public by reducing emissions, and improving overall safety and well-being of the citizens and visitors of the City of Mount Vernon.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Mount Vernon, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1: That the Safety-Service Director is hereby authorized to apply for CORPO Dedicated Funds programmed by the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO) for improvement of the intersection of North Sandusky Street (State Route 13), Upper Fredericktown Road and Cassell Road (State Route 13).

SECTION 2: That the City of Mount Vernon acknowledges and understands the CORPO "Policies for Managing CORPO Dedicated Funds" and confirms to the best of its knowledge that the information contained in the project application is accurate, that it intends to diligently pursue that project, and that a local share is required to match federal funds.

SECTION 3: The City of Mount Vernon agrees to perform typical routine maintenance necessary on the newly redesigned intersection to keep it in a safe and passable condition for the motoring public.

SECTION 4: That it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of the Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that reresulted in such formal action were meetings open to the public and in compliance with the law.

SECTION 5: This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, convenience and welfare of the City of Mount Vernon and the inhabitants thereof, for the reason that it is to apply for this

funding by August 8, 2025, and provided that it receives the approval of two-thirds of the members of Council, shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval; otherwise to be in full force and effect from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

HISTORY:

07/14/25 City Council FIRST READING

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Severns made a motion to suspend the rule requiring three separate readings of Resolution No. 2025-71, with a second by Ruckman. Motion to suspend passed by a roll-call vote of 7-0. Severns made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-71, with a second by Ruckman. Motion to adopt passed by a roll-call vote of 7-0.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Mel Severns, Councilman
SECONDER:	John Ruckman, Second Ward
AYES:	Seavolt, Woods, Keener, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman, Hager

City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

SCHEDULED

Meeting: 07/28/25 7:30 PM
Dept: Finance and Budget
Seavolt, Woods
Category: Finance
Prepared By: Rob Broeren
Initiator: Todd Hill
DOC ID: 4263

RESOLUTION 2025-75

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY TO PURCHASE CERTAIN SECURITIES AND FOR A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO PAY FOR THE PURCHASE.

WHEREAS, Council may direct the purchase of securities issued by the City pursuant to ORC secs. 133.29 and 731.56; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Mount Vernon, Ohio established a Reserve Balance Account by Ordinance 2017-33; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this account is to save funds for the following specific purposes: (1) for any unforeseen adverse events, (2) for any unforeseen opportunities, or (3) declining economic trends; and

WHEREAS, Council determines that there is an unforeseen opportunity involving the City's Water and Wastewater Departments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Mount Vernon, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1: The City is authorized to purchase the bonds the City will issue to fund the H2Overhaul Project with funds from the Reserve Balance account, which resides in Park National Investment Fund account K****.

SECTION 2: That the Auditor for the City of Mount Vernon be, and he herewith is, authorized and directed to make supplemental appropriations as follows:

1. To account 701.2740.55521, New Water/Wastewater Meters, in the amount of $900,000.00 (Proceeds from sale of H2Overhaul project securities).
2. To account 701.2740.54111, Services Received, in the amount of $600,000.00 (Proceeds from sale of H2Overhaul project securities).
3. To account 720.2840.54111, Services Received, in the amount of $500,000.00 (Proceeds from sale of H2Overhaul project securities).

SECTION 3: Council determines that money being transferred from the Reserve Balance Account is to fund an unforeseen opportunity that would go unfunded if monies from the Reserve Balance Account were not used.

SECTION 4: It shall take a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members elected to the Council of the City of Mount Vernon, Ohio to become effective.

SECTION 5: All monies (principal and interest) received by the City in repayment of the H2Overhaul Project securities shall be deposited in Park National Investment Fund account K****.

SECTION 6: This Resolution provides for appropriations for the current expenses of the City, and therefore, pursuant to Revised Code Section 731.30, it shall become effective upon its date of passage and approval by the Mayor.

HISTORY:

07/14/25 City Council FIRST READING

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Resolution No. 2025-75 was given a second reading. Seavolt requested a 30-minute meeting of the Finance and Budget Committee for August 11, 2025.

RESULT:	**SECOND READING**	**Next: 8/11/2025 7:30 PM**

City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

ADOPTED

Meeting: 07/28/25 7:30 PM
Dept: Employee and Community Rel.
Woods, Keener
Category: Planning and Zoning
Prepared By: Rob Broeren
Initiator: Todd Hill
DOC ID: 4249

ORDINANCE 2025-17

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT AND TO AMEND SECTION 129.02 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Mount Vernon, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1: That the City creates a Code Enforcement Department, which is a subdepartment within the Department of Public Safety and Service. The Department shall be composed of the City Inspector, Property Maintenance Enforcement Officer/Assistant City Inspector and such other employees as Council may authorize.

SECTION 2: That Section 129.02 of the Codified Ordinances be amended to read as follows:

The following subdepartments are created within the Department of Public Safety and Service:

(a) Police Department;
(b) Fire Department;
(c) Building Department;
(d) Engineer Department;
(e) Street Department;
(f) Water Department;
(g) Sewer Department; ~~and~~
(h) Cemetery Department; **and**
(i) Code Enforcement Department.

SECTION 3: This Ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety and for the further reason to properly place the duties of code enforcement within the various City departments, and therefore, become effective upon its date of passage and approval by the Mayor, provided that it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members elected to the Council of the City of Mount Vernon; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

HISTORY:

06/23/25	**City Council**	**FIRST READING**
07/14/25	**City Council**	**SECOND READING**

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Woods made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-17, with a second by Keener. Motion to adopt passed by a roll-call vote of 7-0.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Tammy Woods, Third Ward
SECONDER:	Amber Keener, At Large
AYES:	Seavolt, Woods, Keener, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman, Hager

City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

ADOPTED

Meeting: 07/28/25 7:30 PM
Dept: Utilities
Ruckman, Hager
Category: Utilities
Prepared By: Todd Hill
Initiator: Todd Hill
DOC ID: 4248

ORDINANCE 2025-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 755 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON REGULATING WASTE HAULERS, REQUIRING RECYCLING PERMITS, MANDATING ANNUAL REPORTS, ENSURING SECURE HAULING, AND ESTABLISHING AN APPEALS PROCESS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Mount Vernon, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1: That Chapter 755 of the Codified Ordinances be amended to read as follows

Section 755.01 - Purpose.

This ordinance is enacted to regulate the collection, transportation and disposal of solid waste and recyclable materials within the City of Mount Vernon to protect public health, promote environmental responsibility, maintain clear roadways, and ensure accountability in waste management operations.

Section 755.02 - Definitions.

a. Solid Waste: As defined in Ohio Administrative Code Rule 3745-27-01(S)(23).
b. Recyclable Materials: Materials designated by the City as suitable for recycling, including but not limited to paper, plastics, metals and glass.
c. Waste Hauler: Any person or entity engaged in the business of collecting, transporting or disposing of solid waste or recyclable materials within the City.
d. Secure Hauling: The act of transporting waste or recyclables in a manner that prevents spillage, leakage, litter or blowing debris.

Section 755.03 - Licensing of Waste Haulers.

a. License Requirement: No person or entity shall collect, transport or dispose of solid waste or recyclable materials within the City without first obtaining a Waste Hauler License from the Code Enforcement Department.
b. Annual Fee: The Code Enforcement Department is authorized to collect an annual non-refundable application fee for each waste hauler license. This fee shall be fixed from time to time by the Board of Control in order to recover the City's costs related to the regulation of waste hauling within the City.
c. Application Process: Applicants must submit a completed application, pay the required fee, provide proof of valid and separate approved waste disposal and recycling facilities, and comply with all City regulations.
d. License Display: The Waste Hauler License must be visibly displayed on each vehicle

used in waste collection or transportation.

e. Vehicle Identification: All vehicles used in waste or recycling operations must prominently display the company's name, logo, business address and telephone number on both sides of each truck in lettering no smaller than three (3) inches in height. Markings must be clearly legible and maintained in good condition.

Section 755.04 - Recycling Permit.

a. Permit Requirement: Any waste hauler collecting or transporting recyclable materials must obtain a Recycling Permit from the Office of Code Enforcement, in addition to the Waste Hauler License.

b. Annual Fee: The Code Enforcement Department is authorized to collect an annual non-refundable application fee for each recycling permit. This fee shall be fixed from time to time by the Board of Control in order to recover the City's costs related to the regulation of recycling within the City.

c. Recycling Requirement: All haulers permitted to operate within the City are required to offer recycling services to all customers, except as exempted in this chapter.

d. Residential Recycling: Recycling bins, and the scheduled curb-side pick-up of the contents of those bins, **must** be provided by the hauler at no additional cost to residential customers beyond the solid waste subscription charge.

e. Commercial Recycling: A hauler is not required to provide recycling to commercial customers if the commercial customer operates their own recycling program.

f. Required Information: Applicants must submit details regarding recyclable materials collected, methods of collection, proof of bin distribution practices, and proof of disposal at an appropriate, approved recycling facility that is separate from the waste disposal facility.

Section 755.05 - Secure Hauling Requirements.

a. Load Containment: All loads must be fully enclosed, tarped or otherwise securely contained to prevent litter, leakage or material from blowing onto public or private property.

b. Vehicle Standards: Waste-hauling vehicles must be maintained in good condition, have intact seals and sides, and must not be overloaded.

c. Spill and Damage Responsibility: If litter spills or property damage occurs as a result of hauling activities or other ordinance violations, the waste hauler shall be financially responsible for the full cost of cleanup and restoration.

d. Inspections: The Office of Code Enforcement may inspect vehicles for compliance at any time. Additional inspections or replacement or lost permit stickers shall incur a $50 fee.

Section 755.06 - Annual Reporting.

a. Due Date: All licensed waste haulers and recycling permit holders must submit an annual report to the Office of Code Enforcement by April 1 of each year.

b. Report Contents:

(1) Total volume and weight of solid waste collected and disposed.

(2) Total volume and weight of recyclable materials collected.

(3) Names and physical addresses of all approved disposal and recycling

facilities used (must be separate and appropriate for each waste stream).

(4) Fleet Summary: Number of trucks in active operation, description of each vehicle (make, model, license plate), and the address of the location(s) where vehicles are stored or housed.

(5) Documentation of any spills, littering, or non-compliance incidents and corrective actions taken.

Example Reporting Table Format:

Truck ID/Make or Model/License Plate/Address/Waste Collected (tons)/Recycling Collected (tons)

MV-01 / Ford F750 / ABC-1234 / 456 Industrial Drive, MV / 520.00 / 134.50
MV-02 / Mack TerraPro / XYZ-9876 / 456 Industrial Drive, MV / 612.00 / 158.75

Section 755.07 - Enforcement and Penalties.

a. Violation Process:

(1) First Violation: Written warning.

(2) Second Violation: Fine not to exceed $500.

(3) Third Violation: Suspension or revocation of Waste Hauler License and Recycling Permit, plus an additional fine up to $1,000.

b. Separate Violation for Spills or Damage: If any litter, spillage or property damage is associated with a violation, the hauler shall be issued a separate violation notice and held financially responsible for all cleanup, repair and administrative costs incurred by the City.

c. Littering Citations: Littering by a waste hauler shall be considered a separate offense under the City's general litter control ordinances.

Section 755.08 - Violations Appeals Process.

a. Initial Appeal to City Inspector: Appeals must be filed within ten (10) business days of the violation. Reviewed by the Office of Code Enforcement's City Inspector.

b. Secondary Appeal to Safety-Service Director: Must be filed within ten (10) business days after Inspector's decision.

c. Appeals of Revocation: May be heard by the City's Utilities Commission upon written request, which must be submitted within ten (10) business days of the Safety-Service Director's decision. The Commission shall schedule a hearing within thirty (30) days.

Section 755.09 - Authority to Make Rules and Regulations

The Utility Commission shall have the power to promulgate administrative rules and regulations deemed necessary to assure purposes of this ordinance are carried out.

SECTION 2: Severability. If any provision of this ordinance is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, all remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3: This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public, peace, health and safety, and for the further reason that an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the various departments of the municipal government, and further, that this Council deems it imperative that immediate action be taken in order to insure the continued usual daily operation of the various departments of the municipal government, the said Ordinance shall, therefore, become effective upon its date of passage and approval by the Mayor, provided that it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members elected to the Council of the City of Mount Vernon; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

HISTORY:

06/23/25	**City Council**	**FIRST READING**
07/14/25	**City Council**	**SECOND READING**

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Ruckman made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-21, with a second by Woods. Woods asked if the legislation allows the City to inspect waste haulers' vehicles at any time. Safety-Service Director Tanner Salyers and Police Chief Robert Morgan explained that the legislation allows the City to check waste haulers' vehicles for compliance at any time. Motion to adopt passed by a roll-call vote of 6-1, with Woods voting no.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	John Ruckman, Second Ward
SECONDER:	Tammy Woods, Third Ward
AYES:	Seavolt, Woods, Keener, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman, Hager

City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

ADOPTED

Meeting: 07/28/25 7:30 PM
Dept: Employee and Community Rel.
Woods, Keener
Category: Personnel
Prepared By: Rob Broeren
Initiator: Todd Hill
DOC ID: 4258

ORDINANCE 2025-22

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE NUMBER OF HOURLY EMPLOYEES IN THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON FIRE DEPARTMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Mount Vernon, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1: That the following positions are hereby authorized in the Mount Vernon Fire Department (additions are in **bold**, deletions are in ~~strikethrough~~):

FIRE DEPARTMENT:
Three Captains
Six Lieutenants
Not more than ~~33~~ **34** Firefighters and/or Firefighter/Paramedics
Not more than 25 Part-time Firefighter/EMTs
One ~~Fire Prevention Officer~~ **Fire Marshall**
One EMS/Training Coordinator Lieutenant

Use of all above mentioned said personnel is authorized as required to meet the work demands of the Fire Department as appropriated.

SECTION 2: All ordinances which previously set the number of hourly employees in the Mount Vernon Fire Department are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3: This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, and for the further reason that an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the various departments of the municipal government, and further to allow the City to provide additional firefighters to protect the City and its residents at the earliest possible date, the said Ordinance shall, therefore, become effective upon its date of passage and approval by the Mayor, provided that it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members elected to the Council of the City of Mount Vernon; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

HISTORY:

07/14/25	**City Council**	**FIRST READING**

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Woods made a motion to suspend the rule requiring three separate readings of Ordinance No. 2025-22, with a second by Keener. Motion to suspend passed by a roll-call vote of 7-0. Woods made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-22, with a second by Keener. Motion to adopt passed by a roll-call vote of 7-0.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Tammy Woods, Third Ward
SECONDER:	Amber Keener, At Large
AYES:	Seavolt, Woods, Keener, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman, Hager

City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

SCHEDULED

Meeting: 07/28/25 7:30 PM
Dept: Land Use and Development
Keener, Mahan
Category: Planning and Zoning
Prepared By: Rob Broeren
Initiator: Todd Hill
DOC ID: 4267

ORDINANCE 2025-23

AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE CHAPTER 1309 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGULATING INOPERABLE, UNREGISTERED, AND JUNK VEHICLES, TRAILERS, AND OTHER MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT ON CITY STREETS AND PRIVATE PROPERTY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the accumulation and outdoor storage of inoperable, unlicensed, or junk motor vehicles and equipment creates blight, health hazards, and safety concerns within the City of Mount Vernon; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to protect property values and maintain the aesthetic quality of neighborhoods and streetscapes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Mount Vernon, Ohio:

SECTION 1: That Chapter 1309 of the Codified Ordinances be amended to read as follows:

1309.01 DEFINITIONS
As used in Chapter 1309 of the Codified Ordinances:
(a) Motor Vehicle - As defined in Ohio Revised Code §4501.01. Includes, but is not limited to, passenger vehicles, trucks, vans, motorcycles, mopeds, ATVs, RVs, and trailers.
(b) Inoperable Vehicle - Any motor vehicle or trailer which, for a period of seventy-two (72) consecutive hours or more:
Is not capable of being lawfully and safely operated on public streets;
Is missing essential mechanical parts including, but not limited to, engine, transmission, wheels, steering mechanism, windshield, or battery;
Is disabled due to flat tires, broken windows, or collision damage;
Has not been moved under its own power in the preceding seventy-two (72) hours;
Is otherwise non-functional or incomplete in its construction.
(c) Unregistered Vehicle - Any motor vehicle or trailer that:
Does not display a current and valid license plate or registration sticker as required under Ohio law; or
is not registered with the Ohio BMV or other authorized state agency.
(d) Junk Vehicle - A vehicle that meets the definition in Ohio Revised Code §4513.63 and exhibits extensive damage, neglect, or deterioration, and has no apparent value beyond salvage.
(e) Trailer - Any non-motorized device designed to be towed by a motor vehicle, including utility trailers, boat trailers, camper trailers, and equipment haulers.
(f) Recreational Vehicle (RV) - Any motor vehicle or trailer designed for recreational use, including motor homes, travel trailers, fifth wheels, and campers.

(g) Off-Road Vehicles - Includes all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), dirt bikes, snowmobiles, and other vehicles not intended or permitted for use on public roadways.
(h) Yard Equipment - Includes riding lawn mowers, lawn tractors, agricultural tractors, and similar motorized landscaping or farming equipment.
(I) Public Property - Includes all public streets, sidewalks, alleys, rights-of-way, parks, and any land owned or maintained by the City.
(j) Private Property - All real property not owned by the City or a public entity.

1309.02 PROHIBITED STORAGE AND PARKING
(a) No person shall park, store, or permit the parking or storage of any inoperable, unregistered, or junk vehicle, trailer, or equipment on any public street, alley, or right-of-way within the City of Mount Vernon.
(b) No person shall park, store, or permit the parking or storage of any inoperable, unregistered, or junk vehicle, trailer, RV, off-road vehicle, motorcycle, or yard equipment on private property unless one of the following conditions is met:
The vehicle or equipment is stored entirely within a fully enclosed building (e.g., garage or barn); or
The vehicle or equipment is covered and screened from public view by a solid, opaque fence or vegetation at least six (6) feet in height; or
The vehicle is under active repair or restoration, and the work is completed within fourteen (14) consecutive days.
(c) Lawn mowers, tractors, or similar equipment must be stored in a garage, shed, or to the rear of the principal structure.
(d) No trailer, RV, ATV, or off-road vehicle may be used as a storage unit or dwelling while parked on a residential property.
(e) No person shall park, store, or permit the parking or storage of any motor vehicle, trailer, or motorized equipment in any front, side, or rear yard on an unimproved surface. All such parking must occur only on an improved surface, defined as:
Asphalt, concrete, pavers, or
Gravel or crushed stone that is clearly defined, compacted, and maintained to prevent ruts, erosion, and vegetation growth.

1309.03 VEHICLE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS
(a) All motor vehicles, trailers, and equipment stored or parked on public or private property within the City must display current and valid registration, license plates, and/or stickers as required by the Ohio BMV or equivalent authority.
(b) Vehicles without proper registration shall be considered “unregistered” and subject to enforcement under this ordinance, regardless of operability.

1309.04 ENFORCEMENT AND REMOVAL
(a) Inoperable or unregistered vehicles or equipment found on public property shall be subject to impoundment forty-eight (48) hours after posting a written notice on the vehicle by the Mount Vernon Code Enforcement Department.
(b) If the vehicle or equipment is located on private property in violation of this ordinance, the Code Enforcement Officer shall initiate the following notice procedure:

A written notice of violation shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the property owner as listed on the Knox County Auditor's records, informing them of the violation and providing ten (10) calendar days to correct it.
If the certified letter is returned as unclaimed, refused, or undeliverable for any reason, a copy of the same letter shall be hand-delivered by the Mount Vernon Police Department to the property owner's last known address.
If personal delivery is not possible, a copy of the notice shall be posted on the premises in a conspicuous location.
If the owner fails to comply within ten (10) days, the City may:
Issue civil citations for each day the violation continues; and/or
Remove the vehicle or equipment at the owner's expense, with costs certified to the County Auditor as a lien against the property.

1309.05 EXEMPTIONS
This ordinance shall not apply to:
Licensed automotive repair shops, salvage yards, or dealerships operating within permitted zoning;
Vehicles actively used for agricultural purposes on agriculturally zoned land;
Equipment or trailers lawfully stored pursuant to a valid zoning certificate.

1309.06 PENALTIES
(a) Civil Citations. In instances where a property owner fails to comply with a notice of violation, the City Inspector may levy a fine of up to $150.00 per day per violation. This penalty is in addition to any other actions that may be taken by the City.
(b) Criminal. In addition to any other penalty specified in this Chapter, any violation or failure to comply with the provisions in this Chapter shall constitute a minor misdemeanor on a first offense. If a person has been convicted of a violation of this Chapter within the past calendar year, each subsequent offense shall constitute a fourth-degree misdemeanor. Each day such violation continues shall be considered a separate offense. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the City from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.
(c) In any instance where the City incurs any expenses or fines, including but not limited to legal costs and fees, because of any person or entity's violation or failure to comply with any provisions and requirements in this Chapter, the expenses incurred, plus an administrative fee equal to the expenses incurred shall be recovered from the person or entity.

SECTION 2: If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions which shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 3: This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, and for the further reason that the proliferation of junk, inoperable and abandoned vehicles poses an imminent threat to the health, safety and property of the citizens of Mount Vernon, and said Ordinance shall, therefore, become effective upon its date of passage and approval by the Mayor, provided that it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members elected to the Council of the City of

Mount Vernon; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

HISTORY:

07/14/25 City Council FIRST READING

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Keener made a motion to postpone the second reading of Ordinance No. 2025-23 to Aug. 25, 2025, with a second by Mahan. Keener noted that there are still a lot of questions about the legislation, although it's moving in the right direction. Motion to postpone passed by a roll-call vote of 6-1, with Severns voting no.

RESULT:	**POSTPONED TO A CERTAIN TIME [5 TO 1] Next: 8/25/2025 7:30 PM**
MOVER:	Amber Keener, At Large
SECONDER:	James Mahan, First Ward
AYES:	Seavolt, Woods, Keener, Mahan, Hager
NAYS:	Mel Severns
RECUSED:	John Ruckman

City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

SCHEDULED

Meeting: 07/28/25 7:30 PM
Dept: Finance and Budget
Seavolt, Woods
Category: Bonds
Prepared By: Rob Broeren
Initiator: Todd Hill
DOC ID: 4262

ORDINANCE 2025-24

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SELF-SUPPORTING UTILITY REVENUE BONDS IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED $2,000,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING AND INSTALLING WATER METERS AND PAYING OTHER COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THE WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY'S H2OVERHAUL PROJECT; AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING RELATED MATTERS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Vernon, Ohio (the "City") owns and operates as a public utility a municipal water and wastewater system (the "Utility"), the services of which are supplied to persons and corporations within and without the corporate limits of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City (the "Council") desires to finance improvements to the Utility with the proceeds of the self-supporting utility revenue bonds described herein (the "Bonds") for the purpose of acquiring and installing water meters and paying other costs of implementing the Water and Wastewater Utility's H2Overhaul Project (the "Project"), which Project is needed to modernize infrastructure and enhance operational efficiency for the Utility; and

WHEREAS, it is now deemed necessary to issue and sell such Bonds in the amount of not to exceed $2,000,000 for the Project under authority of the general laws of the State of Ohio, including Sections 3 and 12 of Article XVIII of the Ohio Constitution; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code ("Revised Code") Section 731.56, the City desires to invest moneys in its Reserve Balance Account within its Park Investment Mutual Fund (Account K****) to acquire the Bonds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Mount Vernon, Ohio that:

SECTION 1: It is hereby declared necessary to issue bonds of the City for the purpose of acquiring and installing water meters and paying other costs of implementing the Water and Wastewater Utility's H2Overhaul Project in the principal sum of not to exceed $2,000,000 or such lesser amount as shall be determined by the Auditor of the City (the "Auditor") and certified to this Council, which bonds shall be designated "City of Mount Vernon, Ohio Water System Improvement Revenue Bonds, Series 2025," or as otherwise designated by the Auditor (the "Bonds").

SECTION 2: The Bonds shall be issued as fully registered bonds in such denominations as shall be determined by the Auditor, but not exceeding the principal amount of Bonds maturing on any one date; shall be numbered as determined by the Auditor; and shall have such final terms as shall be determined by the Auditor and set forth in the Certificate of Fiscal Officer provided for in Section 3 herein.

SECTION 3: The Auditor is authorized and directed to execute on behalf of the City a Certificate of Fiscal Officer Relating to Terms of Bonds (the "Certificate of Fiscal Officer") setting forth the aggregate principal amount and the final terms of the Bonds, which aggregate principal amount and terms, subject to

the limitations set forth in this Ordinance, shall be as determined by the Auditor. The Certificate of Fiscal Officer shall indicate the dated date for the Bonds, the dates on which interest on the Bonds is to be paid (the "Interest Payment Dates"), the purchase price for the Bonds (which shall be not less than 100% of the aggregate principal amount thereof), the maturity schedule for the Bonds (provided that the maximum maturity date of the Bonds shall not exceed five years), the interest rates for the Bonds (provided that the interest rate for any Bond shall be a fair market rate as of the date of the Certificate of Fiscal Officer), any applicable optional and/or mandatory redemption provisions, and such other terms not inconsistent with this Ordinance as the Auditor shall deem appropriate. Unless otherwise determined by the Auditor, the Bonds shall be callable for optional redemption prior to stated maturity at any time by the City without penalty.

SECTION 4: **The Bonds shall be issued with interest payable, with the frequency determined by the Auditor, on each Interest Payment Date until the principal sum is paid or provision has been duly made therefor in such proportions as shall be set forth in the Certificate of Fiscal Officer. Interest shall be calculated on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months unless otherwise determined by the Auditor. Unless otherwise determined by the Auditor, the Bonds shall be in the denominations of $1,000 or any integral multiple thereof.**

SECTION 5: **The Bonds shall be subject to optional and mandatory redemption prior to stated maturity as provided herein and in the Certificate of Fiscal Officer. When partial redemption is authorized, the Bond Registrar (as defined herein below) shall select Bonds or portions thereof by lot within a maturity in such manner as the Bond Registrar may determine, provided, however, that the portion of any Bond so selected shall be in the amount of $1,000 or any integral multiple thereof unless otherwise determined by the Auditor. The City may redeem all or any portion of the Bonds on any date without being required to provide any prior notice of such call for redemption.**

SECTION 6: **The Bonds shall express upon their faces the purpose for which they are issued and that they are issued pursuant to this Ordinance. The Bonds shall be executed by the Mayor of the City (the "Mayor") and by the Auditor in their official capacities, provided that either or both of their signatures may be a facsimile. No Bond shall be valid or become obligatory for any purpose or shall be entitled to any security or benefit under this Ordinance unless and until a certificate of authentication, as printed on the Bond, is signed by the Bond Registrar as authenticating agent. Authentication by the Bond Registrar shall be conclusive evidence that the Bond so authenticated has been duly issued and delivered under this Ordinance and is entitled to the security and benefit of this Ordinance. The certificate of authentication may be signed by any officer or officers of the Bond Registrar or by such other person acting as an agent of the Bond Registrar as shall be approved by the Auditor on behalf of the City. It shall not be necessary that the same authorized person sign the certificate of authentication on all of the Bonds.**

SECTION 7: **The principal of and interest on the Bonds shall be payable in lawful money of the United States of America without deduction for the services of the Bond Registrar as paying agent. The principal of the Bonds shall be payable upon presentation and surrender of the Bonds at the office of the Bond Registrar. Each Bond shall bear interest from the later of the date thereof, or the most recent Interest Payment Date to which interest has been paid or duly provided for. Interest on any Bond shall be paid on each Interest Payment Date.**

SECTION 8: **The Auditor is authorized and directed to serve as authenticating agent, bond registrar, transfer agent, and paying agent (collectively, the "Bond Registrar") for the Bonds. So long as any of the Bonds remain outstanding, the City shall cause to be maintained and kept by the Bond Registrar, at the office of the Bond Registrar, all books and records necessary for the registration, exchange and transfer of Bonds as provided in this Section (the "Bond Register"). As the registered owner of the Bonds, the City shall be regarded as the absolute owner of the Bonds for all purposes unless it transfers the Bonds to another owner as described herein below. Payment of or on account of the principal of and interest on any Bond shall be made only to the City or any subsequent owners to whom the City may transfer all or a portion of the Bonds. All payments shall be valid and effectual to satisfy and discharge the liability upon the Bonds, including the interest thereon, to the extent of the amount or amounts so paid.**

Any Bond, upon presentation and surrender at the office of the Bond Registrar, together with a request for exchange signed by the registered owner or by a person authorized by the owner to do so by a power of attorney in a form satisfactory to the Bond Registrar, may be exchanged for Bonds of the same form and of any authorized denomination or denominations equal in the aggregate to the unmatured principal amount of the Bonds surrendered, and bearing interest at the same rate and maturing on the same date.

A Bond may be transferred only on the Bond Register upon presentation and surrender thereof at the office of the Bond Registrar, together with an assignment executed by the registered owner or by a person authorized by the owner to do so by a power of attorney in a form satisfactory to the Bond Registrar. Upon that transfer, the Bond Registrar shall complete, authenticate and deliver a new Bond or Bonds of any authorized denomination or denominations equal in the aggregate to the unmatured principal amount of the Bonds surrendered, and bearing interest at the same rate and maturing on the same date.

In all cases in which Bonds are exchanged or transferred hereunder, the City shall cause to be executed and the Bond Registrar shall authenticate and deliver Bonds in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance. The exchange or transfer shall be without charge to the owner; except that the City and the Bond Registrar may make a charge sufficient to reimburse them for any tax or other governmental charge required to be paid with respect to the exchange or transfer. The City or the Bond Registrar may require that those charges, if any, be paid before it begins the procedure for the exchange or transfer of the Bonds. All Bonds issued upon any transfer or exchange shall be the valid obligations of the City, evidencing the same debt, and entitled to the same benefits under this Ordinance, as the Bonds surrendered upon that transfer or exchange.

SECTION 9: **The Bonds shall be payable solely from the revenues of the Utility (the "Revenues") after provision for the payment of reasonable operation and maintenance expenses of the Utility. The rates and charges for all services and facilities rendered by the Utility shall be reasonable and just, taking into consideration the costs and value of said Utility and cost of maintaining, repairing and operating the same and the amounts necessary for the retirement of the Bonds and there shall be charged such rates and charges as shall be adequate to meet the requirements of this Section and Section 10 hereof. The Bonds are self-supporting securities within the meaning of Revised Code Sections 133.05(B)(1)(a) and (b).**

SECTION 10: **The Auditor is hereby authorized to create and maintain the Bond Fund (the "Bond Fund"). The Bond Fund shall be funded solely from the Revenues of the Utility and be used for purposes of payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds, and redemption of the Bonds, as appropriate.**

SECTION 11: **The Bonds will not constitute general obligation debt of the City and will not constitute a debt or pledge of the full faith and credit of the City. The holders of the Bonds have no right to have taxes levied by the City to pay principal of and interest on the Bonds when due. Nothing in this Ordinance will be construed as requiring the City to use or apply to the payment of principal of or interest on the Bonds any funds or revenues from any source other than the revenues; however, nothing in this Ordinance will be deemed to prohibit the City from using, to the extent that it is authorized by law to do so, any other resources for the fulfillment of any of the terms, conditions, or obligations of this Ordinance or the Bonds.**

SECTION 12: **The Bonds shall be sold to the City for investment pursuant to Revised Code Sections 133.29 and 731.56 through 731.58, subject to the requirements of such sections and Section 13 herein. The Council hereby determines that up to $2,000,000 of moneys in the City's Reserve Balance Account within its Park Investment Mutual Fund (Account K****)(the "Reserve Balance Account") shall be used to purchase the Bonds at a purchase equal to 100% of the par amount of the Bonds issued pursuant to this Ordinance; provided, however, that the requirements of Revised Code Section 731.57 and Section 13 herein must first be satisfied. The City shall not pay a premium to purchase the Bonds.**

The proceeds from the sale of the Bonds shall be used for the purpose aforesaid and for no other purpose. Any accrued interest received from such sale shall be transferred to the bond retirement fund to be applied to the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds, or other obligations of the City, as permitted by law.

SECTION 13: **Prior to issuing the Bonds and investing moneys in the Reserve Balance Account in the acquisition of the Bonds, the Auditor is hereby instructed to submit to the Mayor and the Director of Law of the City (the "Law Director") the statement of moneys described in and required by Revised Code Section 731.57 (the "Statement of Moneys"). The Bonds may not be issued and moneys in the Reserve Balance Account shall not be invested in or used to acquire the Bonds unless (1) the Statement of Moneys shows that the moneys in the Reserve Balance Account anticipated to be used to acquire the Bonds will not be required to be used by the City for a period of six months or more, and (2) the Auditor provides a recommendation with the Statement of Moneys that such moneys in the Reserve Balance Account that are not required to be used by the City for a period of six months or more should be used to invest in and acquire Bonds, which recommendation shall be made at the sole discretion of the Auditor pursuant to Revised Code Section 731.57.**

SECTION 14: **If the Bonds are issued and moneys in the Reserve Balance Account are invested to acquire them pursuant to the terms of this Ordinance and Revised Code Sections 731.56 and 731.57, then, in accordance with Revised Code Section 731.58, the Auditor shall maintain an account, to be known as the "treasury investment account," in which he shall enter all transactions relating to the investment of funds under Revised Code Sections 731.56 and 731.57. The records of such "treasury investment account" shall be maintained in accordance with Revised Code Section 731.58 and provided to the Treasurer of the City (the "Treasurer") as required therein.**

SECTION 15: **The Council hereby approves of the appointment of the law firm of Bricker Graydon LLP to serve as Bond Counsel with respect to the issuance of the Bonds. The fee to be paid to such firm shall be subject to review and approval by the Auditor and shall not exceed the fee customarily charged for such services.**

SECTION 16: **The Mayor, the Auditor, the Law Director, the Clerk of Council, the Treasurer, and other City officials, as appropriate, are each authorized and directed to sign any transcript certificates, financial statements and other documents and instruments and to take such actions as are necessary or appropriate to consummate the transactions contemplated by this Ordinance. The actions of the Mayor, the Auditor, the Law Director, the Clerk of Council, the Treasurer, or other City officials, as appropriate, in doing any and all acts necessary in connection with the issuance and sale of the Bonds are hereby ratified and confirmed.**

The Clerk of Council and any other officers of the Council or the City, or any of them individually, are authorized and directed to prepare and certify a true transcript of proceedings pertaining to the Bonds. Such transcript shall include certified copies of all proceedings and records of the Council relating to the power and authority of the City to issue the Bonds and certificates as to matters within their knowledge or as shown by the books and records under their custody and control.

SECTION 17: **It is hereby found and determined that all acts, conditions and things necessary to be done precedent to and in the issuing of the Bonds in order to make them legal, valid and binding obligations of the City have happened, been done and been performed in regular and due form as required by law; and that no limitation of indebtedness or taxation, either statutory or constitutional, has been exceeded in issuing the Bonds.**

SECTION 18: **It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of the Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Ordinance were taken in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of the Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Revised Code Section 121.22.**

SECTION 19: **This Ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, welfare and safety, and for the further reason that this Ordinance is required to be immediately effective in order to issue and sell the Bonds, which is necessary to enable the City to facilitate the timely execution of one or more contracts relating to the Project and to take advantage of currently prevailing interest rates. Therefore, this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor, provided that it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members elected to the Council; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.**

HISTORY:

07/14/25 **City Council** **FIRST READING**

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Ordinance No. 2025-24 was given a second reading.

RESULT:	**SECOND READING**	**Next: 8/11/2025 7:30 PM**

City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

SCHEDULED

Meeting: 07/28/25 7:30 PM
Dept: Land Use and Development
Keener, Mahan
Category: Lands
Prepared By: Rob Broeren
Initiator: Todd Hill
DOC ID: 4268

ORDINANCE 2025-25

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND CREATING CHAPTER 149 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, WHITE-TAILED DEER MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, OHIO, AND MODIFYING ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT.

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Vernon recognizes the need to manage the white-tailed deer population within its corporate limits to prevent property damage and reduce the risk of deer-related accidents; and

WHEREAS, controlled bow hunting has been identified as a safe and effective method for deer population management in urban areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Council of the City of Mount Vernon, Ohio:

SECTION 1: That Chapter 149 of the Codified Ordinances be created, and reads as follows:

149.01 STATEMENT OF PURPOSES
The management of white-tailed deer within the City to prevent property damage and reduce the risk of deer-related accidents shall be through the use of bow hunting, which is a safe and effective method of deer population management in urban areas.

149.02 PERMIT REQUIREMENTS
(a) Eligibility: Only individuals aged 18 years or older are eligible to participate in the city's deer hunting program.
(b) Application requirements: Before applying for a City Permit, the applicant shall possess an Ohio hunting license with applicable deer tags.
(c) Application Process: Prospective hunters must apply for a permit through the Mount Vernon Safety-Service Office, providing:
(1) Valid government-issued photo identification.
(2) An active Ohio hunting license and all applicable deer tags
(3) Evidence of liability insurance coverage with a minimum coverage of $100,000 for personal injury and property damage.
(4) Signed waiver of liability for the City.
(5) Payment of the permit fee as established by the City's Control Board.

149.03 HUNTING REGULATIONS
(a) Authorized Equipment: Hunting is restricted to the use of bows, long bows and arrows, as defined in the rules and regulations promulgated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources

(ODNR). Each arrow must be clearly marked with the hunter's name corresponding with the name on the hunter's City permit.
(b) Prohibited Areas: Hunting, as allowed by this ordinance, is prohibited on all City-owned property.
Season and Hours: Hunting is permitted only during the white-tailed deer bow hunting season established by the State of Ohio, from one-half an hour before sunrise to one-half an hour after sunset.
(c) Compliance with Laws: Hunters must adhere to all applicable state and local hunting laws and regulations.
(d) The Safety-Service Director is authorized to issue additional regulations to effectuate the implementation of the City's White-Tailed Deer Management program, such regulations must be published on the City's website at least 30 days before the start of the hunting season, unless stated to be because of an emergency.

149.04 SAFETY MEASURES
(a) Minimum Distance: No hunting activity shall occur within 500 feet of any inhabited dwelling, building, or public roadway.
(b) Landowner Permission: Hunters must obtain written permission from property owners before hunting on private property on an ODNR land permission slip signed by the landowner and carry this permission at all times during hunting activities.
(c) Reporting: All harvested deer must be reported to the Safety-Service Office within 48 hours, in addition to complying with the ODNR game check requirements.

149.05 ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES
(a) Civil. On a first violation of this ordinance the Safety-Service Director may issue a fine of up to fifty dollars ($50.00). All subsequent violations shall be punished by a fine of up to one hundred dollars ($100.00).
(b) Criminal. In addition to any other penalty specified in this ordinance, any violation or failure to comply with the provisions in this ordinance may be charged under the appropriate provision of the hunting laws of the Ohio Revised Code.
(c) Permit Revocation: The Safety-Service Director, or his designee, may revoke hunting permits for any violations of this ordinance or any behavior deemed unsafe or contrary to the aims of this program. The Safety-Service Director may not issue a permit to any person who has outstanding civil fines for violating this ordinance.

149.06 PROGRAM REVIEW
The Safety-Service Director shall provide an annual report to the City Council in May of each year for the prior season evaluating the effectiveness and safety of the municipal deer hunting program, with recommendations for any necessary adjustments.

SECTION 2: That Section 511.11 of the Codified Ordinances be amended as follows (additions are in **bold**):
(a) No person shall hunt, kill or attempt to kill any animal or fowl by the use of firearms, bow and arrow, air rifle or any other means within the corporation limits of the City with the following exception**s**:

(1) Between the Monday immediately following the first Sunday of February to the Sunday immediately following the last Saturday of September, a property owner within designated areas established by City Council may apply to the Division of Wildlife of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for one or more “deer damage permits”. If issued, the property owner or his designee(s) may use only bow and arrow to harvest deer.

(2) During any controlled hunt for Canada Geese in Ariel-Foundation Park authorized and regulated by the Safety-Service Director.

(3) As allowed by Chapter 149.

HISTORY:

07/14/25 City Council FIRST READING

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Ordinance No. 2025-25 was given a second reading. Keener requested a 10-minute meeting of the Land Use and Development Committee on the legislation for August 11, 2025.

RESULT:	**SECOND READING**	**Next: 8/11/2025 7:30 PM**