

Legislative Session Minutes

August 11, 2025

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mount Vernon City Council
Committee Meeting Schedule
August 11, 2025

6:10-6:23 p.m.	NCA Cooperative Agreement	Land Use & Development Keener
6:24-6:38 p.m.	Chapter 149: Deer Management	Land Use & Development Keener
6:39-6:51 p.m.	Ohio Online Checkbook	Finance & Budget Seavolt
6:51-7:15 p.m.	H2Overhaul Project	Finance & Budget Seavolt

- 08-11-25 Committee Meeting Schedule

MEETING WILL RECESS UNTIL 7:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

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

Severns made a motion to excuse Keener and Hager. Seavolt seconded the motion.
Approved by a voice vote of 5-0.

INVOCATION

Ruckman delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All recited in unison.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- City Council - Legislative Session - Jul 28, 2025 7:30 PM

Seavolt made a motion to accept the minutes of the Legislative Session of July 28, 2025. Woods seconded the motion, which passed by a voice vote of 5-0.

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

RECEIVE PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None.

RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

The minutes for the Streets and Public Buildings Committee, Employee & Community Relations Committee, and Land Use & Development Committee of July 28, 2025 were accepted without comment.

- 07-28-25 Streets and Public Buildings Committee Meeting Minutes
- 07-28-25A Employee & Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes
- 07-28-25B Employee & Community Relations Committee Meetings Minutes
- 07-28-25A Land Use & Development Committee
- 07-28-25B Land Use & Development Committee Meeting Minutes

LIQUOR CONTROL LICENSE

None.

PROCLAMATION

None.

PERSONS SPEAKING ON MATTERS OF CITY CONCERN

None.

RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD READING

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

Seavolt made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-75 as amended in writing presented to council. Woods seconded. Motion to amend passed by roll-call vote of 4-1, with Woods voting no.

Seavolt made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-75. Woods seconded. Seavolt referenced the committee meeting from earlier that evening. Motion passed by roll-call vote of 4-1, with Woods voting no.

RESULT:	ADOPTED AS AMENDED [4 TO 1]
MOVER:	Janis Seavolt, At Large
SECONDER:	Tammy Woods, Third Ward
AYES:	Seavolt, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman
NAYS:	Woods
EXCUSED:	Keener, Hager

RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING

None.

RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-76**

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

Finance and Budget: Seavolt, Woods

Resolution 2025-76 was given a first reading.

RESULT:	FIRST READING	Next: 8/25/2025 7:30 PM
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RESOLUTION NO. 2025-77

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO DISPOSE OF VEHICLES IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE BY THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Fire, Police and Civil Defense: Mahan, Seavolt

Resolution 2025-77 was given a first reading.

RESULT:	FIRST READING	Next: 8/25/2025 7:30 PM
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RESOLUTION NO. 2025-78

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO TREASURER'S ONLINE CHECKBOOK PROGRAM.

Finance and Budget: Seavolt, Woods

Resolution 2025-78 was given a first reading.

RESULT: FIRST READING**Next: 8/25/2025 7:30 PM****RESOLUTION NO. 2025-79**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON TO RENAME THE "230 FUND", CREATE LINES WITHIN THE RE-NAMED FUND PURSUANT TO O.R.C. 5705.09(F), MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO THE NEW FUND; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Finance and Budget: Seavolt, Woods

Resolution 2025-79 was given a first reading.

RESULT: FIRST READING**Next: 8/25/2025 7:30 PM****ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING****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

Seavolt made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-24 as amended in writing presented to council. Woods seconded. Motion to amend passed by roll-call vote of 4-1, with Woods voting no.

Seavolt made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-24. Woods seconded. Seavolt referenced the committee meeting from earlier that evening when the amendment was discussed. Motion passed by roll-call vote of 4-1, with Woods voting no.

RESULT:	ADOPTED AS AMENDED [4 TO 1]
MOVER:	Janis Seavolt, At Large
SECONDER:	Tammy Woods, Third Ward
AYES:	Seavolt, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman
NAYS:	Woods
EXCUSED:	Keener, Hager

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:

Mahan made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-25. Seavolt seconded. Mahan commented that a distance of 500 feet from dwellings was too restrictive. Salyers stated that even 300 feet is unreasonable.

Severns made a motion to amend Ordinance 2025-25 to change the distance in 149.04 from 500 feet to 30 yards. Mahan seconded. Woods clarified that this amendment means that hunters must be 90 feet from any inhabited dwelling. Motion to amend passed by roll-call vote of 4-1, with Woods voting no. Mahan made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-25 as amended. Woods seconded. Motion passed by roll-call vote of 4-1, with Woods voting no.

RESULT:	ADOPTED AS AMENDED [4 TO 1]
MOVER:	James Mahan, First Ward
SECONDER:	Tammy Woods, Third Ward
AYES:	Seavolt, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman
NAYS:	Woods
EXCUSED:	Keener, Hager

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-26

AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE VACATION OF AN UNDEVELOPED, PLATTED ALLEY, IN THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, KNOX COUNTY, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Streets and Public Buildings: Severns, Ruckman

Ordinance 2025-26 received a first reading

RESULT:	FIRST READING	Next: 8/25/2025 7:30 PM
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REMARKS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Matthew Starr welcomed the new Council Clerk, congratulated the City on being named one of Ohio's best hometowns for the 2025-2026 year. Mount Vernon will be featured in an upcoming Ohio magazine. Safety-Service Director Tanner Salyers welcomed the new Council Clerk. Law Director P. Robert Broeren welcomed the new Council Clerk.

REMARKS FROM COUNCIL

Severns welcomed the new Council Clerk. Mahan welcomed the new Council Clerk, and expressed appreciation for the Parks & Recreation team, noting how much traffic goes through the City's parks. Seavolt reminded all citizens that school is starting soon and to drive safely. Ruckman expressed appreciation for Hiawatha Pool, as well as the Parks & Recreation team. Woods welcomed the new Council Clerk. Hawkins thanked all who participated in the Music & Arts Festival.

ADJOURN AT THE CALL OF THE PRESIDENT

Seavolt made a motion to adjourn, with a second from Woods. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Bruce E. Hawkins, President of Council

Todd Hill, Clerk of Council

CD on file/th