

Special Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2025

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

No committee meetings were held.

CALL TO ORDER

Attendee	Title	Status
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		Present
Bruce Hawkins	President	Present
Janis Seavolt	At Large	Excused

Woods made a motion to excuse Seavolt. Hager seconded. Seavolt excused by unanimous voice vote.

INVOCATION

This section suspended; it does not occur during special meetings.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All recited in unison.

PERSONS SPEAKING ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN

Jennifer Shoman spoke on Resolution 2025-99. She requested greater transparency on Res. 2025-99, stating that she would like to see the updated contract. Shoman raised concern about the adder in Section E of the aggregation contract, where it states that "all costs of the Aggregation Program... will be paid through the inclusion of an adder that will be added to member bills." Shoman asked if there was a way to know the exact costs this would add. If so, she recommended that the city offset any other increases in charges to absorb the adder charges.

RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD READING

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-93

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON GOVERNMENTAL AGGREGATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT FOR THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, KNOX COUNTY, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Utilities: Ruckman, Hager

Ruckman made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-93. Hager seconded. Safety-Service Director Salyers noted that this resolution permits the city to sign with Fredericktown, which will increase the capabilities of both municipalities. The city does not anticipate changing electric suppliers. The adder in section E of the contract attached to Resolution 2025-99 is standard. By not specifying a company or individual, the adder allows for flexibility when sending out an RFP. Resolution 2025-93 Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-96

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

Woods made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2025-96 to its third reading. Keener seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Auditor Brinkman noted that the budget for these items exists, but new POs need to be issued to cover costs. Woods made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-96. Keener seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-99

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, KNOX COUNTY, OHIO ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PLAN OF OPERATION AND GOVERNANCE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Utilities: Ruckman, Hager

Ruckman made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2025-99 to its third reading. Hager seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Safety-Service Director Salyers reiterated that section E in the contract attached to Res. 2025-99 is a standard section. The difference between this document and the city's prior one is that the former document named a specific individual; whereas, this one is open. The city pursues aggregation to keep costs as low for residents and businesses as possible. Costs will go up due to market factors. However, Salyers issued a caution for anyone considering signing agreements with an outside electric provider, urging them to read the terms of their contract carefully. Sometimes, in such contracts, rates increase sharply after the first few months. Thereby, negating any initial savings.

Mayor Starr noted that the city's previously contracted aggregator did not have satisfactory customer service. This was a frequent complaint heard by the mayor's office from individuals trying to enter the aggregation program. Palmer, the new company, is known for their quality customer service.

Mel Severns noted that he experienced difficulty when trying to enter the aggregation program a few years ago and that he was glad that customer service would improve with Palmer.
Ruckman noted that the city originally entered aggregation in 2011.
Ruckman made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-99. Hager seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-100

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, OHIO TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH ROAD TO FINISH LLC; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Streets and Public Buildings: Severns, Ruckman

Severns made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2025-100 to its third reading. Ruckman seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Assistant Engineer Platt noted that Road to Finish, LLC is an entity the city often contracts with. The company is currently working on two big projects for the city: Liberty Crossing and Mansfield Avenue. Platt noted that the contract limit of \$75,000 has been reached, which is why the Engineering department requires permission to increase the limit on funds so that Road to Finish can continue working while the weather permits.

Severns made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-100. Ruckman seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

REMARKS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

This section suspended; it does not occur during special meetings.

REMARKS FROM COUNCIL

This section suspended; it does not occur during special meetings.

ADJOURN AT THE CALL OF THE PRESIDENT

Woods made a motion to adjourn. Keener seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Bruce E. Hawkins, President of Council

Zachary Sherman, Clerk of Council

CD on file/th



City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Meeting: 09/29/25 7:00 PM

Dept: Utilities

Ruckman, Hager

Category: Utilities

Prepared By: Rob Broeren

Initiator: Zac Sherman

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2025-93

DOC ID: 4295

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO
THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON GOVERNMENTAL AGGREGATION PROGRAM
PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT FOR THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, KNOX COUNTY,
OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

WHEREAS, in November 2008, the voters of City of Mount Vernon approved a referendum that authorized the City of Mount Vernon to pursue Automatic Governmental Aggregation, a form of government utility aggregation known as “opt-out” aggregation:

WHEREAS, as a Governmental Aggregator, the City will be authorized to combine multiple retail electric customer loads within its geographic boundaries (the Aggregation) for the purpose of competitive retail electric market;

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Vernon, Knox County, Ohio anticipates that utilizing its aggregation authority will provide individual residential and small commercial consumers benefits such as price reductions that these consumers are typically unable to obtain since they lack the bargaining power, expertise and the economies of scale enjoyed by larger consumers; and

WHEREAS, Council has concluded that it is in the best interest of the City of Mount Vernon, Knox County, Ohio and the City citizens to enter into said supply agreement of the City of Mount Vernon Electric Aggregation Program.

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

SECTION 1: The Safety-Service Director, or his written designee, is hereby authorized and directed to enter into and execute a Governmental Aggregation Program Supply Agreement so that consumers can benefit from working with the City and other Knox County municipalities in the electricity and natural gas aggregation programs.

SECTION 2: That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, welfare and convenience of the citizens of the City of Mount Vernon, and to allow the Safety-Service director to enter into another agreement with enough time to transition users to the new provider prior to the current agreement’s expiration, and provided it receives the affirmative vote of five or more members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval of the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force at the earliest period allowed by law.

HISTORY:

09/08/25

City Council

FIRST READING

Resolution was given its first reading. Ruckman requested a 15-minute Utilities committee meeting to discuss the resolution. Ruckman also noted there was an error on the document, showing the wrong committee member assignments. Requested that the Clerk of Council fix that moving forward.

09/22/25

City Council

SECOND READING

Resolution 2025-93 received a second reading.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Ruckman made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-93. Hager seconded. Safety-Service Director Salyers noted that this resolution permits the city to sign with Fredericktown, which will increase the capabilities of both municipalities. The city does not anticipate changing electric suppliers. The adder in section E of the contract attached to Resolution 2025-99 is standard. By not specifying a company or individual, the adder allows for flexibility when sending out an RFP. Resolution 2025-93 Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Ruckman, Second Ward
SECONDER:	LeNan Hager
AYES:	Woods, Keener, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman, Hager
EXCUSED:	Janis Seavolt



City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2025-96

Meeting: 09/29/25 7:00 PM
Dept: Finance and Budget
Seavolt, Woods
Category: Finance
Prepared By: Rob Broeren
Initiator: Zac Sherman
DOC ID: 4300 A

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 Zachin & Rich Co., LPA, in the amount of \$6,405.00, from line number 101.2320.54111, Services Received.

2. To Bricker Graydon LLP, in the amount of \$8655.00, from line number 101.2300.54451, Contingencies.

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:

09/22/25

City Council

FIRST READING

Resolution 2025-96 was amended by request of the Auditor prior to the legislative meeting to include a second line under section one, authorizing payments to Bricker Graydon. The amended version was offered to council in writing. Received a first reading.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Woods made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2025-96 to its third reading. Keener seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Auditor Brinkman noted that the

budget for these items exists, but new POs need to be issued to cover costs. Woods made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-96. Keener seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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



City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Meeting: 09/29/25 7:00 PM

Dept: Utilities

Ruckman, Hager

Category: Utilities

Prepared By: Rob Broeren

Initiator: Zac Sherman

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2025-99

DOC ID: 4301

**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON,
KNOX COUNTY, OHIO ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PLAN OF OPERATION AND
GOVERNANCE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

WHEREAS, the Ohio legislature has enacted electric deregulation legislation which authorizes the legislative authorities of townships and counties to aggregate the retail electrical loads located within the respective jurisdictions and to enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the purchase and sale of electricity; and

WHEREAS, governmental aggregations provide an opportunity for residential and small business consumers to participate collectively in the potential benefits of electricity deregulation through lower electricity rates which would not otherwise be available to those electricity customers individually; and

WHEREAS, On November 8, 2011 a majority of voters in various communities in the City of Mount Vernon, Knox County, Ohio approved a referendum that approved the formation of an "opt-out" governmental aggregation program pursuant to Section 4928.20 of the Ohio Revised Code for the residents, businesses and other electric consumers in the City; and

WHEREAS, The City desires to change its aggregation consultant and finds that certain other updates are needed in the Electric Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance.

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

SECTION 1: That the Council hereby adopt the Amended City of Mount Vernon, Knox County, Ohio Plan of Operation and Governance, (attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit A) for the implementation and administration of the City's electric aggregation program in accordance with Section 4928.20 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 2: This Resolution 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 of securing a new contract before the expiration of the City's current aggregation contract, and said Resolution 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:

09/22/25

City Council

FIRST READING

Resolution 2025-99 received a first reading. Safety-Service Director Salyers requested a Special Meeting to discuss Resolution 2025-99 and other items. Hawkins asked council if they could attend a 7 p.m. meeting on Monday, Sept. 29. Council Members indicated their ability to do so.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Ruckman made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2025-99 to its third reading. Hager seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Safety-Service Director Salyers reiterated that section E in the contract attached to Res. 2025-99 is a standard section. The difference between this document and the city's prior one is that the former document named a specific individual; whereas, this one is open. The city pursues aggregation to keep costs as low for residents and businesses as possible. Costs will go up due to market factors. However, Salyers issued a caution for anyone considering signing agreements with an outside electric provider, urging them to read the terms of their contract carefully. Sometimes, in such contracts, rates increase sharply after the first few months. Thereby, negating any initial savings.

Mayor Starr noted that the city's previously contracted aggregator did not have satisfactory customer service. This was a frequent complaint heard by the mayor's office from individuals trying to enter the aggregation program. Palmer, the new company, is known for their quality customer service.

Mel Severns noted that he experienced difficulty when trying to enter the aggregation program a few years ago and that he was glad that customer service would improve with Palmer.

Ruckman noted that the city originally entered aggregation in 2011.

Ruckman made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-99. Hager seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Ruckman, Second Ward
SECONDER:	LeNan Hager
AYES:	Woods, Keener, Severns, Mahan, Ruckman, Hager
EXCUSED:	Janis Seavolt

Amended City of Mount Vernon, Knox County Ohio

Electric Power Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance

Amended _____, 2025

Amended - City of Mount Vernon, Electric Power Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance

I. INTRODUCTION

Amended Substitute Senate Bill 3 (“S.B. 3”) opened Ohio’s retail electric market as of January 1, 2001. S.B. authorizes customer choice in the selection of suppliers of retail electric generation and declares electric generation service, aggregation services, power marketing, and power brokering as competitive retail electric services. The legislation gave the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (“PUCO”) authority to adopt rules regarding the development of a competitive retail electric market in Ohio and authority to promulgate rules on government aggregation.

Large industrial and commercial consumers with sophisticated electric operations use their size and expertise to obtain lower electric power rates. Individual residential and small commercial consumers are typically unable to obtain significant price reductions since they lack the bargaining power, expertise and the economies of scale enjoyed by larger consumers. Aggregation, the combining of multiple electric loads, provides the benefits of retail electric competition for consumers with lower electric demands.

Government aggregation, the combining of multiple electric loads by municipality, provides the means through which Mount Vernon residential and small-commercial consumers may obtain the economic benefits of Ohio’s competitive retail electric market. The Mount Vernon Aggregation Program combines the electric loads of residential and small commercial customers to form a buying group (“Aggregation Group”). The City of Mount Vernon will act as Purchasing Agent for the Aggregation Group. This means that Mount Vernon will be a Governmental Aggregator, as defined by Ohio law and the rules established by the PUCO, and shall act on behalf of AEP Ohio customers in the City to obtain the best electric generation rate for consumers who participate in the Aggregation Group.

II. PROCESS

On November 8, 2011, the voters of City of Mount Vernon and the unincorporated areas approved the development of a form of government electric aggregation known as “opt-out” aggregation. Under the opt-out program, all eligible residential and small-commercial customers in the City are automatically included as participants in the Aggregation Program unless they opt-out of the program by providing written notice of their intention not to participate. As required by state law, the City Council passed an Ordinance, which authorized submitting the selection of opt-out aggregation to the City’s voters.

In addition to obtaining necessary City Council approvals, the City is also required to comply with various PUCO regulations. The City will file an application with the PUCO for certification as a Government Aggregator as soon as the City Approves the Plan, As required by regulations, the City developed this Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance (“Plan”). As required by the PUCO’s regulations, The City advertised and scheduled two public hearing dates to discuss the Plan. The Opt-out notice for the City’s Program will be sent

to all electric customers in the City upon approval of this Plan, setting forth the rates, terms and conditions of the program, and giving 21 days to opt out of the Program.

The City has decided to use an energy consultant to assist it in the establishment and implementation of its aggregation program. An RFP will be issued to select the best CRES supplier to provide electric power for the Mount Vernon Aggregation Program. Under this program, AEP Ohio still deliver the electricity purchased from the City's selected provider to customers of the program. Such customers will receive only one bill (from AEP Ohio), and all metering, repairs and emergency service will continue to be provided by AEP Ohio.

III. **DEFINITIONS.**

In order to clarify certain terminology, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

"Aggregation Program" means the program developed by the City of Mount Vernon, as a Government Aggregator under Section 4928.20 Ohio Revised Code, to provide AEP Ohio customers in the City with retail electric generation services.

"Government Aggregator" means the City and its legislative authority acting as an aggregator for the provision of a competitive retail electric service under the authority conferred under Section 4928.20 of the Ohio Revised Code.

"Member" means a person or consumer enrolled in the Mount Vernon Government Aggregation Group for competitive retail electric services.

"Retail Electric Generation Provider" ("Provider") means an entity certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO") to provide competitive retail electric service(s), and which is chosen by the City to be the entity responsible to provide the required service related to Government Aggregation as defined in Section 4928.20 of the Ohio Revised Code and applicable provisions of the rules of the PUCO.

"Competitive Retail Electric Service" ("CRES") means a component of electric retail service that is deemed competitive pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code or pursuant to an order of the PUCO.

IV. **OPERATIONAL PLAN:**

A. **Aggregation Services**

1. Provider: Mount Vernon will use a contractor ("Retail Electric Generation Provider") to perform and manage aggregation services for its members. The City will select a supplier following a Request for Proposal (RFP) process administered by its consultant. The selected supplier shall provide adequate, accurate, and understandable pricing terms and conditions of service, including any switching fees and the conditions under which a Member may rescind a contract without penalty. The selected supplier must provide the City or its authorized consultant, if requested, an electronic file containing the Members usage, and charges. Upon request this information shall be sent to the City or its authorized consultant within 30 days. The selected supplier must have local and/or a toll-free number for Members to call.

2. Database: The Retail Electric Generation Provider will build and maintain a database of all Members. The database will include the name, address, AEP Ohio account number, and Retail Electric Generation Provider's account of the Member and other pertinent information such as rate code, rider code (if applicable), most recent 12 months of usage and demand, and meter read cycle. This database will be updated at least quarterly. Accordingly, the Retail Electric Generation Provider will develop a process to be implemented that will be able to accommodate at a minimum Members who: 1) leave the program due to relocation, opting out, etc.; 2) decide to enter the Program; 3) relocate within eligible areas within the City; and 4) move into the City and desire to enter the Program. This database shall also be able capable of eliminating PIPP customers, mercantile accounts, and commercial accounts using more than 700,000 KWh annually from the Program as well as those who have previously switched to an alternate supplier or previously opted out. The Retail Electric Generation Provider will use this database to perform bill audits for clerical and mathematical accuracy of Member bills.
3. Member Education: The Retail Electric Generation Provider will develop, with the assistance of the City and its authorized consultant, an educational program that generally explains the Aggregation Program to Members, provides updates and disclosures mandated by Ohio law and PUCO rules, and implements a process to deal with allowing any person enrolled in the Aggregation Program the opportunity to opt out of the program at least every three years, without paying a switching fee to the City or the Provider. See Appendix A for a detailed description of the Education Process.
4. Customer Service: The Retail Electric Generation Provider will develop and administer a customer service process that, at a minimum, will be able to accommodate: 1) Member inquiries and complaints about billing; and 2) answer questions regarding the Program in general. This process will include at a minimum, a description of how telephone inquiries will be handled, either internally or externally, how invoices will be prepared, how remittance of payment will be dealt with, and how collections for delinquent accounts will be addressed. See Appendix B for a detailed description of the Customer Service Plan.
5. Billing: Mount Vernon will use the Retail Electric Generation Provider, or its designated agent, to provide billing services to each Member for the Competitive Retail Electric Services, with no additional administrative fee. At this time, AEP Ohio will render the billing statement, which should be consistent with all applicable guidelines issued by the PUCO. As this market develops, the Mount Vernon may, at its option and in consultation with the Provider, change this function to the Retail Electric Generation Provider or a billing agency.
6. Compliance Process: The Retail Electric Generation Provider will develop internal controls and processes to ensure the City remains in good standing as a Government Aggregator that complies with all laws, rules and regulations surrounding the same, as they may be amended from time to time. It will be the Retail Electric Generation Provider's responsibility to deliver periodic reports that will include at a minimum 1) the number of Members participating in the Program; and 2) a savings estimate or increase from the previous year's baseline. The Retail Electric Generation Provider will also develop a process to monitor and provide notification of any changes in laws, rules or regulations.
7. Notification to AEP Ohio: Mount Vernon's potential Aggregation consumers that do not opt-out of the City's Aggregation Group will be enrolled automatically in the Aggregation Program. Participants in the City's Aggregation Group will not be asked to take other

affirmative steps in order to be included in the Group. To the extent that AEP Ohio requires notification of participation, the City and its consultant will coordinate with its Provider to provide such notice to AEP Ohio. The Provider will inform AEP Ohio of any individuals who may have been permitted to join the Aggregation Group after the expiration of the enrollment period.

B. Power Supply Agreement

The Power Supply Agreement will provide for the Provider to serve the City's Government Aggregation Group. Under the Agreement, the term for power supply to Members will be determined following the RFP process.

C. Mount Vernon's Retail Electric Generation Provider

The selected Provider must satisfy each of the following requirements:

- Has a sufficient source of power to provide retail firm power to the residents and businesses of Mount Vernon.
- Is a licensed Federal Power Marketer license with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
- Is certified as a CRES by the PUCO.
- Is registered as a generation supplier with AEP Ohio.
- Has a Service Agreement for Network Integration Transmission Service under AEP Ohio's Open Access Transmission Tariff.
- Has the corporate structure to sell retail firm power to the AEP Ohio customers in the City.
- Its Electronic Data Interchange computer network is fully functional and capable of handling the AEP Ohio retail electric customers in Mount Vernon.
- Has the marketing ability to reach all AEP Ohio retail electric customers to educate them on the City's Aggregation Program.
- Has a call center capable of handling the City's Aggregation Group customer calls.
- Has a toll-free number as required by the PUCO for customer service and potential complaints related to the City's Aggregation Program.
- Will hold the City financially harmless from any financial obligations arising from supplying power to the AEP retail electric customers in the City.
- Satisfies the State of Ohio's, AEP Ohio and the City's credit requirements.
- Will execute the Power Supply Agreement.
- Will provide necessary information to the City's selected consultant and the City to allow for filing the quarterly and annual reports required by the PUCO and Sections 4805.10(A), 4911.18(A) and 4928.06(F) of the Ohio Revised Code.
- Will assist in developing a Consumer Education Plan.

D. Activation of Service

After a notice is sent out to all electric customers in the city providing 21 days to opt out of the Program, all customers who do not opt out will be automatically enrolled in the Program. Generation service activation will occur thereafter without consumer action beginning on the customer's normal meter read date within the month when power deliveries begin under the Aggregation Program.

E. Changes, Extension or Renewal of Service

The Agreement for power supply service with the selected Provider will provide service for the term agreed upon following the RFP process. If the Agreement is extended or renewed, Members will be notified as required by law and the rules of the PUCO, as to any change in rates or service conditions. At least every three years all AEP Ohio's customers in the City will be given an opportunity to opt into or out of the Program, and reasonable notice will be provided as required by law and PUCO rules. Participants will also be notified of their right to select an alternate generation supplier and of their ability to return to AEP Ohio Standard Service Offer.

F. Termination of Service

In the event that the Power Supply Agreement is terminated prior to the end of the term, each individual Member of the Aggregation Group will receive written notification of the termination of the Program at least sixty (60) days prior to termination of service. If the Agreement is not extended or renewed, Members will be notified as required by law and the CRES rules of the PUCO in advance of the end of service. Members will also be notified of their right to select an alternate generation supplier and of their ability to return to Ohio Power's Standard Service Offer upon termination.

G. Opt-In Procedures

AEP Ohio customers will be automatically enrolled in the Program after a 21 day opt out period, unless they return the form to be provided, notifying the Provider that they do not want to participate. AEP Ohio consumers in the City may request to join the Aggregation Group after the expiration of the enrollment period by contacting the Provider, who shall determine whether to accept them into the Program, and, if so, at what rate, subject to written policies mutually agreed upon by the City and the Provider. The agreed upon policy in the Contract shall be consistent with the AEP Ohio's service activation requirements. Aggregation Group participants who move from one location to another within the corporate limits of the City shall retain their participant status.

H. Opt-out Procedures

AEP Ohio consumers may opt-out of the City's Aggregation Group at any time during the opt-out period without additional fees charged by the Provider or the City. Aggregation Group participants who switch to a different generation supplier after the expiration of the Opt-out period will be allowed to do so in correlation with the consumer's next scheduled meter read date but may be charged a switching fee in an amount and method determined by the Contract. Switching to a different generation supplier on the next meter read date, however, will occur when the next meter read date is twelve (12) business days or more from the date of the consumer's notice of intent to opt-out of the Aggregation Group. Notification of intent to opt-out of the Aggregation Group may be made by contacting the Provider by telephone or in writing. Members who opt-out of the Aggregation Group will default to the AEP Ohio Standard Service Offer, until the consumer selects an alternate generation supplier.

I. Rates

Residential and Commercial Rates:

Through the efforts of its consultant, the City will seek proposal from PUCO certified Retail Electric Generation Providers. The RFP shall require the suppliers to offer a generation charge for firm, full-requirements supply. The selected Provider may provide a fixed price per KWh or “percent-off” pricing structure by customer rate classification or customer class. The prices to be charged to consumers will be set through a formal bid process in which the City of Mount Vernon will select a qualified supplier. Consumer will be notified of the rates and terms of the Program through a direct mailing sent to each eligible resident and business within the City limits. An opt-out notification will be sent to all eligible residents and business in accordance with PUCO guidelines.

J. Universal Service and Low-Income Customer Assistance

The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD), under the electric restructuring law, will provide one-stop shopping for low-income assistance programs. There are five low-income assistance programs: 1) Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP); 2) The Home Energy Assistance Program; 3) The Home Weatherization Program. Ohio law allows the Director of the Ohio Department of development to aggregate consumers that participate in PIPP and to competitively auction the generation supply for PIPP customers. Accordingly, PIPP customers may be included in the State’s PIPP customer aggregation. In the event that Ohio law and PUCO regulations are modified to allow PIPP participation, PIPP customers would be included in the City’s aggregation program unless they choose to opt out.

V. MISCELLANEOUS GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES

- A. City Council shall approve through Resolution or Ordinance the Plan of Operation and Governance for the Aggregation program and any Amendments thereto.
- B. The City shall contract with only Retail Electric Generation Providers certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio for the provision of Competitive Retail Electric Service to the Aggregation Program Members.
- C. The City will require any Provider to disclose any subcontractors that it uses in fulfillment of the services described above.
- D. The City will require the Provider to maintain either a toll-free telephone number, or a telephone number, that is local to City residents who are Members.
- E. All costs of the Aggregation Program development/administration will be paid through the inclusion of an adder that will be added to Member bills.

VI. LIABILITY

THE CITY SHALL NOT BE LIABLE TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE AGGREGATION GROUP FOR ANY CLAIMS, HOWEVER STYLED, ARISING OUT OF THE AGGREGATION PROGRAM OR THE PROVISION OF AGGREGATION SERVICES BY THE CITY OR THE PROVIDER. PARTICIPANTS IN THE AGGREGATION GROUP SHALL ASSERT ANY SUCH CLAIMS SOLELY AGAINST THE PROVIDER PURSUANT TO THE POWER SUPPLY AGREEMENT, UNDER WHICH SUCH PARTICIPANTS ARE EXPRESS THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES.

VII. INFORMATION AND COMPLAINT NUMBERS

Potential participants can receive more information about the program or Copies of this Plan from the City free of charge by calling 740-393-9517.

Any electric customer, including any participant in the City's Aggregation Program, may contact the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) for information, or to make a complaint against the Program, the Provider or EDU. The PUCO may be reached toll free at 1-800-686-7826. The PUCO may be reached at 1-800-686-1570 for all TDD/TYY calls. The Ohio Consumers' Counsel may be reached at 1-877-742-5622.

Appendix A -- Education Process

The Provider will develop an educational program in conjunction with the City and its energy consultant. Its purpose will be to explain the aggregation program to its members, provide updates and disclosures as mandated by State law and the rules of the PUCO, and provide the opportunity for the members to opt out of the program. The following are the program components:

1. Each eligible consumer within the limits of the City will receive via U.S. Mail notification of: what government aggregation means, their membership in the government aggregation program, the procedure which must be followed in order to opt out of the program, the price that they can expect to receive as a member of the program, and the deadline for returning the opt out form. See the attached letter.
2. The Provider will work with the City to provide opportunities for educating residents in the City about the Program and their rights under the law, PUCO rules and this Program. In addition, the Provider and City will work to provide education about and other opportunities for energy efficiency measures to help consumers reduce energy consumption.
3. The Provider will provide updates and disclosures as mandated by State law and rules of the PUCO. See attached Terms and Conditions document.
4. The opt-out opportunity will be provided to the Members of the program at least every three years. Should conditions, suppliers, price, or any other component of the program change within the three-year period, participants will be given a notice of their opportunity to opt out of, or into the program.

Appendix B --- Customer Service Plan

A. Member Access:

1. Provider shall ensure Members reasonable access to their service representatives for inquiries, complaints, to discuss charges on Member bills, and transact any other business.
2. Telephone access shall be toll free and afford Members prompt answer times during normal business hours, as follows:

_____ **Corporation**
Address: _____
City: _____, _____
Toll-free telephone number: 1- _____
Hours: _____

3. Provider shall provide a 24-hour automated telephone message instructing callers to report any service interruptions or electrical emergencies to the EDU with appropriate phone numbers.

B. Member Complaints:

1. Provider shall investigate Member complaints (including complaints referred by EDU) and provide a status report within five calendar days following receipt of the complaint to:
 - a. The consumer, when the complaint is made directly to Provider; or
 - b. The consumer and The PUCO Staff ("Commission Staff"), when a complaint is referred to Provider by the Commission Staff.
2. If an investigation is not completed within 14 calendar days, Provider shall provide status reports to the consumer, the City and its consultant or, if applicable, to the consumer, the City, its consultant and the Commission Staff. Such status reports shall be provided at five-day intervals until the investigation is complete, unless the action that must be taken will require more than five days and the Member has been so notified.
3. The Provider shall inform the consumer, or the consumers, the City, its consultant, and the Commission Staff, of the results of the investigation, orally or in writing, no later than five calendar days after completion of the investigation. The consumer, the City, its consultant and the Commission Staff may request the report in writing.
4. If a residential consumer disputes the Provider report, it shall inform the consumer that the Commission Staff is available to help resolve informal complaints. Provider shall provide the consumer with the current address, local/toll free telephone numbers, and TDD/TTY telephone numbers of the Commission's consumer services department.
5. Provider shall retain records of Member complaints, investigations, and complaint resolutions for one year after the occurrence of such complaints, and shall provide such records to the Commission Staff within five calendar days of request.

6. Provider shall make good faith efforts to resolve disputes.

C. Member Billing and Payments

1. The Provider shall arrange for AEP Ohio or its agent to bill Members for such services according to a tariff approved by the commission. Residential Member bills issued by or for the Provider shall be accurate and understandable, be rendered at intervals consistent with those of AEP Ohio, and contain sufficient information for Members to compute and compare the total cost of competitive retail electric service (s). Such bills shall also include:
 - a. The Member's name, billing address, service address, the Member's EDU account number, and if applicable, Provider account number;
 - b. The dates of service covered by the bill, an itemization of each type of competitive service covered by the bill, any related billing components, the charge for each type of service, and any other information the Member would need to recalculate the bill for accuracy;
 - c. The applicable billing determinants, including beginning meter reading, ending meter reading(s), demand meter reading(s), multipliers, consumption(s), and demands;
 - d. For Member-generators with net metering contracts, a statement of the net metered generation;
 - e. The unit price per kWh charged for competitive service, as calculated by dividing current-period competitive service charges by the current-period consumption;
 - f. An identification of the provider of each service appearing on the bill;
 - g. The amount billed for the current period, any unpaid amounts due from previous periods, any payments or credits applied to the Member's account during the current period, any late payment charges or gross and net charges, if applicable, and the total amount due and payable.

2. The due date for payment to keep the account current. Such due date shall be no less than:
 - a. Fourteen days after the postmark date on the bill for residential Member; and Twenty-one days after the postmark date on the bill for nonresidential Members;
 - b. Current balance of the account, if a residential Member is billed according to a budget plan;
 - c. Options and instructions on how Members may make their payments;
 - d. For each provider whose charges appear on the bill, a listing of the provider's toll-free telephone number and address for Member billing questions or complaints;
 - e. A listing of the toll-free consumer assistance telephone numbers and available hours for applicable state agencies, such as the commission, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, and the Ohio Attorney General's office;
 - f. The OP 24-hour local/toll-free telephone number for reporting service emergencies;
 - g. Identification of estimated bills or bills not based upon actual end-of-period meter readings for the period; and
 - h. An explanation of any codes and abbreviations used.

3. If applicable, the provider, upon request, provide Members with the name and street address/location of the nearest payment center and/or authorized payment agent.
4. If applicable, when a Member pays the bill at a payment center or to an authorized payment agent, such payment shall be credited to the Member's account as of the day such payment center or agent receives it.
5. The City and Provider shall establish policies and procedures for handling billing disputes and requests for payment arrangements.

D. Collections for delinquent accounts:

AEP Ohio's credit and collection policies will apply to Program Members and shall be administered by AEP Ohio. Neither the Governmental Aggregator, nor the Provider, will implement additional policies with respect to credit, deposits and collections. Failure to pay for Competitive Retail Electric Services may result in cancellation of the Member's contract with the Provider, and return the Member to AEP Ohio's Standard Service Offer.



City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2025-100

Meeting: 09/29/25 7:00 PM
Dept: Streets and Public Buildings
Severns, Ruckman
Category: Contract
Prepared By: Zac Sherman
Initiator: Zac Sherman
DOC ID: 4306

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, OHIO TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH ROAD TO FINISH LLC; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1: That the Safety-Service Director for the City of Mount Vernon be and he herewith is authorized and directed to enter into contract with Road to Finish LLC to provide construction inspection services in 2025.

SECTION 2: This Resolution 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 to have continued oversight to ensure high-quality public infrastructure at Liberty Crossing, and said Resolution 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:

09/22/25 City Council FIRST READING

Resolution 2025-100 received a first reading.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Severns made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2025-100 to its third reading. Ruckman seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Assistant Engineer Platt noted that Road to Finish, LLC is an entity the city often contracts with. The company is currently working on two big projects for the city: Liberty Crossing and Mansfield Avenue. Platt noted that the contract limit of \$75,000 has been reached, which is why the Engineering department requires permission to increase the limit on funds so that Road to Finish can continue working while the weather permits.

Severns made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-100. Ruckman seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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