

Legislative Session Minutes

December 22, 2025

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Committee Meeting Schedule
December 22, 2025**

6:05 - 6:20 p.m.	Executive Session on Acquiring Property	Land Use & Development - Keener
6:20 - 6:32 p.m.	Lodging Tax (Res. 136)	Finance - Seavolt
6:32 - 6:51 p.m.	Sufficiency of Petition to add Founders Grove to the NCA	Public Hearing
6:51 - 7:05 p.m.	Flood Plain	Land Use & Development - Keener
7:05 - 7:15 p.m.	Ohio Natural Gas Aggregation (Res. 131)	Utilities - Ruckman

- Council Committee Meeting 12-22-2025

RESULT:	ANNOUNCED
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- Flooplain Levee Status

7:15 P.M. SWEARING IN OF 2026 ELECTED OFFICIALS

MEETING WILL RECESS UNTIL 7:30 P.M.

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		Present
Bruce Hawkins	President	Present

<small><RollCallList Status="Absent"></small> {Attendee(*)}:First Last}	{Attendee(*)}:Title}	Absent
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INVOCATION

Invocation given by Rev. Justin Meier, Grace Baptist Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All recited in unison.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- City Council - Legislative Session - Dec 8, 2025 7:30 PM

Seavolt made a motion to accept the minutes of the Dec. 8, 2025 legislative session. Woods seconded. Accepted by unanimous voice vote.

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

RECEIVE PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

LIQUOR CONTROL LICENSE

Application for liquor license:

JBS Flappers Inc.
15 W High St.
1st Floor & Basement & Patio
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Mrs. Woods said that if there are any questions regarding the liquor license, to direct them to the Clerk of Council, Zac Sherman.

PROCLAMATION

Two proclamations were given at the end of the evening. See the note under remarks from the administration.

PERSONS SPEAKING ON MATTERS OF CITY CONCERN

RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD READING

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-131

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

Utilities: Ruckman, Hager

Ruckman made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-131. Hager seconded. Safety-Service Director Salyers noted that the amendments take effect at the conclusion of the current contract. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING

RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-135

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO ACQUIRE IN WHOLE OR IN PART PARCELS OF PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Land Use and Development: Keener, Mahan

Keener made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2025-135 to its third and final reading. Mahan seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Keener made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-135. Mahan seconded. Keener noted that there had been an executive committee meeting to discuss this item earlier. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-136

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE DISTRIBUTION OF DESIGNATED PROGRAM FUNDS FROM THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON LODGING EXCISE TAX FOR THE 2026–2027 CONTRACT CYCLE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Finance and Budget: Seavolt, Woods

Seavolt made a motion to table Resolution 2025-136. Woods seconded. tabled by unanimous roll call vote. Following the conclusion of the ordinances, Seavolt made a motion to remove Resolution 2025-136 from the table and bring it back to the floor for consideration. Woods seconded. Resolution 2025-136 brought back to the floor by unanimous roll call vote. Seavolt made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2025-136 to its third and final reading. Woods seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Seavolt made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-136. Woods seconded. Keener clarified that the submission of performance reports go to GDMC and auditor. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-137

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

Finance and Budget: Seavolt, Woods

Seavolt made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2025-137 to its third and final reading. Woods seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Seavolt made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-137. Woods seconded. Engineer Brian Ball noted that the city has a property with a home and garage on it. The city wishes to sell the house and garage. The buyer(s) will then pick up the structure(s) and move them to a new location. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-138

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 suspend the rules and take Resolution 2025-138 to its third and final reading. Woods seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Seavolt made a motion to amend Resolution 2025-138 as submitted in writing. Woods seconded. Amended by unanimous roll call vote. Seavolt made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-138. Woods seconded. Auditor Brinkman noted that the resolution is to balance budget lines across the city for the end of the year. It is not adding money, but rather, rearranging it. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-139

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 suspend the rules and take Resolution 2025-139 to its third and final reading. Woods seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Seavolt made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-139.

Woods seconded. Auditor Brinkman noted that this appropriation is for grant reimbursement. And that the city is close to closing on properties for the Route 13 realignment. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-140

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 suspend the rules and take Resolution 2025-140 to its third and final reading. Woods seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Seavolt made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-140. Woods seconded. Auditor Brinkman noted many of the lines on the resolution were for items planned for, but not assigned lines. The Civica system is one that the city hoped to retire in October, but will continue until April 1, 2026 due to implementation delays. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-38

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 187 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Finance and Budget: Seavolt, Woods

Seavolt made a motion to suspend the rules and take Ordinance 2025-38 to its third and final reading. Woods seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Seavolt made a motion to amend Ordinance 2025-38 as submitted in writing. Woods seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote. Seavolt made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-38. Woods seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-39

APPROVING THE APPLICATION TO ADD CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY TO THE MOUNT VERNON NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND TO AMEND THE PETITION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MOUNT VERNON NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY AS A NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY UNDER CHAPTER 349 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Land Use and Development: Keener, Mahan

Keener made a motion to suspend the rules and take Ordinance 2025-39 to its third and final reading. Mahan seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Keener made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-39. Mahan seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-40

CONSENTING TO THE SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION OF COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR THE MOUNT VERNON NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY AND PROVIDING RELATED AUTHORIZATIONS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Land Use and Development: Keener, Mahan

Keener made a motion to suspend the rules and take Ordinance 2025-40 to its third and final reading. Mahan seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Keener made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-40. Mahan seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

REMARKS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Matt Starr congratulated council on leaning into tough decisions and doing the work that needed to be done throughout the year. He welcomed the two incoming council members. He issued two proclamations. One for Tammy Woods, for her six years of service on Mount Vernon City Council. And for Janis Seavolt, for her fourteen years of service on Mount Vernon City Council. Both were gifted their proclamations and a retired city flag.

Safety-Service Director Salyers thanked Council, particularly Woods and Seavolt. He announced that the city is working with Kenyon's Center for the Study of American Democracy on the Washington Forum. This will be a year of programming in 2026, with the first event on January 28 at the Woodward Opera House, with guest speaker Prof. Yerxa from Ashland University's Ashbrook Center.

Treasurer Stuller wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah. He bade farewell to Woods and Seavolt.

Auditor Brinkman wished Woods and Seavolt the best. Wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah.

Law Director Broeren thanked Council for an interesting year. He bade farewell to Woods and Seavolt, noting that he would miss them both.

REMARKS FROM COUNCIL

Hager thanked everyone for an excellent year. Wished happy holidays to all.

Severns wished Seavolt and Woods well, and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah. He encouraged fellow council members to consider participating in the police academy.

Ruckman gave his best to Woods and Seavolt. Expressed gratitude for the update on the flood plain. Looks forward to the work to be done in 2026. Wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah.

Keener wished all a Merry Christmas.

Mahan thanked Seavolt and Woods for their service. Wished all safe travels.

Woods thanked the small group that encouraged her to run seven years ago for office. She thanked her husband for his support. She noted her encouragement at the number of people who wish to be involved in Council. And encouraged others who are not involved, to connect with the city.

Seavolt noted that she has throughout enjoyed working with such wonderful people over the past fourteen years. Council members leaving was always sad, but it was exciting to see the new people come in, or to see those who were once on Council move into administrative roles in the city, like Safety-Service Director Salyers and Mayor Starr. She wished all a Merry Christmas.

Hawkins noted his appreciation for the combined twenty years of service that Seavolt and Woods have rendered to the city. He noted that for the new Council Members there is a training on Jan. 5 at 7 p.m. And, on Dec. 23, SPI Spot will be open in the afternoon and playing Christmas music.

ADJOURN AT THE CALL OF THE PRESIDENT

Woods made a motion to adjourn *sine die*. Seavolt seconded. Adjourned at 8:16 p.m. by unanimous voice vote.

Bruce E. Hawkins, President of Council

Zachary Sherman, Clerk of Council

CD on file/th