

**City Council Minutes
Legislative Session**



January 27, 2026

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mount Vernon City Council
Committee Meeting Schedule
January 27, 2026

Time	Topic Under Discussion	Committee
6:25 - 6:40 p.m.	Drinking Water Treatment Material Report 2026	Utilities- Ruckman
6:40 - 6:50 p.m.	Employment Positions Approved in Annual Budget	Employee & Community Relations - Keener
6:50 - 7:00 p.m.	Resolution 2026-03 Street Chip Seal Project	Streets & Public Buildings - Severns
7:00 - 7:15 p.m.	Resolution 2026-05 Renovating Two Floors of the Mount Vernon Municipal Center	Streets & Public Buildings - Severns

MEETING WILL RECESS UNTIL 7:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Present	Absent	Excused
Council President Bruce Hawkins Fourth Ward LeNan Hager At-Large Amber Keener First Ward James Mahan At-Large Mel Severns Second Ward John Ruckman At-Large Dale Miller		3rd Ward Taylor Jacklin

Keener made a motion to excuse Jacklin. Severns seconded. Jacklin excused by unanimous voice vote.

INVOCATION

Invocation given by John Ruckman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Keener made a motion to accept the minutes of the 1/12/2026 meeting of Council. Severns seconded. Accepted by unanimous voice vote.

City Council Minutes 1/12/2026

RECEIVE PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROCLAMATION

LIQUOR CONTROL LICENSE

PERSONS SPEAKING ON MATTERS OF CITY CONCERN

RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD READING

RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-03

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE 2026 STREET CHIP SEAL PROJECT.

Streets & Public Buildings: Severns, Mahan

Severns gave Resolution 2026-03 its second reading.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-05

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE RENOVATION OF TWO FLOORS OF THE 236 SOUTH MAIN STREET, MOUNT VERNON MUNICIPAL CENTER; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Streets & Public Buildings: Severns, Mahan

Severns gave Resolution 2026-05 its second reading.

RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-06

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF GREGORY YASHNYK TO THE MOUNT VERNON PLANNING COMMISSION, RE-APPOINTING AMBER KEENER TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE KNOX COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS' BUREAU, RE-APPOINTING JOHN RUCKMAN TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF EXPERIENCE MOUNT VERNON OF MOUNT VERNON, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Employee & Community Relations: Keener, Ruckman

Keener made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2026-06 to its final reading. Ruckman seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Keener made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-06. Ruckman seconded. Mayor Starr noted that Mr. Yashnyk will be fulfilling the unexpired term of Austin Swallow, who served for 24 years. The appointment to the planning commission also applies to the Historical Review Commission. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

	Motion to Adopt
RESULT:	Adopted [6 TO 0]
MOVER:	At-Large Amber Keener
SECONDER:	Second Ward John Ruckman
AYES:	LeNan Hager, Amber Keener, James Mahan, Mel Severns, John Ruckman, Dale Miller
NAYS:	None

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-07
A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE KNOX COUNTY
MULTIJURISDICTIONAL NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN; AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Police, Fire, and Civil Defense: Miller, Hager

Miller gave Resolution 2026-07 its first reading, and requested a 15-minute committee meeting on Feb. 9.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-08
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE
DIRECTOR TO FILE AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF OHIO TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION PROGRAM FOR THE
MOUNT VERNON JUSTICE CENTER AND STATE ROUTE 13 PROJECTS.

Streets & Public Buildings: Severns, Mahan

Severns gave Resolution 2026-08 its first reading, and requested a 10-minute committee meeting on Feb. 9.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09
A RESOLUTION APPOINTING COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE
VOLUNTEER PEACE OFFICERS' DEPENDENTS FUND BOARD; AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Employee & Community Relations: Keener, Ruckman

Keener made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2026-09 to its final reading. Ruckman seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Keener made a motion to amend Resolution 2026-09. Ruckman seconded. Law Director Broeren noted that the appointment should also apply to Firefighters' Dependents Funds Board. Hawkins noted that the committee should be corrected to Police, Fire, and Civil Defense. Both amendments were proposed. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote. Keener made a motion to adopt as amended. Ruckman seconded. Adopted as amended by unanimous roll call vote.

	Motion to Adopt as Amended
RESULT:	Adopted [6 TO 0]
MOVER:	At-Large Amber Keener
SECONDER:	Second Ward John Ruckman
AYES:	LeNan Hager, Amber Keener, James Mahan, Mel Severns, John Ruckman, Dale Miller
NAYS:	None

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-10
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-
SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH THE OHIO
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE KNO-125040 SR-13
CORPO PROJECT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Streets & Public Buildings: Severns, Mahan

Severns gave Resolution 2026-10 its first reading, and requested a 10-minute committee meeting on Feb. 9.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-11

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO LEASE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1 EAST HIGH STREET; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Streets & Public Buildings: Severns, Mahan

Severns made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2026-11 to its final reading. Mahan seconded. Severns made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-11. Mahan seconded. Engineer Ball noted that Almost Famous has closed and will vacate 1 E High St. at the end of January. This lease allows Sweet Street to move in on Feb.1, allowing for a seamless transition and keeping the city from bearing the cost of maintaining a vacant space. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

	Motion to Adopt
RESULT:	Adopted [6 TO 0]
MOVER:	At-Large Mel Severns
SECONDER:	First Ward James Mahan
AYES:	LeNan Hager, Amber Keener, James Mahan, Mel Severns, John Ruckman, Dale Miller
NAYS:	None

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-12

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND AWARD A QUALIFICATION-BASED SELECTION FOR DESIGN SERVICES RELATED TO THE NORTH SANDUSKY STREET & UPPER FREDERICKTOWN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (KNO-125040 SR-13 CORPO); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Streets & Public Buildings: Severns, Mahan

Severns gave Resolution 2026-12its first reading, and requested it be combined with the 10-minute committee meeting on Feb. 9 for Resolution 2026-10.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-13

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 & Budget: Mahan, Severns

Mahan made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2026-13 to its final reading. Severns seconded. Mahan made a motion to amend Resolution 2026-13, changing Section One, Line Three from \$9,890.00 to \$4,945.00. Severns seconded. Mahan made a motion to adopt as amended. Severns seconded. Auditor Brinkman noted that the amount for line three was reduced because another party will be bearing the cost. He clarified that Then & Now legislation is for anything for which there is a contract before availability of funds. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

	Motion to Adopt as Amended
RESULT:	Adopted [6 TO 0]
MOVER:	First Ward James Mahan
SECONDER:	At-Large Mel Severns
AYES:	LeNan Hager, Amber Keener, James Mahan, Mel Severns, John Ruckman, Dale Miller
NAYS:	None

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-14
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR OF
THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS.

Finance & Budget: Mahan, Severns

Resolution 2026-14 was introduced in writing to Council. Mahan made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2026-14 to its final reading. Severns seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Mahan made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-14. Severns seconded. Auditor Brinkman noted that appropriations allows the city to pay for water and wastewater meters immediately and move that project forward. Salyers noted that the Public Utilities Director was able to acquire these pieces at \$250,000 less than expected. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

	Motion to Adopt
RESULT:	Adopted [6 TO 0]
MOVER:	First Ward James Mahan
SECONDER:	At-Large Mel Severns
AYES:	LeNan Hager, Amber Keener, James Mahan, Mel Severns, John Ruckman, Dale Miller
NAYS:	None

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION, BENEFITS AND
TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THE CITY CLERK; AND DECLARING
AN EMERGENCY.

Employee & Community Relations: Keener, Ruckman

Keener gave Ordinance 2026-01 its first reading, and requested a 15-minute committee meeting on Feb. 9, as well as a job description for the position.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 911.04 OF THE CODIFIED
ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON.

Utilities: Ruckman, Miller

Ruckman gave Ordinance 2026-02 its first reading, and requested a 10-minute committee meeting on Feb. 9.

REMARKS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Starr noted recent weather events and that crews have been working around the clock to address the snow. The city is in process of snow removal in high traffic areas. He urged residents to remember to clean their sidewalks. There were some water line issues from the extreme cold that have been addressed. Use space heaters and heating blankets responsibly.

Safety Service Director Salyers noted his appreciation for public workers. The Washington Forum is postponed until Feb. 4 at the Gathering Place.

Auditor Brinkman expressed his gratitude for snow removal crews.

REMARKS FROM COUNCIL

Hager expressed her gratitude for snow removal crews.

Keener echoed, and thanked fire and police for helping people stuck in drifts and ditches.

Severns thanked public workers, and announced that, as of that morning, he was a grandfather.

Mahan thanked Council for passing the two pieces of legislation that allowed the city to pay bills. Urged everyone to stay safe.

Hawkins thanked all in attendance for moving from Jan. 26 to Jan. 27 for the legislative session.

ADJOURN AT THE CALL OF THE PRESIDENT

Keener made a motion to adjourn. Severns seconded. Adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 8:10 p.m.

Bruce E. Hawkins, President of Council

Zac Sherman, Clerk of Council



City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Meeting: 1/26/26 7:30 PM
Dept: Police, Fire, and Civil Defense
Miller, Mahan
Category: Appointment
Prepared By: Zac Sherman
Initiator: Zac Sherman

SCHEDULED

RESOLUTION 2026-09

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE VOLUNTEER PEACE OFFICERS' DEPENDENTS' FUND BOARD AND THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' DEPENDENTS' FUND BOARD; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1: That Council members James Mahan and Dale Miller be appointed to the Volunteer Peace Officers' Dependents' Fund Board and the Volunteer Firefighters' Dependents' Fund Board, commencing immediately and expiring December 31, 2027.

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 providing members as required by the authorizing ordinance, 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.

Bruce E. Hawkins, President of Council

PASSED: _____, 2026

ATTEST: _____
Zachary Sherman, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2026

Matthew T. Starr, Mayor



DRAFT

RESOLUTION 2026-13

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 American Electric Power in the amount of \$3,446.96 from line number 701.2720.54211, Water Fund - Plant Utilities.
2. To Ohio Water Development Authority in the amount of \$8,181.00 from line number 720.2820.53312, Waste Water - Plant Maintenance.
3. To Charles W. Kohler in the amount of ~~\$9,890.00~~ \$4,945.00 from line number 101.2300.54111, Safety Service - Services Received.
4. To Ohio Water Development Authority in the amount of \$202,000.00 from line numbers:
\$185,000.00 from line number 720.2860.56521, Waste Water - OWDA Principal; and
\$17,000.00 from line number 720.2860.56522, Waste Water - OWDA Interest.
5. To Insight Public Sector in the amount of \$8,642.45 from line number 101.3600.54494, General Fund - Networking Systems.

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.

Bruce E. Hawkins, President of Council

PASSED: _____, 2026

ATTEST: _____
Zachary Sherman, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2026

Matthew T. Starr, Mayor



City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

SCHEDULED

Meeting: 1/27/26 7:30 PM
Dept: Finance and Budget
Mahan, Severns
Category: Finance
Prepared By: Zac Sherman
Initiator: Dan Brinkman

RESOLUTION 2026-14

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 701.2700.54111, Services Received - Water Fund, in the amount of \$255,000.00 (H2Overhaul Bond Revenue).
2. To account 701.2700.55521, New Water / Wastewater Meters - Water Fund, in the amount of \$620,000.00 (H2Overhaul Bond Revenue).
3. To account 720.2800.54111, Services Received - Sewer System Revenue Fund in the amount of \$255,000.00 (H2Overhaul Bond Revenue).
4. To account 720.2800.55521, New Water / Wastewater Meters - Sewer System Revenue Fund in the amount of \$620,000.00 (H2Overhaul Bond Revenue).

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.

Bruce E. Hawkins, President of Council

PASSED: _____, 2026

ATTEST: _____
Zachary Sherman, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2026

Matthew T. Starr, Mayor