

**City Council Minutes
Legislative Session**



February 9, 2026

VIDEO BROADCASTING & RECORDING

Meeting videos are broadcast live and published on YouTube.com
<https://www.youtube.com/@cityofmountvernon3369/streams>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mount Vernon City Council
 Committee Meeting Schedule
 February 9, 2026

Time	Topic Under Discussion	Committee
6:15 – 6:30 p.m.	Ordinance 2026-01 City Clerk Position	Employee & Community Relations - Keener
6:30 – 6:45 p.m.	Resolution 2026-07 Hazard Mitigation Plan	Police, Fire, & Civil Defense - Miller
6:45 - 6:55 p.m.	Res 2026-08 Brownfield Remediation Program	Streets & Public Buildings - Severns
6:55 – 7:05 p.m.	Resolutions 10 & 12 State Route 13 Projects	Streets & Public Buildings - Severns
7:05 – 7:15 p.m.	Ord 2026-02 Amend Section 911.04 of Codified Ordinances	Utilities - Ruckman

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		

INVOCATION

Invocation given by Rev. Christopher Liberati, Gay St. United Methodist Church

Rev. Liberati noted that Feb. 28 is a fundraising event at Gay St. United Methodist Church, called "Coldest Night of the Year." The event seeks to raise funds for the Winter Sanctuary Homeless Shelter. Liberati encouraged residents to consider walking in the event or sponsoring someone who is.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All recited in unison.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

City Council Minutes 1/27/2026

Keener made a motion to accept the minutes. Hager seconded. Accepted by unanimous voice vote.

RECEIVE PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Utilities Committee Minutes 1/27/2026

Streets & Public Buildings Minutes 1/27/2026

PROCLAMATION

A Proclamation Designating the Week of April 13-19, 2026 as International Dark-Sky Week in the City of Mount Vernon, Ohio.

Mrs. Hager requested to table the Proclamation until April 13, 2026.

LIQUOR CONTROL LICENSE

Divalessa Inc.
661 N Sandusky St.
Mount Vernon, OH 43050
Permit Class: D-1

If there are any questions or concerns regarding this liquor license, please let the Clerk of Council know by Feb. 14.

PERSONS SPEAKING ON MATTERS OF CITY CONCERN

Zach Green, Knox County Health Commissioner

Zach Green, Knox County Health Commissioner, provided an update to Council. Lyme cases at the end of 2025 were at 195 for the year (they had been 124 in 2024). RSV peaked on Dec. 9. Influenza A peaked on Dec. 23. Influenza B is expected to peak at the end of February. He noted that Patient Care Coordinators are available, particularly for individuals who have gone off Medicaid. Jacklin and Miller asked if there were mitigating steps that could be taken for Lyme Disease. Green said that deer population control is one, but otherwise, there are no vaccines available for Lyme disease (for humans) yet. Lyme disease tests are available at the Health Department.

RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD 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 made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03. Mahan seconded. Mahan voiced concerns/questions from a resident, with Engineer Brian Ball providing answers:

1. Will Newark Rd. be chip sealed.
A. No. The chip seal isn't for main roads, but for side streets only.
2. Concerns about dust from the chip sealing.
A. The city will use limestone for its chip sealing, which is less prone to fragmentation and dust. There will be some dust, but should not be excessive.
3. Is there a significant safety difference between chip seal and other methods of road pavement/repair?

A. At the speed limit listed for the roads being chip sealed, there should be no difference (or a negligible one). Mahan clarified that chip sealing gets harder the longer it is down. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

	Motion to Adopt
RESULT:	Adopted [7 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, Taylor Jacklin
NAYS:	None

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 made a motion to adopt. Mahan seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

	Motion to Adopt
RESULT:	Adopted [7 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, Taylor Jacklin
NAYS:	None

RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING

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 made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2026-07 to its final reading. Hager seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote.

Miller made a motion to adopt. Hager seconded. Miller noted that the mitigation plan had been discussed earlier that day in committee meeting. It is important to adopt the plan, particularly because any municipality that does not adopt will be ineligible for FEMA funds. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

	Motion to Adopt
RESULT:	Adopted [7 TO 0]
MOVER:	At-Large Dale Miller
SECONDER:	Fourth Ward LeNan Hager
AYES:	LeNan Hager, Amber Keener, James Mahan, Mel Severns, John Ruckman, Dale Miller, Taylor Jacklin
NAYS:	None

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 second reading.

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 second reading.

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 2026-12 its second reading.

RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-15

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF KATHRYN BRECHLER TO THE KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD, AND REAPPOINTMENTS OF LORRAINE BOSS, JORDAN SHREMSHOCK AND AARON MORELAND TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Employee & Community Relations: Keener, Ruckman

Keener made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2026-15 to its final reading. Ruckman seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Keener made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-15. Ruckman seconded. Mayor Starr noted that all appointees have already served and are willing to serve again. The library board meets once a year, and is largely tasked with making decisions surrounding the endowment funds. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

	Motion to Adopt
RESULT:	Adopted [7 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, Taylor Jacklin
NAYS:	None

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-16

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO FILE A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECT, PHASE TWO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Streets & Public Buildings: Severns, Mahan

Severns gave Resolution 2026-16 its first reading. He requested a 10-minute committee meeting to discuss Res. 2026-16 & 2026-17.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-17

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND AWARD A QUALIFICATION-BASED SELECTION FOR DESIGN SERVICES RELATED TO THE SOUTH END PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, PHASE 1 (KNO-122162 SRTS (SR 586), PID 2411301).

Streets & Public Buildings: Severns, Mahan

Severns gave Resolution 2026-17 its first reading.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-18

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.

Finance & Budget: Mahan, Severns

Mahan made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2026-18 to its final reading. Severns seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Mahan made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-18. Severns seconded. Chief Morgan noted that the disposal of vehicles is standard fare. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

	Motion to Adopt
RESULT:	Adopted [7 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, Taylor Jacklin
NAYS:	None

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-19

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 2026-19 to its final reading. Severns seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Mahan made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-19. Severns seconded. Auditor Brinkman noted that one expense is for Civica, which the Auditor uses to track physical assets. The other is for Stryker, which provides power cots and power lifts that are used by emergency responders. An expense carried over from the previous year. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

	Motion to Adopt
RESULT:	Adopted [7 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, Taylor Jacklin
NAYS:	None

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND 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 second reading.

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 second reading.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-03

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION, BENEFITS AND TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THE EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CODE ENFORCEMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Employee & Community Relations:

Ordinance 2026-03 was added to the agenda. Keener gave a first reading, and requested a 15-min committee meeting on Feb. 23.

REMARKS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Starr applauded Public Works on the amount of hours they have put into snow removal and maintenance. There are 92 miles of city streets and 50 miles of alleys that require attention, and crews have been working consistently. The Washington Forum was a wonderful event and hopeful. Looking forward to the next on Feb. 24 at the Woodward Theater, it will be on Ohio Presidents. The Mayor is starting a City Sustainability Advisory Group to help advise how Mount Vernon City can leave an inheritance worth inheriting. If any Councilmember is interested in being a representative on that board, please let the mayor know.

Safety Service Director Salyers noted that deer season is over. There will be a report and recommendation regarding the season coming to Council soon. He echoed the Mayor's remarks on the Washington Forum. He noted that citizens have remarked on there being too many gas stations and oil change business in the city. This is not the purview of the administration. However, he was glad to announce that the city has signed a 3-year contract with Retail Strategies, LLC to help target and bring business to Mount Venron. More details to follow.

REMARKS FROM COUNCIL

Hager noted that the past Saturday, there was a Coffee with Council event at Happy Bean Coffee Shop. She thanked all who attended, and encouraged residents to attend the next event and bring their questions.

Mahan noted that the Washington Forum was excellent. In regards to the MVPD Banquet, he congratulated all award winners. Founders Hall will be opening at the end of March.

Hawkins noted that Saturday from 1-4 p.m. there will be a repair event at the Gay St. Parish House. If any resident is skilled at repair (various kinds) or needs something repaired, please attend.

ADJOURN AT THE CALL OF THE PRESIDENT

Keener made a motion to adjourn. Severns seconded. Adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Bruce E. Hawkins, President of Council

Zac Sherman, Clerk of Council



City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Meeting: 2/09/2026 7:30 PM
Dept: Employee and Community Rel.
Keener, Ruckman
Category: Appointment
Prepared By: Zac Sherman
Initiator: Rob Broeren

SCHEDULED

Ordinance 2026-03

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION, BENEFITS AND TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THE EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CODE ENFORCEMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1: That the following exempt professional position is hereby authorized within the salary range and upon the appropriation times listed below:

	Pay Grade	Min	Mid	Max
Executive Administrator for Public Utilities and Code Enforcement	3	\$24.70	\$29.64	\$34.57 (per hour)

The salary authorized by this Ordinance shall be payable bi-weekly.

SECTION 2: The salary range listed is the base salary range for the position. The position is eligible for annual longevity increments:

For the first five (5) years, \$400.00.

Annual Longevity Increments after five (5) years:

Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
\$500.00	\$550.00	\$600.00	\$650.00	\$700.00

The effective date of eligibility for an annual longevity increment shall be the anniversary date of employment with the City in a non-bargaining unit position.

SECTION 3: Exempt employees are expected to work as necessary, including outside of normal business hours, in the completion of their duties. Exempt employees will work with their supervisor in establishing their work schedule.

SECTION 4: This position shall be entitled to the benefits outlined in the Mount Vernon Employee Handbook effective August 2021, as amended.

SECTION 5: 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 provide needed administrative assistance to two city departments, and 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

Ordinance 2026-03

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