

**City Council Minutes  
Legislative Session**



**February 23, 2026**

**VIDEO BROADCASTING & RECORDING**

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**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Mount Vernon City Council  
 Committee Meeting Schedule  
 February 23, 2026

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic Under Discussion</b>	<b>Committee</b>
6:25 – 6:30 p.m.	Lease for 49 Public Square	Streets & Public Buildings - Severns
6:30 – 6:50 p.m.	Ordinance 2026-04 Bond Anticipation Notes	Finance & Budget - Mahan
6:50 – 7:05 p.m.	Ord. 2026-03 Executive Administrator for Public Works and Code Enforcement Position	Employee & Community Relations - Keener
7:05 – 7:15 p.m.	Resolutions 16 & 17 Pedestrian Safety Projects	Streets & Public Buildings - Severns

**MEETING WILL RECESS UNTIL 7:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
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

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

**INVOCATION**

Invocation given by Dan Pelton, Simple Church

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All recited in unison

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

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

**RECEIVE PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Utilities Committee Minutes 2/9/2026  
Streets & Public Building Minutes 2/9/2026 a  
Streets & Public Building Minutes 2/9/2026 b

**PROCLAMATION**

**LIQUOR CONTROL LICENSE**

**PERSONS SPEAKING ON MATTERS OF CITY CONCERN**

Joe Porter, Mobility Management Program Coordinator

Joe Porter, Mobility Management Program Coordinator, gave a report to Council. The Transportation Advisory Committee meets quarterly. Knox County Transit's fixed routes are changing slightly to include areas south of the River. Centerburg Trail connectors are in work, as part of the Trail Town program which applies to Mount Vernon. Seniors have a hard time getting to out-of-county medical appointments. This can cost between \$100-200 for a round trip. Porter is working on a program to help such individuals, and looking for funding opportunities for it. The Transportation Advisory Committee conducts walking audits to help identify areas of need. Last Tuesday, Porter spent 12 hours at state house to advocate for transportation needs. Keener asked if Porter had seen the 2022 Sidewalk Audit. Porter said he has, but that the plan within the audit isn't being followed consistently.

**RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD READING**

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

	<b>Motion to Adopt</b>
<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Adopted [6 TO 0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	At-Large Mel Severns
<b>SECONDER:</b>	First Ward James Mahan
<b>AYES:</b>	LeNan Hager, Amber Keener, James Mahan, Mel Severns, John Ruckman, Dale Miller
<b>NAYS:</b>	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 made a motion to adopt. Mahan seconded. Severns noted that this had been discussed in committee meeting. Adopted by

unanimous roll call vote.

	<b>Motion to Adopt</b>
<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Adopted [6 TO 0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	At-Large Mel Severns
<b>SECONDER:</b>	First Ward James Mahan
<b>AYES:</b>	LeNan Hager, Amber Keener, James Mahan, Mel Severns, John Ruckman, Dale Miller
<b>NAYS:</b>	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 made a motion to adopt. Mahan seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

**RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING**

**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 made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2026-16 to its final reading. Mahan seconded. Severns noted that this is because there is a March deadline for the grant application. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Severns made a motion to adopt. Mahan seconded. Safety Service Director Salyers noted that the grant deadline is March 1, but the bid deadline is July 1. Severns noted that the city has received good vibes from the State of Ohio on the possibility of the grant being approved. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

**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 second reading.

## RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING

### RESOLUTION NO. 2026-21

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

Finance & Budget: Mahan, Severns

Mahan made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2026-21 to its final reading. Severns seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Mahan made a motion to adopt. Severns seconded. Mahan noted that the legislation is for selling equipment from the old Domino's building.

Engineer Ball said that part of the reason to move quickly is because the utilities are off in the building, and they do not want anything damaged or reduced in value before sale.

Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

### RESOLUTION NO. 2026-22

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, OHIO TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH AMY'S NAIL NOOK LLC AND SARAH'S LOFT LLC TO LEASE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 49 PUBLIC SQUARE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Streets & Public Buildings: Severns, Mahan

Severns made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2026-22 to its final reading. Mahan seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Severns made a motion to adopt. Mahan seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

### RESOLUTION NO. 2026-23

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 2026-23 to its final reading. Severns seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Mahan made a motion to amend Resolution 2026-23 as presented in writing, adding in item three under Section 1. Severns seconded. Amended by unanimous roll call vote. Mahan made a motion to adopt as amended. Severns seconded. Auditor Brinkman noted that the first item is for Fire Department software. The second is for AEP on Wooster Rd. (a first of the year PO). The third is attorney fees for the H2Overhaul Project. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

**ORDINANCES FOR THIRD 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 made a motion to adopt. Ruckman seconded. Keener noted that have been committee meetings on this item, and the cost was included when meeting to project the 2026 budget. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

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 made a motion to amend section 5 to change the word "will" to "may." Miller seconded. Amended by unanimous roll call vote. Ruckman made a motion to adopt as amended. Miller seconded. Ruckman clarified that the legislation concerns itself with grease, not fog. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

## **ORDINANCES FOR SECOND 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: Keener, Ruckman**

Keener gave Ordinance 2026-03 its second reading.

## **ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING**

### **ORDINANCE NO. 2026-04**

**AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOTES IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$29,000,000 IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING A POLICE STATION AND RELATED FACILITIES; FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING THE SAME; IMPROVING THE SITES THEREOF; AND ACQUIRING REAL PROPERTY AND INTERESTS THEREIN AS MAY BE NECESSARY IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AND AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING RELATED MATTERS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**Finance & Budget: Mahan, Severns**

Mahan gave Ordinance 2026-04 its first reading, noting that anyone interested in the surrounding conversation should look at the committee meeting from earlier on Feb. 23, 2026. Mahan requested a 20-min committee meeting on March 9.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 2026-05**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION, BENEFITS AND TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**Employee & Community Relations: Keener, Ruckman**

Keener gave Ordinance 2026-05 its first reading, and requested a 15-minute committee meeting on March 9.

## **REMARKS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

Mayor Starr noted that offices are in the midst of transitioning to the Mount Vernon Municipal Center (236 S Main St.). He is eager to get Council there soon. The Mayor thanked everyone working hard on preparing the space.

Safety-Service Director Salyers thanked those working on the Mount Vernon Municipal Center transition. He thanked COTC for their patience during construction. He noted that the second Washington Forum was imminent. March 4th is a Solid Waste meeting at 3 pm. Salyers' nephew was born at 9lbs, 10oz. He gave a shout out to his sister and Baby Stitch.

Auditor Brinkman noted that the lodging tax is up and that the hospitality industry did about \$1 million more in business in 2025 than in 2024.

Law Director Broeren noted that the city is also doing a better job identifying which entities should be paying the lodging tax. For the March 4 Solid Waste Management meeting, he asked Council to keep in mind anyone who should be kept in mind as a hauler.

## **REMARKS FROM COUNCIL**

Hager noted that Feb. 28 is the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser for Winter Sanctuary. Mayor Starr will also be walking.

Keener said thank you to Ruckman, et al. who worked on the FOG Ordinance.

Miller said, in regards to March 4, that residents should let him know if they have solid waste hauler concerns. He stated that he called Rumpke three times this year for trash that had not been picked up. He said that the city may need more suppliers.

Severns asked if waste pickup companies have to supply a recycle option.

Salyers said yes. And they cannot charge a surcharge for the extra recycling container.

Severns said that he knows of two companies who do not follow that rule. He thanked Mr. Porter for speaking and for his mobility work.

Mahan said thank you to the various departments working on the sidewalks on South End and the other capital projects that are in motion.

Hawkins thanked the snow warriors, working at night to keep streets clean.

## **ADJOURN AT THE CALL OF THE PRESIDENT**

Keener made a motion to adjourn. Severns seconded. Adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 8:17 p.m.

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Bruce E. Hawkins, President of Council

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Zac Sherman, Clerk of Council



City Council  
City of Mount Vernon  
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Meeting: 2/23/2026 7:30 PM  
Dept: Finance and Budget  
Mahan, Severns  
Category: Finance  
Prepared By: Zac Sherman  
Initiator: Zac Sherman

SCHEDULED

**RESOLUTION 2026-23**

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**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 \$3,910.60 from line number 101.2500.54211, General Fund (Public Buildings & Lands) -Utilities - PB&L.
2. To Image Trend, LLC in the amount of \$4,815.00 from line number 224.2100.55511, Public Safety Fund - Equipment - Fire.
3. To Bricker Graydon, in the amount of \$15,000.00 from the following line numbers:  
\$7,500.00 from line number 701.2700.54111, Water Fund – Services Received;  
and  
\$7,500.00 from line number 720.2800.54111, Sewer System Revenue – Services Received.

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