

**City Council Minutes
Legislative Session**



March 9, 2026

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mount Vernon City Council
 Committee Meeting Schedule
 March 9, 2026

Time	Topic Under Discussion	Committee
6:10 – 6:40 p.m.	Executive Session with the public body's attorney concerning pending or imminent court action	Executive Session
6:40 – 7:00 p.m.	Ordinance 2026-04 Bond Anticipation Notes	Finance & Budget - Mahan
7:00 – 7:15 p.m.	Ord. 2026-05 Community Development / Public Information Officer Position	Employee & Community Relations - Keener

Mahan made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussion with the public body's attorney concerning pending or imminent litigation. Keener seconded. Executive Session entered at 6:11 PM by unanimous roll call vote (Hawkins and Jacklin absent/excused). Attendees of Executive Session: LeNan Hager, Amber Keener, James Mahan, Mike Miller, John Ruckman, Mel Severns, Mayor Starr, Law Director Broeren, Auditor Brinkman, Treasurer Stuller. Councilmember Jacklin joined at 6:14 PM. Mahan made a motion to exit Executive Session. Keener seconded. Executive Session ended at 6:39 PM by unanimous roll call vote.

MEETING WILL RECESS UNTIL 7:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Invocation: Pastor Andy Beatty, Central Christian Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All recited in unison.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Minutes City Council 2-23-2026

Keener made a motion to accept the minutes from the 2/23/2026 City Council Session. Hager seconded. Accepted by unanimous voice vote.

RECEIVE PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Streets & Public Buildings Committee Minutes 2/23/2026a
- Streets & Public Buildings Committee Minutes 2/23/2026b
- Finance & Budget Committee Minutes 2/23/2026

Accepted without comment.

LIQUOR CONTROL LICENSE

PROCLAMATION

PERSONS SPEAKING ON MATTERS OF CITY CONCERN

RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD READING

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 made a motion to amend the title of the Resolution, deleting the section that states "A qualification based selection for design services related to" and replacing it with "construction contract for." Mahan seconded. Amended by unanimous roll call vote. Severns made a motion to adopt as amended. Mahan seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

	Motion to Adopt as Amended
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

RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-24

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, OHIO TO ACQUIRE BY ANY MEANS AUTHORIZED BY RC 735.05 EQUIPMENT FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Finance & Budget: Mahan, Severns

Mahan made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution 2026-24 to its third and final reading. Severns seconded. Miller asked what the rationale for the suspension is. Mahan said it is equipment for Public Works. Safety Service Director Salyers said that this is part of budgeted purchases, but is above the threshold to purchase without Council approval. Hager asked how quickly the equipment could arrive. Salyers said that varies, but the more time, the better to make sure it is here before Summer. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote.

Mahan made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-24. Severns seconded. Salyers said that the purchase will be split 50/50 between Streets and Stromwater. 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. 2026-25

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

Finance & Budget: Mahan, Severns

James Mahan made a motion to suspend the rules and take RESOLUTION 2026-25 to its third and final reading. Mel Severns seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. James Mahan made a motion to adopt. Mel Severns seconded. Safety Service Director Salyers noted that this is a trade-in, trading in two older mowers for two newer ones. Severns asked what the average amount of hours were for mowers. Salyers noted that the mowers weren't used up, but were being traded up. Miller asked what the process for trading in is and if it would be better to shop around. Salyers said the City has a vendor they use regularly. If the mowers were put on GovDeals, they would get a far lower rate of return. Ruckman also stated that cities often lease out older equipment rather than auction them to get the most value on their return. 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. 2026-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE MOUNT VERNON CITY COUNCIL EXPRESSING ITS SUPPORT AND FORMALLY REQUESTING CONSIDERATION FOR COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING IN THE FY27 FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000,000 TO SUPPORT ENHANCEMENTS TO THE MOUNT VERNON WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY, SUPPORTING REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Utilities: Ruckman, Miller

John Ruckman made a motion to suspend the rules and take RESOLUTION 2026-26 to its third and final reading. Dale Miller seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. John Ruckman made a motion to adopt. Dale Miller seconded. Salyers noted that last time these funds were available, the City was in the pipeline, but do to federal changes, did not receive funds. Rep. Balderson and Sen. Moreno seem amenable to the project. The request deadline is the end of this week. \$5 million is the most the City can ask.

Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-27

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

James Mahan made a motion to suspend the rules and take RESOLUTION 2026-27 to its third and final reading. Mel Severns seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Auditor Brinkman noted that the payments were for 1. ground testing for Engineering. 3. A Then & Now approved at last meeting, but with one additional charge. 4. HR vendor from last year. and 6. Treasurer projects. James Mahan made a motion to adopt. Mel Severns seconded. 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. 2026-28

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS.

Finance & Budget: Mahan, Severns

James Mahan made a motion to suspend the rules and take RESOLUTION 2026-28 to its third and final reading. Mel Severns seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. James Mahan made a motion to adopt. Mel Severns seconded. Brinkman these are grants that are disbursed after the funds are spent. Salyers noted this project goes back to 2022. When the reimbursements come may vary, but they are all promises by ODOT. Jacklin encouraged anyone not in favor of the road project to look at the traffic data indicating need. 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

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

Amber Keener made a motion to adopt. John Ruckman seconded. Keener noted that this position was discussed during budget season. Salyers noted that the position will lighten the load on the general fund as much of the funding for the position comes from the enterprise fund. Miller noted that Code Enforcement will become more and more necessary. 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

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND 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 made a motion to amend Ordinance 2026-04 to remove section 15 and renumber all sections thereafter. Severns seconded. Amended by unanimous roll call vote. Mahan gave Ordinance 2026-04 its second reading.

	Motion to Amend
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

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 second reading, and requested a 10-minute committee meeting on 3/23/2026.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-06

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 755.04 OF THE CODIFIED
ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON REGARDING CURB-SIDE
RECYCLING; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Utilities: Ruckman, Miller

Ruckman gave Ordinance 2026-06 its first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-07

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 133 OF THE CODIFIED
ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON REGARDING CIVIL
SERVICE COMMISSION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Employee & Community Relations: Keener, Ruckman

Keener gave Ordinance 2026-07 its first reading, and requested a 5-minute committee meeting on 3/23/2026.

REMARKS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Starr noted that it was great to see members of the community and the City at the Chamber of Commerce event. He congratulated all nominees and winners from the event.

REMARKS FROM COUNCIL

Keener thanked the administration and Severns for their work on the safe routes to school program. It is good to see the government respond positively to citizen concerns.

Mahan thanked Quinten Platt in Engineering and those working on the sidewalk project.

ADJOURN AT THE CALL OF THE PRESIDENT

Keener made a motion to adjourn. Hager seconded. Adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 8:12 PM.

Bruce E. Hawkins, President of Council

Zac Sherman, Clerk of Council