

**City Council Minutes
Legislative Session**



May 11, 2026

VIDEO BROADCASTING & RECORDING

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mount Vernon City Council
Committee Meeting Schedule
May 11, 2026

Time	Topic Under Discussion	Committee
6:40 – 6:50 p.m.	W Burgess and N Sandusky Street ODOT grant. PID 125332 KNO North Sandusky Road Improvements	Streets & Public Buildings - Severns
6:50 – 7:00 p.m.	Resolution 2026-45 Purchasing Health Insurance for the City of Mount Vernon	Employee & Comm. Relations - Keener
7:00 – 7:10 p.m.	Ord. 2026-11 Amend Vehicle Storage Ordinances	Land Use & Development - Jacklin
7:10 – 7:15 p.m.	Ord. 2026-13 Rezoning 804 Coshocton Ave	Land Use & Development - Jacklin

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: Pastor David Phillips, Cooperdale Church of the Nazarene

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All recited in unison.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Minutes City Council Legislative Session 4/27/2026

Keener made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 27, 2026 City Council Meeting. Severns seconded. Accepted by unanimous voice vote.

RECEIVE PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Utilities Committee Minutes 2026-4-13a
Utilities Committee Minutes 2026-4-13b
Finance and Budget Committee Minutes 2026-04-27a
Finance and Budget Committee Minutes 2026-04-27b
Streets & Public Buildings Committee Minutes 2026-4-27

Accepted without comment.

LIQUOR CONTROL LICENSE

Liquor Control License Transfer

From: RHF Group LLC
400 Vernonview Dr.
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

To: Puff Club LLC/Bullocks Smoke Shop
400 Vernonview Dr.
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Liquor Control License Transfer

From: Werner Family Ventures LLC
908 S Main Street
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

To: Sammy's Group LLC/Fast Lane
908 S Main Street
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Residents have until May 23 to reach out to the City Clerk with any questions.

PROCLAMATION

PERSONS SPEAKING ON MATTERS OF CITY CONCERN

RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD READING

RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-44

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING A WRITTEN POST-ISSUANCE COMPLIANCE
POLICY IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF TAX-EXEMPT AND
TAX-PREFERRED OBLIGATIONS BY THE CITY.**

Finance & Budget: Mahan, Severns

Mahan gave Resolution 2026-44 its second reading, noting that it would need an emergency clause when up for adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-45
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE
DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AND ENTER INTO AN
AGREEMENT WITH MEDICAL MUTUAL FOR THE PROVISION OF 2026 -
2027 MEDICAL HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE; AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY.

Employee & Community Relations: Keener, Ruckman

Amber Keener made a motion to suspend the rules and take RESOLUTION 2026-45 to its third and final reading. John Ruckman seconded. Keener explained that the reason for the suspension is that the City's Health Insurance renews on June 1 for employees. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Amber Keener made a motion to adopt. John Ruckman seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-53
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO
DISPOSE OF VEHICLES IN THE FIRE 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 2026-53 to its third and final reading. Mel Severns seconded. Mahan explained that the Fire Department vehicle is ready to sell, and doing so will bring revenue into the City. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. James Mahan made a motion to adopt. Mel Severns seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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. 2026-55
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE
DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT AN OFFICE OF JOBS & COMMERCE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF KNO NORTH
SANDUSKY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS (PID 125332).

Streets & Public Buildings: Severns, Mahan

Mel Severns made a motion to suspend the rules and take RESOLUTION 2026-55 to its third and final reading. James Mahan seconded. Severns noted that there is an opportunity to accept a \$180,000 grant, but the deadline is soon. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Mel Severns made a motion to adopt. James Mahan seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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. 2026-56

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE KNOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO ACT AS THE PURCHASING AGENT AND GOVERNMENTAL AGGREGATOR FOR NATURAL GAS FOR THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, OHIO.

Utilities: Ruckman, Miller

Ruckman gave Resolution 2026-56 its first reading, and requested a 10-minute committee meeting on May 26 to discuss both Resolution 2026-56 and 2026-57.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-57

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE KNOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO ACT AS THE PURCHASING AGENT AND GOVERNMENTAL AGGREGATOR FOR ELECTRIC POWER FOR THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, OHIO.

Utilities: Ruckman, Miller

Ruckman gave Resolution 2026-57 its first reading.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-58

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 2026-58 to its third and final reading. Mel Severns seconded. Mahan noted that the reason for the suspension is that money is tied up, without being allocated, and needs to be released. Brinkman noted that there are about \$4 million in unappropriated funds for water that can be used for improvements. Miller asked if there was a way to decrease the frequency of financial pieces of legislation that needed to be passed on the first reading. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. James Mahan made a motion to adopt. Mel Severns seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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. 2026-11

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON REGARDING VEHICLE

STORAGE WITHIN THE CITY.

Land Use & Development: Jacklin, Keener

Jacklin made a motion to postpone Ordinance 2026-11 to May 26. Keener seconded. Postponed by unanimous roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-12

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1102 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Land Use & Development: Jacklin, Keener

Law Director Broeren noted that the ordinance places the setting of fees under the Control Board rather than Council, which has been the standard practice with other similar fee structures.

ROLL CALL VOTE	Motion to Adopt
RESULT:	Adopted [7 TO 0]
MOVER:	3rd Ward Taylor Jacklin
SECONDER:	At-Large Amber Keener
AYES:	LeNan Hager, Amber Keener, James Mahan, Mel Severns, John Ruckman, Dale Miller, Taylor Jacklin
NAYS:	None

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-13

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PARCELS #66-07885.000 AND #66-05577.000 FROM R-1 – SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO GB – GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT.

Land Use & Development: Jacklin,

Jacklin gave Ordinance 2026-13 its second reading. There will be a Public Hearing for this Ordinance on May 26.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-15

AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE VACATION OF AN UNDEVELOPED, PLATTED ALLEY IN THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, KNOX COUNTY, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Streets & Public Buildings: Severns, Mahan

Mel Severns made a motion to suspend the rules and take to its third and final reading. James Mahan seconded. Severns noted that the reason for the suspension is that no Public Hearing is required for the vacation. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Mel Severns made a motion to adopt. James Mahan seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-16
AN ORDINANCE RECLASSIFYING THE EXEMPT PROFESSIONAL
POSITIONS OF CITY INSPECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR, AND
PUBLIC UTILITIES DIRECTOR.

Employee & Community Relations: Keener, Ruckman

Keener gave Ordinance 2026-16 its first reading and requested a 5-minute committee meeting on May 26.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-17
AN ORDINANCE TO REPLACE SECTION 919.11 OF THE CODIFIED
ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON REGARDING
BACKFLOW PROTECTION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Utilities: Ruckman, Miller

Ruckman gave Ordinance 2026-17 its first reading and requested a 5-minute committee meeting on May 26.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-18
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT OF
BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON
POLICE DEPARTMENT WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE CERTIFIED UNIT
KNOWN AS POLICE SERGEANTS AND LIEUTENANTS, POLICE OFFICERS
AND POLICE RECORDS CLERK; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Employee & Community Relations: Keener, Ruckman

Keener made a motion to suspend the rules and take to its third and final reading. John Ruckman seconded. Keener noted that this piece is tied to Resolution 2026-45, which was just adopted, and relates to health insurance. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote.

Keener made a motion to adopt. John Ruckman seconded. Salyers noted that this piece and Ordinance 2026-19 are agreements between the City and union entities within the City to provide services. Changes include payment in lieu of benefits as an option for employees to opt in to, and utilization a consulting service called EMS to help employees navigate the medical care landscape.

Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-19
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT OF
BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON FIRE
DEPARTMENT WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE CERTIFIED UNIT KNOWN AS
THE MOUNT VERNON FIREFIGHTERS AND PARAMEDICS, I.A.F.F. LOCAL
3712; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Employee & Community Relations: Keener, Ruckman

Amber Keener made a motion to suspend the rules and take to its third and final reading. John Ruckman seconded. Keener noted that this is a sister piece to Ordinance 2026-18, but concerning firefighters rather than police. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Amber Keener made a motion to adopt. John Ruckman seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

REMARKS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Starr noted that Route 13 construction is underway. There will be more construction periods coming, but he will work to inform the public in a timely manner on those. S Main St bridge will need maintenance, which is an ODOT project that will be coming in the next month or so. Memorial Day is coming up. It is a day of remembrance and reflection. Mrs. Hager is the parade chair. There will be a service at Moundview Cemetery at 7:30 a.m. on Memorial Day, as well. Spring Clean went well. Twelve 30-foot bins were hauled away. Woodlands opening was a highlight.

Salyers noted that Kids-to-Parks Day is coming up this Saturday, May 16. There will be hot dogs. Green Machine at Thayer Rd. will be giving compost away the next two Saturdays.

Law Director Broeren Noted that one way to cut down the amount of financial matters that come before Council would be to increase the Auditor's maximum allotment to transfer within line accounts.

REMARKS FROM COUNCIL

Jacklin noted that Memorial Day is coming up. He mentioned that more of his friends who are veterans died from suicide after returning from the service than during service. He encouraged residents to reach out to those in their lives who are veterans, especially if they struggle around this time of year. Kevin Henthorn is a good resource for veterans.

Miller noted the Kids-to-Park Day will have fishing and archery.

Hager noted that the Shade Tree Commission accepted two awards from Tree City: a Growth award and Tree City Committee for Thirty Years award. The repair café is this Saturday, May 16.

Severnas noted that residents can call their waste haulers to arrange pickup of large items. Defining E-Bikes is a conversation that will need to occur. Some of them move very quickly and pose a safety concern.

Mahan congratulated all recent graduates at COTC, MVNU, and Kenyon, wishing them well.

Hawkins noted that the Woodlands Park has been something he has worked on for twenty-seven years to make a reality. It includes scores of acres. He also echoed the reminder that Memorial Day is a time of remembrance and reflection, not a party.

ADJOURN AT THE CALL OF THE PRESIDENT

Keener made a motion to adjourn. Hager seconded. Adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Bruce E. Hawkins, President of Council

Zac Sherman, Clerk of Council