

**City Council Minutes
Legislative Session**



May 26, 2026

VIDEO BROADCASTING & RECORDING

Meeting videos are broadcast live and published on YouTube.com
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mount Vernon City Council
 Committee Meeting Schedule
 May 26, 2026

Time	Topic Under Discussion	Committee
6:05 – 6:15 p.m.	Natural Gas and Electric Power Aggregation	Utilities - Ruckman
6:15 – 6:20 p.m.	Amend Section 919.11 of the Codified Ordinances	Utilities - Ruckman
6:20 – 6:30 p.m.	Ordinance 2026-11 Vehicle Storage	Land Use & Development - Jacklin
6:30 – 6:35 p.m.	Ordinance 2026-16 Reclassifying Exempt Professional Positions	Employee & Comm. Relations - Keener
6:35 – 6:45 p.m.	Update from Knox County Convention & Visitor’s Bureau	Employee & Comm. Relations - Keener
6:45 – 7:00 p.m.	Ord. 2026-13 Rezoning 804 Coshocton Ave	Land Use & Development - Jacklin
7:00 – 7:15 p.m.	Updates on Road Construction Projects	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		

INVOCATION

Invocation: Chaplain Dave Matos, Gentiva Hospice

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All recited in unison.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Minutes City Council 5/11/2026

RECEIVE PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Employee and Community Relations Committee Minutes 2026-05-11
Streets & Public Buildings Committee Minutes 2026-5-11

LIQUOR CONTROL LICENSE

PROCLAMATION

PERSONS SPEAKING ON MATTERS OF CITY CONCERN

RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD 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; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Finance & Budget: Mahan, Severns

Mahan motioned to adopt Resolution No 2026-44 with amendments, seconded by Severns. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING

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

John Ruckman gave Resolution No. 2026-56 its second reading.

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

John Ruckman gave Resolution No. 2026-57 its second reading.

RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-59

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR THE SMALL CITY PROGRAM GRANT THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Streets & Public Buildings: Severns, Mahan

Mel Severns made a motion to suspend the rules and take Resolution No. 2026-59 for its third and final reading. James Mahan seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-60

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, OHIO TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN TO LEASE THE PROPERTY WITH THE STREET ADDRESS OF 9 ½ EAST HIGH STREET; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Streets & Public Buildings: Severns, Mahan

Severns gave Resolution No. 2026-60 a first reading and requested a 5- minute committee meeting on June 8th.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-61

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

Finance & Budget: Mahan, Severns

James Mahan motions to suspend the rules on Resolution No. 2026-61 moving the resolution to its third and final reading. Mel Severns seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-62

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, OHIO TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH THE KNOX COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION FOR NORTH NORTON STREET IMPROVEMENTS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Streets & Public Buildings: Severns, Mahan

Mel Severns motioned to suspend the rules on Resolution 2026-62, moving it to its third and final reading. Dale Miller seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-63

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ABOLITION OF THE CLINTON
TOWNSHIP WATER & SEWER DISTRICT AND RELATED UTILITY
GOVERNANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE MATTERS.

Utilities: Ruckman, Miller

Ruckman gave Resolution No. 2026-63 its first reading and requested a 20 minute meeting on June 8.

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 moved to adopt Ordinance No 2026.11, motion was seconded by Ms. Keener. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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, Keener

Mr. Jacklin moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-13, motion was seconded by Ms. Keener. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-16

AN ORDINANCE RECLASSIFYING THE EXEMPT PROFESSIONAL
POSITIONS OF CITY INSPECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR, AND
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR.

Employee & Community Relations: Keener, Ruckman

Amber Keener gave the second reading of Ordinance 2026-16 and requested a 5 minute meeting on June 8.

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

John Ruckman motioned to suspend the rules on ORDINANCE NO. 2026-17 to its third and final reading. Discussion on the suspension of the rules took place, stating that passing this tonight would

bring the City into compliance with the EPA. Dale Miller seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Ruckman moved to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 2026-17, Miller seconded.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-20

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE COMPENSATION, HOURS AND BENEFITS OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON.

Employee & Community Relations: Keener, Ruckman

Kenner gave Resolution No. 2026-20 its first reading and requested a 5-minute meeting on June 8.

REMARKS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Starr welcomed Amber Swain to the team, and thanked Ms. Hager for the Memorial Day Parade Success. He also noted that Bricker and Grayden will be offering training on June 9, 2026 in regards to the updates on House Bill 184.

Salyers thanked Ms. Hager for the hard work of making the Memorial Day parade a success, and noted the swearing in of Tom Calland as the EMS Coordinator/Lieutenant and Josh Craft with the Mount Vernon Police Department. He also noted the Upcoming Washington Forum taking place.

Mr. Broeren thanked the 5th and 6th grade class at St. Vincent Paul School for placing flags on the gravesides the week before Memorial Day.

Ms. Hager thanked all the volunteers for all their work to make the Memorial Day events a success. She thanked Mr. Sherman for all his hard work in assisting to make sure the event was a success.

Mr. Jacklin thanked all the City employees that cleaned up after the parade, and thanked Mayor Starr for his clean up efforts.

REMARKS FROM COUNCIL

Council thanked Ms. Hager and all those who participated in making the Memorial Day parade and celebrations a great event.

Ms. Hager thanked all the volunteers.

ADJOURN AT THE CALL OF THE PRESIDENT

President Hawkins moved to adjourn, seconded by Keener. Adjourned at 8:31 p.m. by unanimous voice vote.

Bruce E. Hawkins, President of Council

Zac Sherman, Clerk of Council