

**City Council Minutes
Legislative Session**



June 8, 2026

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mount Vernon City Council
 Committee Meeting Schedule
 June 8, 2026

Time	Topic Under Discussion	Committee
6:30 – 6:50 p.m.	Resolution 2026-63 Clinton Township Water & Sewer District Abolition	Utilities - Ruckman
6:50 – 6:55 p.m.	Resolution 2026-56 & 57 Utilities Aggregation	Utilities - Ruckman
6:55 – 7:00 p.m.	Ordinance 2026-16 Reclassifying Exempt Professional Positions	Employee & Comm. Relations - Keener
7:05 – 7:10 p.m.	Ordinance 2026-20 Changes to Three City Positions	Employee & Comm. Relations - Keener
7:10 – 7:15 p.m.	Res 2026-60 Lease 9 ½ E High Street	Streets & Public Buildings - Severns

MEETING WILL RECESS UNTIL 7:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

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

Others in Attendance: Mayor Matt Starr, Safety Service Director Tanner Salyers, Auditor Dan Brinkman, Treasurer David Stuller, Law Director Rob Broeren, City Clerk Zac Sherman, City Inspector Scott Zimmerman, Interim Engineer Quentin Platt, Public Utilities Director Aaron Reinhart, Police Chief Morgan, Maureen Hall, David Hall, Madison Sarver, Greg Yashnyk, Matt Jenkins

Severns made a motion to excuse Keener and Mahan. Hager seconded. Excused by unanimous voice vote.

INVOCATION

Pastor Rick Graumlich, Proclamation Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All recited in unison.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Minutes City Council Legislative Meeting 5/26/2026
Minutes City Council Special Meeting 6/2/2026

Severns made a motion to accept the presented minutes. Ruckman seconded. Minutes accepted by unanimous voice vote.

RECEIVE PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

LIQUOR CONTROL LICENSE

PROCLAMATION

PERSONS SPEAKING ON MATTERS OF CITY CONCERN

RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD 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

Ruckman noted that there have been two committee meetings on this Resolution, and that it sounds like a positive arrangement.

ROLL CALL VOTE	Motion to Adopt
RESULT:	Adopted [5 TO 0]
MOVER:	Second Ward John Ruckman
SECONDER:	At-Large Dale Miller
AYES:	LeNan Hager, Mel Severns, John Ruckman, Dale Miller, Taylor Jacklin
NAYS:	None

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

ROLL CALL VOTE	Motion to Adopt
RESULT:	Adopted [5 TO 0]
MOVER:	Second Ward John Ruckman
SECONDER:	At-Large Dale Miller
AYES:	LeNan Hager, Mel Severns, John Ruckman, Dale Miller, Taylor Jacklin
NAYS:	None

RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING

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 2026-60 its second reading.

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 2026-63 its second reading.

RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-67

A RESOLUTION DELINEATING AN OVERLAY IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED ARISTA VILLAS INCENTIVE DISTRICTS WITHIN THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, OHIO; AND ADOPTING A WRITTEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN AS TO SAME; SETTING THE TIME AND PLACE OF A PUBLIC HEARING; AUTHORIZING AND RATIFYING THE GIVING OF NOTICE TO THE MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE KNOX COUNTY CAREER CENTER AND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KNOX COUNTY, OHIO, ALL PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 5709.40(C) AND ITS RELATED RULES AND LAWS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Land Use & Development: Jacklin, Keener

Jacklin gave Resolution 2026-67 its first reading, and requested a 15-minute committee meeting on June 22.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-68

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY AS AN URBAN RENEWAL AREA AND AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO RELEASE A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR IDENTIFYING AND SELECTING A QUALIFIED FIRM OR FIRMS TO DRAFT AN URBAN RENEWAL PLAN FOR THE DESIGNATED URBAN RENEWAL AREA, AND IDENTIFY AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH THE SELECTED FIRM OR FIRMS.

Streets & Public Buildings: Severns, Mahan

Jacklin gave Resolution 2026-68 its first reading, and requested a 10-minute committee meeting on June 22.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-69

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 EAST HIGH STREET; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Streets & Public Buildings: Severns, Mahan

Severns gave Resolution 2026-69 its first reading.

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD 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

Ruckman noted that this cleans up the classification of several City positions, and that there have been committee meetings to discuss the Ordinance.

ROLL CALL VOTE	Motion to Adopt
RESULT:	Adopted [5 TO 0]
MOVER:	Second Ward John Ruckman
SECONDER:	At-Large Mel Severns
AYES:	LeNan Hager, Mel Severns, John Ruckman, Dale Miller, Taylor Jacklin
NAYS:	None

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND 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

Ruckman gave Ordinance 2026-20 its second reading.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-21

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN APPLICATION TO ADD PROPERTY TO THE MOUNT VERNON NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY DISTRICT UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE

CHAPTER 349; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Land Use & Development: Jacklin, Keener

Jacklin gave Ordinance 2026-21 its first reading, and requested a 10-minute committee meeting on June 22.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-22

AN ORDINANCE DETERMINING THAT AN APPLICATION TO ADD PROPERTY TO THE MOUNT VERNON NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY DISTRICT IS SUFFICIENT AND COMPLIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 349.03 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE IN FORM AND SUBSTANCE; SETTING THE TIME AND PLACE FOR A HEARING ON THE APPLICATION AND AUTHORIZING THE NOTICE BY PUBLICATION OF SUCH HEARING; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Land Use & Development: Jacklin, Keener

Jacklin gave Ordinance 2026-22 its first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-23

AN ORDINANCE CONSENTING TO AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF A TIF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON AND RESIDENCES AT FOUNDERS GROVE, LLC FOR THE BENEFIT OF A DEVELOPMENT LOCATED AT 12050 UPPER GILCHRIST ROAD.

Land Use & Development: Jacklin, Keener

Jacklin gave Ordinance 2026-23 its first reading, and requested a 10-minute committee meeting on June 22.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-25

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE NUMBER OF HOURLY EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Employee & Community Relations: Keener, Ruckman

Ruckman gave Ordinance 2026-25 its first reading, and requested a 10-minute committee meeting on June 22.

REMARKS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Starr noted that due to Ohio Law changes, any incentives discussed by Council must be discussed in Executive Session. Starr noted that the Blue Star Family Bell circle is underway and has recently reached a milestone. The Paddle for Heroes event is underway, with members of the City's Firefighter team participating. The critical infrastructure grant the City was considering applying for will be pursued next year, due to time constraints and changes in the Engineering department. The MVMC renovations have gone out to bid and will be coming soon. The City is almost ready to accept a bid for the demolition of the buildings north of 40 Public Square. The Mayor thanked the street department for their hard work during clean-up following the storm. Hiawatha Pool staff did a great job in getting patrons to safety when the storm came.

Safety Service Director Salyers thanked the lifeguard staff at the Hiawatha Pool, Police Department, Fire Department, and Streets crews for their hard work during the storm. He thanked Madison Sarver for being on the scene during the storm as well to make sure information was communicated in a timely manner. There is not as much person-power for post-storm clean up as there was during

the last storm because many Public Works employees are already assigned to other projects throughout the City. The Blue Star Family Bell Circle stone is coming to American Heritage Park soon.

Auditor Brinkman welcomed Quentin Platt as Interim City Engineer. He thanked Brian Ball for his years of service.

REMARKS FROM COUNCIL

Hager noted that Saturday (June 13) is Hellbender Day at Ariel Foundation Park. A Hellbender is a salamander that is a sign of a healthy ecosystem in the Appalachian area.

Miller thanked all involved in the recent First Friday. Also noted that the Knox County Fishing Derby is on June 20.

Ruckman wished all a Happy Father's Day. He noted that the French Porch Concert series will kick off on June 19.

Severns thanked City crews, police, and fire department for their work during and following the storm. It was clarified that if a tree is resting on a live power line, City crews cannot touch it, but must instead wait for AEP.

Hawkins stated that his heart goes out to all those who suffered damage during the storm.

ADJOURN AT THE CALL OF THE PRESIDENT

Severns made a motion to adjourn. Ruckman seconded. Adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 7:56 p.m.

Bruce E. Hawkins, President of Council

Zac Sherman, Clerk of Council