

**City Council Minutes
Legislative Session**



August 24, 2026

VIDEO BROADCASTING & RECORDING

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mount Vernon City Council
Committee Meeting Schedule
August 24, 2026

Time	Topic Under Discussion	Committee
6:45 – 6:55 p.m.	Ordinance 2026-29 Fire Department Employees	Employee & Comm. Relations - Keener
6:55 – 7:05 p.m.	Ordinance 2026-30 Contract with Enterprise Fleet Management	Finance & Budget - Mahan
7:05 – 7:15 p.m.	E-Bike Survey Results	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 First Ward James Mahan At-Large Mel Severns Second Ward John Ruckman At-Large Dale Miller 3rd Ward Taylor Jacklin	At-Large Amber Keener

Others in Attendance: Mayor Matt Starr, Auditor Dan Brinkman, Treasurer David Stuller, Law Director Rob Broeren, City Clerk Zac Sherman, City Inspector Scott Zimmerman, Public Utilities Director Aaron Reinhart, Public Information Officer Madison Sarver, Maureen Hall, David Hall, Cheryl Splain, Greg Yashnyk, Nate Hines, Joshua Morrison, Mark Bowen, Adam Burkam, 9 others. Severns made a motion to excuse Ms. Keener. Mahan seconded. Keener excused by unanimous voice vote.

INVOCATION

Rev. Charles Wilson, St. Paul Episcopal Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All recited in unison.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Minutes City Council Legislative Session August 10, 2026

Severns made a motion to excuse approve the minutes of the August 10, 2026 minutes. Mahan seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

RECEIVE PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Budget Committee Minutes August 10, 2026

Land Use and Development Public Hearing Minutes August 10, 2026

Reports received without comment.

LIQUOR CONTROL LICENSE

PROCLAMATION

PERSONS SPEAKING ON MATTERS OF CITY CONCERN

Myron Scott - Sidewalks

Myron Scott spoke about adding sidewalks near where he lives on Teryl drive, along Eastwood Drive, and down to the gas station. It's a nice way for people in the home to get out and about.

Summer spoke as well, noting that folks who are unstable or in a wheelchair cannot get off the road when traffic is incoming, which creates an unsafe situation if they wish to walk. The area in question is from Eastwood Drive over to Teryl Drive.

Mark Bowen spoke regarding Flock Cameras. His areas of concern: since Mount Vernon has acquired the cameras, should the police force be downsized? Data retention for some flock participants are down to 7 days from 30. Has Mount Vernon done the same? The Police Chief mentioned that someone is auditing the camera usage. Where is the oversight if it is done from within? Flock recommends a third party for audits. LPRs are misreading plates and ruining lives. If Council has the City's best interests in mind, shouldn't the cameras be bagged and addressed? He noted that some people are more interested in making a name for themselves than in addressing community concerns.

Josh Morrison spoke regarding Flock Cameras. He noted that it has been a month since he addressed Council. He appreciates that the City is looking at changing policies regarding ALPR usage since that time. He requests that the City turn the cameras off and end the contract with Flock. The Knox County Sheriff and hundreds of Cities across the country have dropped contracts. Regarding privacy, the Chief of Police said that people shouldn't have an expectation of privacy when they're driving. The Fourth Amendment doesn't stop on the road. Citizens are told that without these cameras, crimes will increase. Mount Vernon will become a soft target. Flock cameras have assisted the City with around forty cases. Those cases matter, but does it justify collecting data on thousands of people who are not criminals? Put people's names on usage. Release audits. Who has access to the information in the system? Are the safeguards working? Being told to just "trust us" is not sufficient. Turn the cameras off.

Adam Burkam asked who hires and fires for City positions? He noted that he had a property broken into, and was told by the Chief of Police that he (Morgan) decides what gets investigated. He has video of City employees breaking into his property, stealing things, and defacing the property] He talked to the Safety Service Director, and then a week later, his property was broken into again. Suspicious. Police are following him, and harassing him. Code Enforcement and Safety Service need to be held accountable for trespassing. There was no warrant. Code Enforcement tore down Burkam's fence so that they could send him a letter that the fence was broken. In regards to Flock Cameras: are the two outside city limits the City's or the township's?

RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD READING

RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-87

A RESOLUTION RENAMING SHELLMAR PARK IN HONOR OF JOHN FRANCIS.

Parks & Recreation: Hager, Jacklin

LeNan Hager made a motion to suspend the rules and take RESOLUTION 2026-87 to its third and final reading. Taylor Jacklin seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. LeNan Hager made a motion to adopt. Taylor Jacklin seconded. Hawkins noted that he served with Mr. John Francis from 2012-2023. Francis worked diligently to reduce drug proliferation in the second ward. He was instrumental in transforming Shellmar Park into what it is today. During that process, he invited people to Riverside Shelter House for multiple listening sessions. The Shelter House would be packed. John Francis went to the people, and it is fitting to honor him in this way. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE	Motion to Adopt
RESULT:	Adopted [6 TO 0]
MOVER:	Fourth Ward LeNan Hager
SECONDER:	3rd Ward Taylor Jacklin
AYES:	LeNan Hager, James Mahan, Mel Severns, John Ruckman, Dale Miller, Taylor Jacklin
NAYS:	None

RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-89

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT AND ENTER INTO A WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND (WPCLF) AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON FOR PLANNING, DESIGN AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF WASTEWATER FACILITIES; DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Utilities: Ruckman, Miller

Ruckman gave Resolution 2026-89 its first reading.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-90

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

Finance & Budget: Mahan, Severns

Mahan gave Resolution 2026-90 its first reading, and requested a 5-minute committee meeting on August 24.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-91

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 2026-91 to its third and final reading. Mel Severns seconded. Mahan noted that this is a current bill for services rendered. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. James Mahan made a motion to adopt. Mel Severns seconded. Auditor Brinkman noted that this is for new software. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE	Motion to Adopt
RESULT:	Adopted [6 TO 0]
MOVER:	First Ward James Mahan

SECONDER:	At-Large Mel Severns
AYES:	LeNan Hager, James Mahan, Mel Severns, John Ruckman, Dale Miller, Taylor Jacklin
NAYS:	None

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-92

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE (GMP) PACKAGE NO.2 FOR CERTAIN COMPONENTS OF THE MOUNT VERNON POLICE STATION PROJECT AS SET FORTH IN EXHIBIT A, PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S AGREEMENT WITH THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Finance & Budget: Mahan, Severns

Mahan gave Resolution 2026-90 its first reading, and requested a Special Meeting of Council on September 7th at 5:30 p.m. to discuss this Resolution.

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-29

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

Employee & Community Relations: Keener, Ruckman

Ruckman gave Ordinance 2026-29 its second reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-30

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH ENTERPRISE FLEET MANAGEMENT FOR THE LEASING OF CITY VEHICLES.

Finance & Budget: Mahan, Severns

Mahan gave Ordinance 2026-30 its second reading, and requested a 10-minute committee meeting on September 14. He requested that Streets/Engineering Department Heads be present to discuss their views on the proposed Enterprise Fleet Management plan.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-31

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1305 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Utilities: Ruckman, Miller

Ruckman gave Ordinance 2026-31 its first reading.

REMARKS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Starr:

Congratulated Dan Brinkman and Brittany Whitney on their new baby, and Tanner and Randi Salyers on their new baby. Thank you to Mrs. Hager for covering Bill Barbour Day at Irish Hills. Local stars will be presenting tomorrow at the Washington Forum, Cheryl Splain amongst them. One thing that stood out about the E-Bike discussion was the focus on education. Mount Vernon is ahead of the curve on this; the City had 68 youngsters participate in Safety Town, which was done in conjunction with the police and school district. The Music and Arts Festival was great. Looking forward to the last First Friday in September. The City will have a booth there. He wished all a Happy Labor Day, noting that he will see Council for a short meeting that evening.

Auditor Daniel Brinkman:

Thanked God and his wife for the birth of Michael Lawrence.

Treasure David Stuller:

Congrats to Dan and Tanner. Noted that he served with John Fancis. Noted that he is surveilled all the time, and has had his identity stolen. Flock cameras do not rise to that same level of concern.

REMARKS FROM COUNCIL

Taylor Jacklin:

Noted that he is concerned about Flock Cameras and that his image is captured in stores. There are closed-loop ALPRs. The problem with Flock is that it is a cloud-based service. Anyone can search it. It doesn't have to be Mount Vernon's police officers. This creates a level of accountability that Mount Vernon is not prepared for.

Mel Severns:

Congratulations to all those families who are having babies. He asked Mr. Brinkman to give some information on what TIF money has done for the City of Mount Vernon. He asked for that info because there will be a vote on the Arista Villas TIF upcoming. It is important to see how much the TIF has done to improve Mount Vernon.

Brinkman: since the beginning of 2020, 10.7 million has been spent through Coshocton TIF. Water mine improvements, retaining walls, battery backups for lights. Streets improvements. Cleaning stormwater pond. Traffic signal retiming. Strategic plan initiatives. Wastewater Treatment Plant phosphorous designs. Underground videography. Sidewalks, resurfacing, pedestrian crossings, Cattle Dam work, ramps.

Jay Mahan:

Congrats to Zac, Tanner, and Dan on the additions to their families. He added his support to a third-party audit to Flock Cameras. Increasing safeguards at the State-level is important too, and the penalties therein. Noted that he appreciates Council's willingness to meet on September 7. The final number for GMP 2 will be available before that day.

Dale Miller:

Thank you to the community members who came out to speak today. Apologized to Mr. Morrison for not having answered his emails yet. When Miller has the answers, he will get them to Morrison and the public. He seconded Mr. Jacklin's sentiments regarding the Flock Cameras. As ALPRs are investigated more, there will be another committee meeting on it, and the City will move toward resolution.

John Ruckman: Requested that Resolution 2026-89 be added to the Special Meeting on September 7th. He noted that Council has already authorized this WPCLF in the past, but need to reauthorize it again.

ADJOURN AT THE CALL OF THE PRESIDENT

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

Bruce E. Hawkins, President of Council

Zac Sherman, Clerk of Council