

**City Council Minutes
Legislative Session**



September 14, 2026

VIDEO BROADCASTING & RECORDING

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mount Vernon City Council
Committee Meeting Schedule
September 14, 2026

Time	Topic Under Discussion	Committee
6:35 – 6:45 p.m.	Annexation Process	Land Use & Development - Jacklin
6:45 – 6:55 p.m.	Ordinance 2026-30 Enterprise Fleet Management	Finance & Budget - Mahan
6:55 – 7:00 p.m.	Resolution 2026-90 Supplemental Appropriations	Finance & Budget - Mahan
7:00 – 7:15 p.m.	Center Run Creek Footbridge on E Chestnut	Parks & Recreation - Hager

MEETING WILL RECESS UNTIL 7:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Present	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	

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, Public Utilities Director Aaron Reinhart, Maureen Hall, David Hall, Lydia Grimes, Nathan Hines, Fire Chief Christopher, Joshua Morrison, Bret Yutzy, Cheryl Splain, Myron Scott, Pastor Ben Driver, 9 others.

INVOCATION

Pastor Ben Driver, Mount Vernon Church of Christ

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All recited in unison.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

City Council Minutes August 24, 2026

City Council Special Meeting Minutes September 7, 2026

Keener made a motion to approve the Minutes of the August 24 and September 7 meetings of City Council. Severns seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

RECEIVE PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Petition to Add Sidewalks Along Teryl Drive and Eastwood Drive, Received on August 24, 2026

RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Budget Committee Report August 24, 2026

E-Bike Survey and Report August 24, 2026

Employee & Community Relations Committee Report August 24, 2026

Received without comment.

LIQUOR CONTROL LICENSE

PROCLAMATION

PERSONS SPEAKING ON MATTERS OF CITY CONCERN

Sallie Bowen (Flock Contract Termination)

Noted that she was happy to read that the City's Flock Contract may not be renewed. With regards to the contract, she put in a record request for the Flock Contract. Based on her reading of the contract, the City still has 9 months left on the contract. In Columbus, there are discussions about either bagging or taking down the cameras. In other towns where contracts have been terminated, Flock continues to record through the previously installed cameras. How will the City ensure that private information that has been collected since 2023 will be addressed? She put in a request for audit logs for the Flock Cameras. The request was denied for being overly proud. Will the public ever see the audit logs so that they know no malfeasance was done? Can police access information from private cameras?

Dave Serrino (ALPRs & Road Resurfacing)

Asked what can Law Enforcement do now with the cameras that they couldn't do before? Who funded the grants that funded the cameras in Mount Vernon. The issue of privacy cuts across party lines. Road maintenance: Venture Drive and E Chestnut were resurfaced. Yauger and Upper Gilchrist seem like they have never been resurfaced. Does the City have a resurfacing plan for the City's roads? If there is a plan, is it publicly available?

Aaron Stepp (Flock Cameras)

Asked if citizens are allowed to put trash bags on the Flock Cameras, noting that privacy is very important. Privacy is each person's right.

Mark Bowen (Public Service Reminder)

Noted that the speed limit on South Gay St. is 25 mph. At the last Council Meeting, someone pulled out of the parking lot, after Council, going far too fast.

RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD READING

RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND 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 made a motion to amend RESOLUTION 2026-90 as presented in writing. Severns seconded. Amended by unanimous roll call vote. Mahan made a motion to suspend the rules and take RESOLUTION 2026-90 to its third and final reading. Severns seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. James Mahan made a motion to adopt as amended. Mel Severns seconded. Mahan noted that there had been a committee meeting earlier that day. He asked if there were any lingering questions. There were not. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE	Motion to Adopt as Amended
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

RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-93
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE
DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, OHIO TO ENTER INTO
CONTRACT WITH HOLISTICALLY YOURZ LLC TO LEASE THE PROPERTY
WITH THE STREET ADDRESS OF 46 PUBLIC SQUARE; AND DECLARING
AN EMERGENCY.
Streets & Public Buildings: Severns, Mahan

Mel Severns made a motion to suspend the rules and take RESOLUTION 2026-93 to its third and final reading. James Mahan seconded. Severns noted that this is a lease that can be signed and start bringing in revenue, so it does not make sense to wait to approve it. 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. 2026-94
A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF
MAXWELL LEANING AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE CIVIL SERVICE
COMMISSION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Employee & Community Relations: Keener, Ruckman

Amber Keener made a motion to suspend the rules and take RESOLUTION 2026-94 to its third and final reading. John Ruckman seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Amber Keener made a motion to adopt. John Ruckman seconded. Mayor Starr noted that Maxwell Leaning is the newest member of the Area Development Foundation, and will fulfill the unexpired term of Julia Suggs from the Area Development Foundation. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE	Motion to Adopt
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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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-95

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO DISPOSE OF VEHICLES IN THE POLICE 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 2026-95 to its third and final reading. Mel Severns seconded. Mahan noted that it is wise to dispose of these vehicles and bring in revenue. 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. 2026-96

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE CITY'S USE OF AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER TECHNOLOGY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Police, Fire, and Civil Defense: Miller, Hager

Miller gave Resolution 2026-96 its first reading, and requested a 10-minute committee meeting on September 28.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-97

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON TO TRANSFER FUNDS.

Finance & Budget: Mahan, Severns

James Mahan made a motion to suspend the rules and take RESOLUTION 2026-97 to its third and final reading. Mel Severns seconded. Brinkman noted that these transfers are connected to a Then & Now, and a vendor who is waiting to be paid. 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. 2026-98

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 2026-98 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 noted that these funds were discussed during last budget's planning cycle, but weren't encumbered at that time. 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. 2026-26

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TWO INCENTIVE DISTRICTS AND
DECLARING IMPROVEMENTS TO CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY WITHIN
THE INCENTIVE DISTRICTS TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE, AND EXEMPT
FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXATION; IDENTIFYING CERTAIN PUBLIC
INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS MADE, TO BE MADE, OR IN THE
PROCESS OF BEING MADE, THAT WILL BENEFIT OR SERVE THE
PARCELS IN THE INCENTIVE DISTRICTS; REQUIRING THE OWNERS OF
THOSE PARCELS TO MAKE SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF REAL
PROPERTY TAXES; ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC
IMPROVEMENT TAX INCREMENT EQUIVALENT FUND FOR THE DEPOSIT
OF SUCH SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES;
APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A
TAX INCREMENT FINANCING AGREEMENT WITH ARISTA VILLAS
MOUNT VERNON, LLC AND OTHER AGREEMENTS; AND APPROVING
RELATED MATTERS.

Land Use & Development: Jacklin, Keener

Jacklin made a motion to adopt. Keener seconded. Jacklin noted that he did contact County organizations that would lose funds should this TIF go into effect. The Veterans' Association said that their funding is sufficient, even with the TIF going into effect. However, if every future development implements a TIF, it would negatively impact them. The Mayor noted that every project is different. One of these reasons to use these different financial incentive tools is to prevent the City from paying for unexpected infrastructure needs in the future and burdening the tax payers at large. Adopted by a roll call vote of 6-1, with Miller voting no.

ROLL CALL VOTE	Motion to Adopt
RESULT:	Adopted [6 TO 1]
MOVER:	3rd Ward Taylor Jacklin
SECONDER:	At-Large Amber Keener
AYES:	LeNan Hager, Amber Keener, James Mahan, Mel Severns, John Ruckman, Taylor Jacklin
NAYS:	Dale Miller

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

Keener made a motion to adopt. 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

ORDINANCES FOR 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

Reading corrected from second to third.

Mahan made a motion to postpone Ordinance 2026-30 to September 28. Severns seconded.

Postponed by unanimous roll call vote.

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 second reading, and requested a 10-minute committee meeting on September 28.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-32
AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 511 OF THE CODIFIED
ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, STATE OF OHIO.

Police, Fire, and Civil Defense: Miller, Hager

Miller gave Ordinance 2026-32 its first reading, and requested a 5-minute committee meeting on September 28.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-33
AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE NUMBER OF HOURLY EMPLOYEES IN THE

CITY OF MOUNT VERNON IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS;
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Employee & Community Relations: Keener, Ruckman

Keener gave Ordinance 2026-33 its first reading, and requested a 10-minute committee meeting on September 28.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-34

AN ORDINANCE CONSENTING TO THE ANNEXATION OF 1.519 ACRES,
PARCEL NUMBER 49-00510.000, FROM MONROE TOWNSHIP INTO THE
CITY OF MOUNT VERNON; PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN CITY SERVICES
TO THE ANNEXED PARCEL AND PROVIDING PROTECTIONS AGAINST
INCOMPATIBLE USES UNDER EXISTING TOWNSHIP ZONING; AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Land Use & Development: Jacklin, Keener

Taylor Jacklin made a motion to suspend the rules and take to its third and final reading. Amber Keener seconded. Rules suspended by unanimous roll call vote. Jacklin noted that the reason for the suspension was due to ORC deadlines and regulations. Taylor Jacklin made a motion to adopt. Amber Keener seconded. Adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

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

REMARKS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Starr noted that the Pickleball Courts are under way at Riverside Park. Construction will start in 2027. The City has a salt contract for the year that is significantly more expensive than last year. The salt barn is also underway. Next Wednesday, at the Woodward, is a special screening of “Our Story: 200 Years,” a film from 2005, celebrating the history of Mount Vernon City. A free event. United Way kickoff is coming up. He would like to increase City participation in this. The United Way supports numerous programs in the City. The sustainability summit through MORPC is in October and there are seats available.

Safety Service Director Salyers noted that the City has taken into account feedback from the public on ALPR Technology. The City seeks to hold two things at the same time: tools for public safety, and the constitutional rights of the City’s citizens. Some of the larger questions regarding ALPR will need to be settled in larger courts and legislators. This piece of legislation allows the initial contract with Flock to expire on October 25th. There will then be a twelve-month moratorium on the technology. Both candidates for Governor of Ohio have expressed willingness to sign a ban on ALPRs. It is likely that the new assembly will address ALPRs, in some way. The City did explore additional guardrails for ALPR use, but that did not seem prudent given the work involved and the uncertain future of ALPRs. Original funding for the Flock grant came from the federal government. Renewal of such funding at the federal level is unlikely.

Treasurer David Stuller noted that he attended the 9/11 tribute last Friday. It was well done and meaningful.

REMARKS FROM COUNCIL

Mel Severns: The City has a street plan. Yauger Rd. and Mansfield are on it. Repaving streets is expensive, and sometimes comes down to funding.

LeNan Hager: Thank you to everyone who participated in the 9/11 memorial service last Friday. It was beautiful, humbling, and extraordinary. We will never forget heroes and victims. Thank you to First Responders who offer their lives every day.

Taylor Jacklin: Yauger Rd. is on the list to get repaved. It was pushed back because of the issues with the Cattle Dam. The work

should be done next year. There is a publicly available plan for redoing the streets. Also, thank you to everyone who has made their opinions known. When local government hears you, they respond. He encouraged all citizens to continue to make their voices heard.

Jay Mahan: Budget season is approaching. Council, get with your departments, as needed. Massive projects are coming up, buildings need to be emptied and demolished, and capital expenditures will be thin. Sidewalks in multiple areas are needed, Yauger Rd. needs to be repaved. This is not an easy conversation, but a necessary one.

President Hawkins: The Wizard of Oz is phenomenal. He encouraged any who have not seen it, to go do so. Middle Earth March on Saturday. Graham Nash concert is coming up, as well, on October 8th.

ADJOURN AT THE CALL OF THE PRESIDENT

Keener made a motion to adjourn. Severns seconded. Adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Bruce E. Hawkins, President of Council

Zac Sherman, Clerk of Council