

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Minutes of the Special Vermilion City Council Meeting

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

Monday, July 13, 2026

20 _____

Held _____

Videos, minutes, and agendas of council meetings are available to the public to view online at www.cityofvermilionohio.gov under "Council Activity" and click on "Agendas, Minutes and Meeting Videos".

CALL TO ORDER:

Jeff Lucas, President of Council called the Monday, July 13, 2026, Special Vermilion City Council Meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The members of the City Council, the administrative staff, and audience members recited the Pledge of Allegiance; a moment of silence followed.

ROLL CALL:

Vermilion City Council: Jeff Lucas, President of Council; John Gabriel, Ward One; Drew Werley, Ward Three; Homer Taft, Ward Four; Alec Bonawit, Ward Five; Melanie Wood, Clerk of Council. Absent: Gary Howell, Council at Large; Greg Drew, Ward Two.

Administrative Staff: Mayor Owens; Chad Angney, Finance Director; Scott Orille, Assistant Law Director.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

READING OF THE RESOLUTIONS:

Tabled - Third Reading – Resolution 2026R-4: A RESOLUTION APPROVING A SHORE STRUCTURE IN THE SUBMERGED LANDS, IN LAKE ERIE.

Third Reading – Resolution 2026R-6: A RESOLUTION AMENDING 2024R-1 AND APPROVING THE AUTHORIZATION TO USE ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS FROM THE LORAIN COUNTY AUDITOR.

J. Lucas MOVED: A. Bonawit seconded to adopt Resolution 2026R-6. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Second Reading – Resolution 2026R-7: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF VERMILION TO EXECUTE AND FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE STATE OF OHIO FOR FINANCIAL AID ASSISTANCE UNDER THE NATUREWORKS GRANT PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

J. Gabriel MOVED: J. Lucas seconded to suspend the rules on Resolution 2026R-7. Discussion: D. Werley asked what the emergency was. M. Wood answered the deadline for submission is July 17, 2026. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

J. Gabriel MOVED: H. Taft seconded to declare an emergency on Resolution 2026R-7. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

J. Lucas MOVED: A. Bonawit seconded to adopt Resolution 2026R-7. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Second Reading – Resolution 2026R-8: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF VERMILION TO EXECUTE AND FILE AN APPLICATION WITH ERIE COUNTY FOR FINANCIAL AID ASSISTANCE UNDER THE EPIC CVB GRANT PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

H. Taft MOVED: J. Gabriel seconded to suspend the rules on Resolution 2026R-8. Discussion: D. Werley asked if this was for the Epic Grant. J. Lucas answered yes. D. Werley said they filed a petition for two different Epic Grants, is this for both of them? One is for Haley Street and the other is for Main Street Beach and he wasn't sure if both of those were put together. J. Lucas answered this is for the Sherod Park Beach and he wasn't sure if both of those were put together. J. Lucas answered this is for the Sherod Park north and south parking lots and the deadline has already passed on this one. Mayor Owens said the north parking lot is separated from the south parking lot on these grants. They are not tied together, one is the Natureworks Grant. H. Taft said the one they just approved was for the north parking lot and this is for the south parking lot. J. Gabriel said the key point is that this is to pave a parking lot with outside money. Let's

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not lose the baby with the bathwater on this one. D. Werley said he didn't think anyone was doing that, he just wanted clarification because he was confused about the documentation they received from the Mayor for Epic CVB about Haley Street reconstruction, so he wanted to make sure what they were voting on. H. Taft said for clarity, if possible, they might have some money because there is some match, but they believe they will have other things to match besides additional funds. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

H. Taft MOVED: J. Gabriel seconded to declare an emergency on Resolution 2026R-8. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

J. Gabriel MOVED: J. Lucas seconded to adopt Resolution 2026R-8. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Second Reading – Resolution 2026R-9: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF VERMILION, OHIO, TO ACCEPT THE AWARD OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000) THROUGH THE 136TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY CAPITAL BUDGET COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUND FOR THE SHOWSE PARK REVITALIZATION AND TRANSFORMATION PROJECT PHASE 3 (SPORTS COMPLEX) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Alec Bonawit MOVED: J. Gabriel seconded to suspend the rules on Resolution 2026R-9. Discussion: H. Taft asked J. Lucas if it was compelling that they need to file it tonight and is it also necessary that it must be an emergency. J. Lucas answered it would be beneficial to the bid package going out and to meet the deadlines for asphalt production. So, absolutely yes. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

H. Taft MOVED: A. Bonawit seconded to declare an emergency on Resolution 2026R-9. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

H. Taft MOVED: A. Bonawit seconded to adopt Resolution 2026R-9. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Second Reading – Resolution 2026R-10: A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ERIE COUNTY NATURAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

J. Lucas asked if they wanted to move this as an emergency tonight. J. Gabriel said it is 850 pages and it is going to take a little time. The person who sent them the document said there was only one change, and it is what they approved years ago but it is a big document and needs to be looked at. J. Lucas asked if he knew what section the change was in. J. Gabriel said he would have M. Wood forward the email, that was the same question he had for the administrator who sent the document.

J. Lucas thanked M. Wood for getting the information so quickly, she did a yeomen's job in getting that and the two Resolutions updated with the typo from Showse to Sherod Park.

J. Gabriel said one of the things that did stick with him from the last meeting and he would like to say right now is that he feels that they were throwing the clerk under the bus at the last meeting. The Parks Meeting was on July 17th, and they got the minutes shortly thereafter. He gets the first reading thing, and he respects it greatly that people don't want to pass things on first readings and it gets rushed and a lot of times things are passed without the appropriate documentation brought forward with the Resolution or the Ordinance. But the only thing he didn't like when he went home and thought about it was the fact that they still got everything on time, and he feels that she was put in the crosshairs at the last meeting and she should be outside of what their actions are. Really, she is just here to deliver Council whatever paperwork is required. He didn't like the tenor of it all and he wanted to make that statement. He felt the documentation he had outside of the 850-page item which they weren't going to work on that evening anyways – the rest of it wasn't anything he would have been uncomfortable with especially since it was outside money without strings attached.

H. Taft said since he was one of the people who had a concern he would respond. First of all, he certainly intended no criticism of the Council Clerk, that wasn't the point. Although the Resolution – and it was a mistake anyone can make said Showse Park which is what he concentrated on, not Sherod Park and it wasn't until shortly before the meeting that he knew it was Sherod Park and had a chance to go back and read the Parks report for that item. In addition, they had not been provided with the grant applications, and

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he has said probably a dozen times now that he is not going to vote favorably on anything that relies on documents that they don't get to see. He is not going to do it ever.

Alec Bonawit said he agrees with both his colleagues on their points and he wants to thank the Mayor for getting them copies of the grants. He truly appreciates that and he hopes in the future they will get a copy of the grant ASAP so they can review it and they can be more educated when they sit here in front of everybody and make decisions.

ADJOURNMENT:

After no further discussion, J. Lucas adjourned the Special Vermilion City Council Meeting.

Transcribed by: Melanie Wood, Clerk of Council (July 17, 2026)