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City Clerk

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**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois  
Regular City Council Meeting  
Monday, October 4, 2021  
7:00 p.m.**

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, October 4, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber at City Hall, 1100 Main Street, Mt. Vernon, Illinois. Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/MtVernonIL>. Log-in for the meeting is <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/357016389> Call in Number: (872) 240-3212, Access Code: 357-016-389.

Mayor John Lewis opened the meeting.

Pastor Brian Fuller from First Baptist Church of Woodlawn led the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call showed present: Council Member Ray Botch, Council Member Mike Young, and Mayor John Lewis. Absent: Council Member Joe Gliosci and Council Member Donte Moore.

**PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS**

The Journals for the September 17, 2021 Budget Review Workshop and the September 20, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting were presented for approval.

**Council Member Ray Botch motioned to approve the Journals as presented. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Botch, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Gliosci and Moore.**

**VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE**

None.

**APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

The Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable were presented to Council for approval.

**Council Member Ray Botch motioned to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,302,875.89. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Botch, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Gliosci and Moore.**

**BIDS AND QUOTES**

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel presented bid results for the South 44<sup>th</sup> Street and Mateer Drive Road Construction Project. The low bidder was Shores Builders with a bid of \$1,674,959.30. The City Engineer's estimate was \$1.7 million. This will be paid from the 2020 Bond proceeds. Staff recommendation is to award this bid to Shores Builders.

Baxmeyer Construction	\$2,071,737.77
E.T. Simonds Construction	\$2,232,317.06
Guinzy Construction	\$1,933,780.76
Samron Midwest Contracting	\$2,042,113.82
Shores Builders Inc.	\$1,674,959.30

**Council Member Mike Young motioned to accept the bid results for the South 44<sup>th</sup> Street and Mateer Drive Road Construction Project from Shores Builders for \$1,674,959.30. Seconded by Council Member Ray Botch. Yeas: Botch, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Gliosci and Moore.**

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel presented bid results for the Downtown Mt. Vernon Sidewalk & Curb 2021 Project. Luke Rollie Concrete was the low bidder on this project at \$39,345.15. This is for the sidewalk and curb in front of Angels on Assignment and sidewalk replacement on the north side of the Court House. Staff recommendation is to award the bid to Luke Rollie Concrete.

Luke Rollie Concrete	\$39,345.15
Guinzy Construction	\$54,002.62
Bevis Construction	\$58,930.00

**Council Member Ray Botch motioned to accept the bid results for the Downtown Mt. Vernon Sidewalk & Curb 2021 Project from Luke Rollie Concrete for \$39,345.15. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Botch, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Gliosci and Moore.**

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel presented bid results for the Optimist Park Box Culvert Project. This is for the replacement and improvement of the box culvert on the east end of Optimist Park. The low bidder is Piney Creek Construction & Repair, Inc. from Anna, IL at \$26,277.14. Staff recommendation is to award the bid to Piney Creek Construction & Repair, Inc.

Trotter Excavation	\$34,420.00
Guinzy Construction	\$28,391.00
Bevis Construction	\$37,734.00
Piney Creek Construction	\$26,277.14
Samron Midwest	\$43,994.00

**Council Member Mike Young motioned to accept the bid results for the Optimist Park Box Culvert Project from Piney Creek Construction & Repair, Inc. for \$26,277.14. Seconded by Council Member Ray Botch. Yeas: Botch, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Gliosci and Moore.**

#### **CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested a Street Closure for 9<sup>th</sup> Street Between Main Street and Harrison Street on October 14, 2021, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a Vendor Fair. Requesting Party: Granada Theatre. Staff recommendation is to approve the closure.

**Council Member Mike Young motioned to grant permission for a Street Closure for 9<sup>th</sup> Street Between Main Street and Harrison Street on October 14, 2021, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a Vendor Fair. Requesting Party: Granada Theatre. Seconded by Council Member Ray Botch. Yeas: Botch, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Gliosci and Moore.**

#### **CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney David Leggans presented for First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Article 21, Section 21-300 "Schedule of District Regulations" of the Revised Code of Ordinances Regarding Conditional Use Language for Cannabis Dispensing Organizations. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel stated this amends the conditional use for cannabis dispensing organizations to align with the same regulations as an alcohol dispensing organization to one hundred feet distance from any church, day care, pre-school facility, primary or secondary school or residential care home as measured from each property line.

**First Reading was held.**

City Attorney David Leggans presented a Resolution to Approve an Agreement with Farnsworth Group, Inc. for Architect Services Relating to the City of Mt. Vernon Police Station Project. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that in consideration of the new energy regulations in the State of Illinois, it is anticipated there will be an increase in the cost of energy. In meeting with Ameren, it is believed that it will be beneficial to change the fixtures and electrical requirements for the new police station and to apply for the refunds and benefits that are allowed through Ameren. This is beyond the original scope of the contract with Farnsworth. The cost of this agreement is \$6,000.00, expecting a savings of at least \$12,000.00 in rebates, not including the savings on energy in the future.

**Council Member Mike Young motioned to approve a Resolution to Approve an Agreement with Farnsworth Group, Inc. for Architect Services Relating to the City of Mt. Vernon Police Station Project. Seconded by Council Member Ray Botch. Yeas: Botch, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Gliosci and Moore.**

**MAYOR**

Mayor Lewis gave comments on the recent car burglaries (see attached).

Mayor Lewis gave the September 2021 Status Update (see attached).

**CITY COUNCIL**

None.

**VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Council Member Mike Young motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member Ray Botch. Yeas: Botch, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Gliosci and Moore.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Barbour, Deputy City Clerk

## I'M BEGGING YOU --- DON'T MAKE YOURSELF AN EASY TARGET

Our police department works diligently every single day to keep our citizens safe. I'm asking our citizens to be more aware of what is happening and take a bit more responsibility to safeguard their belongings. With the very rare exception, all of the car burglaries and car thefts occurring within our city were preventable. People are leaving their keys in the ignition overnight just inviting the criminals to take their car. People are leaving valuables such as money and weapons in vehicles that aren't even locked. The only vehicles that have had windows actually busted out were the ones that left valuables in plain sight just asking the criminal to take them. We unfortunately live in a time that you can't leave valuables in your car, you can't leave your doors unlocked, you can't leave your garage door open, because basically you're always worried that some hooligan will run off with anything that is not bolted down.

These criminals roam our neighborhoods at night going from car to car and ransacking those left unlocked. If they're locked, and they don't see any valuables in plain sight, they just move on to the next easy target. I'm amazed at the numbers of cars left unlocked that contain weapons and or large amounts of cash. This does nothing but emboldens these criminals to keep going for the next big haul from someone who did not attempt to protect their own property from these hooligans.

As you've heard me report each month on how busy our police department is, it would be ludicrous to think that your police could do more. We don't have enough manpower to keep up with our "crimes against persons" much less simple property crimes especially those that could have easily been prevented. Many departments in today's world do not even respond to these types of theft reports anymore. They take your information over the phone and leave it to you and your insurance company.

So please take a moment and think like a thief before you leave your car or your house - to keep yourself from losing your stuff...

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"

Most of the time, our citizens are completely unaware of the hard work that your dedicated employees do each and every day. Just in the month of September, they had two major crisis's come up that redirected their attention and efforts off of their daily jobs.

Building on 9<sup>th</sup> between Jordan and Broadway

Major sewer leak on lift station 14

**Sept 2021**

## **Police, Fire, Public Works, & Inspection Department Activity Summary (your tax dollars at work)**

For the month of September, the Mt. Vernon Police Department handled 1916 calls which equals to about 64 calls each and every day. 134 people were arrested during the month. There were 137 Criminal charges, 18 drug charges and 57 warrants served. They also conducted 302 traffic stops resulting in 109 citations. They responded to 127 traffic crashes, arrested 14 for DUI and answered 108 alarms. The Detective Division was assigned 47 new cases, cleared 12 by arrest and referred 15 cases to the States Attorney. Our K9 team had 12 deployments and there were 2 High Risk Team activations.

The Fire Department responded to 405 alarms and calls. The City Hall station answered 195 alarms, the Airport station answered 23 alarms, and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street station answered 187 alarms. Of the responses, 281 were recorded as EMS related, 9 of the responses were recorded as fire related, and 12 of the responses were recorded as hazard related. They responded to 2 structure fires, 5 outside rubbish fire, 1 passenger vehicle fire, 14 motor vehicle crashes with injuries, 5 gas leaks, 27 false alarms, and gave mutual aid on 2 calls and received mutual aid on 4 calls for the month. The Fire Inspection Dept. performed 1 business site inspection, 3 consultations and 2 Plan Reviews. The Fire Prevention Division performed 6 public education event, 1 car seat inspection, 1 school fire drill, 1 educational in-service and 1 Red Cross Blood Drive for the month. October is host for National Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is "Learn the Sounds of Safety". It's important to learn the different sounds of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. When an alarm makes noise, a beeping sound or a chirping sound, you must take action! Make sure everyone in the home understands the sounds of the alarms and knows how to respond. A continuous set of three loud beeps means smoke or fire, get out, call 911 and stay out. A single chirp every 30 to 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be changed. All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years. Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.

Our Public Utilities Department responded to 7 water breaks, exercised 100 valves, flushed 54 fire hydrants, processed 192 JULIE locates, handled 328 work orders, had 172 red letter disconnects, 24 landscaping site restorations, 10 concrete site restorations, 1 new tap inspection, collected 20 water samples and had 6 boil water orders.

Engineering and Inspection Department. There were 80 nuisance postings along with 24 nuisance abatements. There were 2 -- 10-A inspections and 2 certificates of occupancies were issued. 2 properties were condemned. The total # of condemned properties waiting to be demolished is 45. We also had 9 building permits for the month totaling \$7,602,479.