

City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Monday, June 18, 2018
7:00 p.m.
MINUTES

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, June 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building, Veterans Park, 800 South 27th Street, Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

Mayor John Lewis called the meeting to order.

Jeff Steward from SSM Health Care Pastoral Care gave the Invocation

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed present: Council Member Jeff May, Council Member Jim Rippy, Council Member Mike Young, and Mayor John Lewis. Absent: Council Member Donte Moore.

PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS

The Journals for the May 29, 2018 City Council Special Meeting and the June 4, 2018 Regular City Council Meeting were presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to approve the Journals as presented. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Moore.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Mike McDonough asked about the status of a sidewalk on North McCauley Lane. He explained that traffic travels at 40 to 50 miles per hour from the top of the hill while children are riding bicycles in the middle of the street. McDonough thought that the City previously approved the sidewalk development. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that McCauley Sidewalk and the Marteeny Sidewalk were part of the Safe Routes to Schools initiative. As the Safe Routes to Schools project progressed, the cost escalated, and the City Council decided to not use the Safe Routes to Schools money, but to divide the project up into two parts. Construction of the Marteeny Sidewalk is underway, the McCauley Sidewalk is delayed until funding becomes available. Bechtel stated that the McCauley Sidewalk design work is complete, but there is no plan to build it at this time. The McCauley Sidewalk is an expensive sidewalk to build due to the storm sewer, road, curb, and other

issues. Mayor John Lewis assured McDonough that the City is trying to get the finances in shape. There are many sidewalk requests from all over town. Once financing is available, the City Council will decide which sidewalks to do first.

APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel asked that approval of the consolidated vouchers be tabled until Friday, June 22, 2018. A Special City Council Meeting will be held at 10:00 am at City Hall on June 22, 2018.

Council Member Jeff May motioned to defer the approval of the consolidated vouchers until the Special City Council Meeting on June 22, 2018. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Moore.

BIDS & QUOTES

No bids or quotes were presented.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested permission to seek bids on the 12th Street Water Line Project. Bechtel explained that last winter, there was a terrible break across State Route 15 and since then several additional breaks occurred on 12th Street. This project would solve many other water problems on 12th Street and Casey Avenue. The water line on the Railroad right-of-way will be eliminated. Estimated cost is \$350,000.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to grant permission to seek bids on the 12th Street Water Line Project. Seconded by Council Member Jeff May. Yeas: May, Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested permission to seek bids on the North 44th Street Road Construction Project. Bechtel explained that engineering is complete, and the estimated cost is \$1-million. Source of revenue is the 2012 Bonds. Bechtel reported that the road will be curb and gutter. Plans include changing the topography of the road. Council Member Jeff May asked for the linear length of the project. Bechtel explained that the project involves construction and renovation of North 44th Street from Drury Inn to the GenKota Winery. She will email the exact linear length tomorrow to May to determine the cost per mile. In addition, the City plans to relocate the water and sewer lines along North 44th Street at an additional cost of \$250,000. She reported that the South 44th Street Road Construction project should be completed this Fall. There has been trouble with the South Project because the ground is very soft, and more rock is planned to have a good road base.

Council Member Jeff May motioned to grant permission to seek bids on the North 44th Street Road Construction Project. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested permission to seek bids for the Crushing of Public Work's Concrete. Bechtel explained that throughout the year, concrete is collected. After the concrete is crushed, it will be used for backfilling.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to grant permission to seek bids for the Crushing of Public Work's Concrete. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested permission to seek bids for the Demolition of the Park Plaza Shopping Center. Bidding alternatives will be requested to match the renovation proposals received. She stated that the City needs more definite accurate numbers on the different units and parts of the Park Plaza, as well as the entire plaza.

Council Member Mike Young motioned to grant permission to seek bids for the Demolition of the Park Plaza Shopping Center. Seconded by Council Member Jim Rippy. Yeas: May, Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Moore.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Second Reading an Ordinance amending Article 21, Section 21-300, Schedule of District Regulations. This amends the Ordinance by adding as Conditional Uses in the A-G General Agriculture District or I-A Industrial-Agricultural District the following: Energy Park; Photovoltaic Station; Solar Farm, Park, or Plant; Wind Farm, Park, or Plant.

Council Member Jeff May motioned to approve Ordinance #2018-27, an Ordinance amending Article 21, Section 21-300, Schedule of District Regulations. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Moore.

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Second Reading an Ordinance Amending Article 6, Section 6.5: License Classifications, Permits, and Fees; and Article Section 6.14: Hours of Operation. This amends the Ordinance by allowing package sales of alcoholic liquor for the Restaurant with Lounge License classification and by allowing the sale of alcohol on Christmas Day.

Council Member Mike Young motioned to adopt Ordinance #2018-28, an Ordinance Amending Article 6, Section 6.5: License Classifications, Permits, and Fees; and Article Section 6.14: Hours of Operation. Seconded by Council Member Jim Rippy. No vote taken.

Mayor John Lewis stated that a change occurred today, and he requested that the Council table action on this Ordinance or postpone indefinitely. He explained that this Ordinance was proposed to help as an investment and growth in a depressed area of the City, but now the business has decided to

look at a different location. He said until more information is received, he is uncomfortable in passing this Ordinance.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to table and postpone action on this Ordinance indefinitely. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Moore.

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Public Hearing and Second Reading of an Ordinance Vacating a Tract of Land Reserved for Street Purposes. The tract of land is a 24-foot tract lying adjacent to Lot 1 in Lake Shore Addition. The Petitioning Party is Jeanette A. Tyler as Trustee. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that this tract has been plated for a road, but it has never been used as a road. The tract runs from the public street back to the reservoir. The City has no use for this strip since the bicycle path was installed around the reservoir.

Council Member Jeff May motioned to adopt Ordinance #2018-28, an Ordinance Vacating a Tract of Land Reserved for Street Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Moore.

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Second Reading an Ordinance Annexing Real Estate Located at 11645 E. Richview Road. The petitioning parties are Troy and Trinda Heitmeyer. The Heitmeyer's are currently adjacent to the City limits and they are required to annex to tap on to the City's water mains.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to adopt Ordinance #2018-29, an Ordinance Annexing Real Estate Located at 11645 E. Richview Road. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Moore.

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Public Hearing and Second Reading an Ordinance Vacating Part of a Fifteen-foot Wide Alley between Lots 1 through 4 and Lots 17 through 20, all in Block 5 of Boyd Place Addition. The petitioning party is Roger Byerley. Byerley plans to redevelop the property at the corner of 10th Street and Veterans Memorial Drive. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that no improvements can be done on the vacated alley which any public service facility, including an existing City sewer main, is situated, without the owner granting the City an easement for relocation of any public service and the owner relocating, at no cost to the City, the public service facility located within the vacated alley right-of-way.

Council Member Mike Young motioned to adopt Ordinance #2018-30 an Ordinance Vacating Part of a Fifteen-foot Wide Alley between Lots 1 through 4 and Lots 17 through 20, all in Block 5 of Boyd Place Addition. Seconded by Council Member Jeff May. Yeas: May, Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Moore.

City Attorney David Leggans presented an Ordinance Approving a Conditional Use for a Home Daycare at 4208 Fox Creek. The petitioning party is Kristin White. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel stated that no objectors were present at the Planning and Zoning Hearing and the Commission unanimously approved this request. Council Member Jim Rippy stated that he was assured by the

neighbors that they were for this Conditional Use. Kristin White reported that she will file for the State license if her request is granted. She will be licensed to care for six children, ages 3 – 6.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to approve Ordinance #2018-31, an Ordinance Approving a Conditional Use for a Home Daycare at 4208 Fox Creek. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Moore.

City Attorney David Leggans presented for first reading an Ordinance Establishing Prevailing Wage Rates for the City of Mt. Vernon. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that this is a State requirement to adopt this Ordinance. The State of Illinois set the rates. **First Reading was held.**

City Attorney David Leggans presented a Resolution Approving the IDOT Permit for the 12th Street Water Line Project. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel stated that this is related to the request to seek bids on the 12th Street Water Line Project. The City proposes to construct an 8" water main along and under State Route 15.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to approve the Resolution Approving the IDOT Permit for the 12th Street Water Line Project. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Moore.

MAYOR

Mayor John Lewis presented for the advice and consent of the Council, the appointment of Micheala Scattone to the Park Board.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to approve the appointment of Micheala Scattone to the Park Board. Seconded by Council Member Jeff May. Yeas: May, Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Moore.

Mayor John Lewis presented for the advice and consent of the Council, the appointment of Jerome McDonald as the PSEBA Hearing Officer. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that recently the City adopted an Ordinance that created a formal process for Police and Fire Officers to apply for PSEBA benefits. The appointment is for a one-year term.

Council Member Mike Young motioned to approve the appointment of Jerome McDonald as the PSEBA Hearing Officer. Seconded by Council Member Jim Rippy. Yeas: May, Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Moore.

Mayor John Lewis reported on the May statistics from the Public Utilities, Fire, and Police Departments.

The Police Department responded to 1,829 total events or 59 calls every day.

Arrests: 121

Criminal charges: 141

Traffic stops: 364, resulting in 215 citations (17 for use of cell phones)

DUI arrests: 5
Drug charges: 22
Alarm calls: 95
Cleared Detective cases: 8 with arrests
Crime Scene callouts: 3
Canine Team deployments: 21

Warrants served: 27
Traffic crashes: 90
New Detective cases: 77
Referred Detective cases to States Attorney: 21
Tactical Unit deployments: 1
Telecommunication Center calls: 11,563 non-emergencies and 2,185 emergency's calls.

The Fire Department responded to 314 alarms.

EMS alarms: 255
Hazmat alarms: 17
Motor vehicle accidents: 9
Mutual Aid: 2
Public Education Seminars: 4

Fire alarms: 40
Rescue alarms: 1
Structure Fires: 8
10A Inspections: 98

The Public Utilities Department responded:

Water main breaks: 19
Replaced Fire Hydrants: 2
Backed Up Sewer Mains: 9
Televised Sewer Mains: 1 Mile

Repaired Fire Hydrants: 6
Repairs/Maintenance Service Connections: 9
Jetted Sewer Mains: 6
Repaired Sewer Mains: 2

The Engineering and Inspection Department instituted a new procedure which divides the City into four quadrants. Each week one quadrant will be inspected for nuisances.

Nuisance Postings: 165
Properties Condemned: 8

Abated Postings: 24
Building Permits: 23 totaling \$4,731,379

CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Jim Rippy requested that City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel provide an update on the 7th Street Reopening. Bechtel reported that the ICC has received the agreements and they will be presented to the ICC Board on June 28th. At that time, the City is expecting the grant for the safety improvements. Evansville Western is moving forward with locates and installing towers. After June 28th, Bechtel hopes that a formal timeline can be established.

Council Member Mike Young spoke on the recent weekend events which included the Street Machine Nationals. He thanked the citizens, and everyone involved for their participation. Mayor John Lewis stated that he attended the activities at the Roadhouse/Pepsi/Dominos event. He received many compliments on the event.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

No comments were heard.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Mike Young motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member Jim Rippy. Yeas: May, Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Moore.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jo Pemberton".

Mary Jo Pemberton
City Clerk