

**CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS
CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION
Tuesday, January 17, 2023**

The Mt. Vernon City Council met in Executive Session on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 7:54 p.m. at City Council Chamber at City Hall, 1100 Main Street, Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

Mayor John Lewis opened the Executive Session.

Roll call showed present: Council Member Ray Botch, Council Member Joe Gliosci, Council Member Donte Moore, Council Member Mike Young, and Mayor John Lewis. Also present were City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel, City Attorney David Leggans, Assistant City Manager Nathan McKenna, and Deputy City Clerk Becky Barbour.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested an Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) – Purchase or Lease of Real Property for the Use of the City.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel received a phone call from Walgreens Corporate Office last Friday. Walgreens owns the distribution center and the retail store here in Mt. Vernon. They are exploring the sale of the underlying property of the building, meaning the building and the property. According to the covenants of the Rolland Lewis Industrial Park, in the event that this owner wishes to sell the property and receives a bona fide offer for property from a prospective purchaser, they shall provide written notice of such offer, together with the executed copy of the offer to the City Council of the City of Mt. Vernon. The City of Mt. Vernon has the first right of refusal. Walgreens called to see if the Council is interested in entertaining the purchase of their building and property. They do have an offer from investors. The City has 30 days upon our notice of a bona fide written offer to determine if we want to exercise our right to purchase the building and the property.

City Manager Bechtel asked if Council was interested in making an offer to Walgreens. No one was in favor. She stated that she will call Walgreens back and request the information required in the covenant. At that time, the City can decide and let Walgreens know that we are not interested in executing our right, and Walgreens can move on with the offer from the investors.

Council Member Gliosci asked if this deal does not go through, have we given up our right to first refusal for any later offers? City Manager Bechtel stated according to the covenant, with every offer they receive, it will start over with our right for first refusal.

This information is highly confidential. These minutes will remain confidential and closed until Walgreens Distribution tells us that it is okay to make it public.

Council Member Ray Botch made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

The Executive Session adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Barbour".

Becky Barbour, Deputy City Clerk