

**CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Friday, March 4, 2016
1:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Special City Council Meeting on Friday, March 4, 2016 1:00 p.m. at the old Council Chambers, City Hall, 1100 Main Street, Mt. Vernon, IL.

The invocation was given by Mayor Mary Jane Chesley.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed present: Council Members Jeff May, Dennis McEnaney, Donte Moore and Mayor Mary Jane Chesley. Absent: Council Member Todd Piper.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Chesley requested an Executive Session in order to discuss personnel at approximately 1:01 p.m. **Council Member McEnaney made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel. Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore and Chesley. Absent: Piper.**

The Mayor and City Council returned to an open meeting, including Council Member Todd Piper.

APPOINTMENT OF A CITY MANAGER

Mayor Chesley summarized the thorough process followed by City Council and the Mayor for filling the position of City Manager. Fourteen applications for the position were received by the City's Human Resources Department. Pursuant to 5 ILCS120/2(c)1 of the Open Meetings Act, nine Executive Sessions were held wherein discussion and interviews, both telephonic and personal, were conducted. Mayor Chesley announced that Interim City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel has been selected as the City Manager. The following audience members addressed Mayor and Council: *Realtor David Parker thanked the Mayor and City Council for their selection of Mary Ellen Bechtel as City Manager. Dick Acklin expressed his displeasure with the City Council and Mayor for not advertising/searching nation-wide for a new City Manager. Terry Sharp conveyed his dissatisfaction with the opening of the Aquatic Center and the selection of Mary Ellen Bechtel as City Manager. Ray Botch questioned why the City Manager position was not advertised on the International City Managers Association website.*

Council Member Piper made a motion to Appoint Mary Ellen Bechtel as City Manager. Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

RESOLUTION APPROVING EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR CITY MANAGER

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to Approve Resolution Approving the Employment Agreement for Mary Ellen Bechtel, City Manager. Seconded by Council Member Piper. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Nay: Moore.

City Attorney David Leggans outlined the contents of the Employment Agreement. Copies were available to the audience.

VISITOR/CITIZEN REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Ray Botch welcomed Mary Ellen Bechtel as City Manager.

Leah Mooney encouraged the Mayor and Council to participate in a fundraising activity for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event.

Dick Acklin challenged the City Council to drive to Marion's west side and create a plan for development on the City's west side.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to adjourn the Special City Council Meeting. Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins
City Clerk