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**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Monday, March 6, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, March 6, 2023 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>.

Mayor John Lewis opened the meeting.

Kent Jackson with Family Life Church led the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS

The Journal for the February 21, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting was presented for approval.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve the Journal as presented. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

The Casey Jr. High girls basketball team and Casey Jr. High boys basketball team, along with their coaches, were honored for their First Place State Championship seasons. Mayor John Lewis introduced Council Member Donte Moore. Councilman Moore had coaches and players come forward for the presentation of a certificate in recognition of their state championship seasons.

Mayor John Lewis then asked if there were any other visitors that wished to address the Council. Wesley Bell from Robinson Outdoor addressed the Council on the issue of the Conditional Use Signs at 4140 Broadway and 3406 Broadway. Mr. Bell had previously addressed the Council and had been back to the Planning and Zoning meeting. Mr. Bell gave additional information on the signage and answered questions. Attorney Kim Moore spoke on behalf of Robinson Outdoor

stating that Robinson Outdoor is in full compliance with the Ordinance. Brian Wood of Cross Davidson Real Estate located at 4140 Broadway also spoke in favor of the off-premise sign which would be located on Cross Davidson's property. Mr. Bell spoke again to present a letter from Rural King Corporate Office regarding the placement of the sign to be located on their property at 3406 Broadway, which they approved.

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 \$680,109.41. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

BIDS AND QUOTES

None.

CITY MANAGER

None.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney David Leggans presented a Resolution Granting a Conditional Sign Permit for an Off-premise Sign at 4140 Broadway. Mayor John Lewis made a statement regarding the sign permits. Mayor Lewis wanted to address the rumors and issues regarding sign permits and the ordinance regarding off-premise signs. Mayor Lewis and Council Members have looked into this issue and do take it seriously. After this issue was brought up at a Planning and Zoning meeting, staff discovered some problems and loopholes that needed to be addressed. This Council wanted those issues addressed prior to a vote on this matter. Mayor Lewis has spoken with individuals and businesses and gathered feedback, and this was shared with the Council. This particular matter will be decided on the old regulations, not the changes that staff has presented for consideration this evening. Council Member Donte Moore stated that he attended the Planning and Zoning Meeting and feels that the Ordinance was followed and that provides that the signs are okay to move forward if Council votes in favor.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve the Resolution Granting a Conditional Sign Permit for an Off-premise Sign at 4140 Broadway. Seconded by Council Member Ray Botch. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, and Lewis. No: Young.

City Attorney David Leggans presented a Resolution Granting a Conditional Sign Permit for an Off-premise Sign at 3406 Broadway.

Council Member Ray Botch motioned to approve the Resolution Granting a Conditional Sign Permit for an Off-premise Sign at 3406 Broadway. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

Attorney David Leggans presented for First Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Ceding of Private Activity Bonding Authority to Southeastern Illinois Economic Development Authority (SIEDA). City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that every year the City of Mt. Vernon transfers volume cap allocation for private activity bonds to Southeastern Illinois Economic Development Authority if there is no project for them. There is no project at this time, and transferring this allocation will allow SIEDA to hold this allocation in the event there may be a project that comes up before December 31. After the end of the year, the unencumbered allocation returns to the State of Illinois.

Council Member Ray Botch made the motion to suspend the rules and take action on the Ordinance, an Ordinance Authorizing the Ceding of Private Activity Bonding Authority to SIEDA. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve Ordinance #2023-12, an Ordinance Authorizing the Ceding of Private Activity Bonding Authority to SIEDA. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

City Attorney David Leggans presented for First Reading of an Ordinance Imposing a Municipal Cannabis Retailers Occupation Tax. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel stated that this Ordinance will initiate a 3% tax on non-medical cannabis sales within the incorporated limits of the City of Mt. Vernon.

FIRST READING WAS HELD.

City Attorney David Leggans presented for First Reading of an Ordinance to Approve an Agreement to Extend the Animal Control Agreement Between Jefferson County and the City of Mt. Vernon. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that this is a joint agreement between Jefferson County and the City of Mt. Vernon for the maintenance and operation of the Jefferson County Animal Shelter. The proposed agreement is the same as the prior agreement, however, the term of this agreement is until September 1, 2029 and after that the agreement will renew annually on September 1 of each year unless either the City or County gives written notice of non-renewal to the other not less than ninety days prior to September 1.

FIRST READING WAS HELD.

City Attorney David Leggans presented for First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 126.3, Section 126.19, and Section 21-127 of the Revised Code Relating to Off-premise Signs. City

Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel stated that the proposed changes in the sign ordinance are basically language changes so that the existing sign ordinance is easier to understand. There is one significant change in 21-126.19 (f). This changes the size of the off-premise to be equal to the size of an on-premise sign which is 100 square feet. Mayor Lewis asked if the issue regarding signs on a long lot and how many signs could be placed had been addressed. City Attorney Leggans stated that the language was not changed, but has been clarified on the Ordinance making it easier to understand.

Council Member Ray Botch made the motion to suspend the rules and take action on the Ordinance Amending Section 126.3, Section 126.19, and Section 21-127 of the Revised Code Relating to Off-premise Signs. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve Ordinance #2023-13, an Ordinance Amending Section 126.3, Section 126.19, and Section 21-127 of the Revised Code Relating to Off-premise Signs. Seconded by Council Member Ray Botch. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

City Attorney David Leggans presented a Resolution Renewing the Line of Credit with Banterra Bank. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that this is the annual renewal of the \$6 million line of credit with Banterra Bank. The interest rate is 5%, the term is one year. Interest is only charged if the City draws down any part of that line of credit.

Council Member Ray Botch motioned to approve the Resolution Renewing the Line of Credit with Banterra Bank. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Botch, Moore, Young, and Lewis. Abstain: Gliosci.

MAYOR

Mayor John Lewis introduced Chief Trent Page for a presentation of the Police Department Unit Citation Awards. Chief Trent Page spoke about the recent effort by the Joint Narcotics Unit and Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. There was a significant increase in gun violence in January, 2023. The detective division looked into these incidents to see if there was a pattern. As a result of the investigation, nine people were arrested and fifteen illegal guns were taken off the streets. These awards are given to employees within a unit who have exhibited exceptional professional skills and conduct through a coordinated action and Chief Page stated that these officers have met that criteria. The officers receiving citation awards were Detective Corporal Troy Hails, who runs the MVPD/JCSO Joint Narcotics Division, Detective Jeremy Osborn, member of the Narcotics Division and Detective Justin Osborn, member of the General Criminal Division. Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Detectives Marty Keoughan and Aaron Johnson, also part of this investigation, will receive awards at an upcoming Jefferson County board meeting. Mayor Lewis commented that recognizing local public servants is one of his favorite things to do as Mayor. He

stated that this is a job well done and our police department's hard work and perseverance has paid off.

Mayor John Lewis stated it is very important that the Cross Connection Survey sent to all community members be completed and returned to the City. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel stated that the survey was previously sent out with a less than 10% return of the survey. This is mandated by the State of Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the City has to identify all services that contain lead that is in our water distribution system. Every resident and every business with a City of Mt. Vernon water account must complete the survey. The City is required to collect this information. City Manager Bechtel explained that citizens should do their best to complete the survey and if a person just does not know, write unknown on the survey. If you write unknown, the City will send someone to do an inspection. The survey can be completed on the website, bring in or mail the survey back to Billing Services at City Hall, hand delivered to Public Works Department at 1201 Casey, return it to the City Utility payment boxes at City Hall or Hughey Funeral Home, email it to public.works@mtvernon.com, or fax to (618)242-6861. If you have questions about the survey, call the water department.

CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Ray Botch wanted to thank everyone for the birthday wishes and those who attended his 80th birthday party.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Barbour, Deputy City Clerk