

**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 5, 2017
7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building, Veterans Park, 800 South 27th Street, Mt. Vernon, IL.

Mayor John Lewis called the meeting to order.

Randy Winn with the Jefferson County Ministerial Alliance gave the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS

The Journals for August 1, 2017 City Council Workshop, August 21, 2017 Regular City Council Meeting, and the Executive Sessions held on September 6, 2016, February 6, 2017, February 21, 2017, and April 19, 2017 were presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections. **Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve the Journals as presented. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.**

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Colleen Saxe spoke against leaf burning. She explained leaf burning causes COPD and asthma plus it contains seven carcinogenics. She distributed a handout regarding the hazards of leaf burning.

Eva May Ferreria spoke in support of leaf burning. She explained that it is a burden to bag leaves and many citizens are not physically capable of bagging leaves. She feels that mulching leaves is worse for people with asthma.

Jamison Schulte spoke against leaf burning. She feels that five weeks of leaf burning is too much. She asked that the Council consider a compromise and reduce the amount of time proposed for leaf

burning. The health needs of people should be considered instead of the convenience for the people.

Keith Ridgley spoke in favor of leaf burning. Leaf burning is an affordable way to get rid of leaves especially for residents with large properties. Every year the leaves are a problem and the only way they can get rid of them is to burn them in the ditches, otherwise their entire road floods. If the ban is not lifted, he suggests that the City purchase a leaf vacuum or find another affordable way for residents to get rid of the leaves.


APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Council Member Jeff May motioned to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$943,353.87. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

BIDS & QUOTES

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel reported that on August 30, 2017, seven bids were opened for the construction of roadways to serve the Mary Jane Chesley Industrial Park. The lowest responsive responsible bidder was Baxmayer Construction in the amount of \$3,397,043.05. Bechtel explained that this is a \$7 million project which includes improving 1,000 feet of Sparrow Lane from State Route 15, the roadway through the Industrial Park, and improving the main entrance on Route 15. After the bid is awarded, it will need approval from the State of Illinois and IEDG. The project is also funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), IEDG, IDOT Truck Route Grant (TRAP), and an EDA Grant. Council Member Jim Rippy asked how the City can justify spending over \$3 million on a new road when the City has current infrastructure problems. Bechtel explained that this is for a new industrial park and the City has a grant to fund 50% of the project. Rippy asked if the City has anyone lined up for the industrial park. Bechtel said that the industrial park needs to be built before the City can begin marketing the park. New businesses expect that the infrastructure and roads be in place before making a commitment. This industrial park will provide 95 acres of prime industrial property for distribution or manufacturing. Council Member Jeff May said that to bring in good jobs, the industrial park is needed. Council Member Donte Moore asked what type of precautions are included in this bid. Bechtel explained that they have 154 days to complete the construction after approval from the State. Once the project is started and if they go over the 154 days, then liquidated damages apply. City Engineer Brad Ruble will keep track of the 154 days. Rippy asked what criteria is used in deciding on City projects and who makes those decisions. Bechtel explained that a former City Council chose this project several years ago. Council Member Jeff May stated that the City needs a strategic plan, but his position is not to walk away from free grant money. Rippy stated that grant money comes from all taxpayers and before projects are selected, more than one decision maker is needed.



JOB NAME: West Industrial Park
 SECTION: 14-00137-00-RP
 OWNER: City of Mt. Vernon
 BID OPENING: August 30, 2017 @ 10:00 a.m.
 HMG JOB NO: 7206

BID TABULATION - West Industrial Park					
	ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE	BAXMEYER CONSTRUCTION, INC 1034 Florville Road Waterloo, IL 62296	GUINZY CONSTRUCTION, INC P.O. Box 356 Ashley, IL 62608	SIERRA BRAVO CONTRACTORS, LLC P.O. Box 130 Sesser, IL 62884	SHORES BUILDERS, INC 1154 Schwartz Road Centralia, IL 62801
		APPARENT LOW BIDDER			
	BID DOCUMENTS WITHIN PROPOSAL	<input type="checkbox"/> CASHIER'S CHECK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BID BOND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADDENDUMS NOTED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURES	<input type="checkbox"/> CASHIER'S CHECK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BID BOND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADDENDUMS NOTED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURES	<input type="checkbox"/> CASHIER'S CHECK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BID BOND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADDENDUMS NOTED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURES	<input type="checkbox"/> CASHIER'S CHECK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BID BOND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADDENDUMS NOTED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURES
TOTAL BID (AS READ)	\$4,550,217.10	\$3,397,043.05	\$3,505,203.71	\$3,547,036.69	\$3,812,938.78
TOTAL BID (AS CORRECTED)					
	ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE	BAXMEYER	GUINZY	SIERRA BRAVO	SHORES

BID TABULATION - West Industrial Park					
	ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE	KIEFFER BROS. CONSTRUCTION CO, INC 903 West 3rd Street Mt. Carmel, IL 62863	STUTZ EXCAVATING, INC 3837 Fosterburg Road Alton, IL 62002	SANGAMO CONSTRUCTION CO 2100 East Melvat Avenue Springfield, IL 62702	E.T SIMONDS CONSTRUCTION CO P.O. Box 2107 Carbondale, IL 62902-2107
	BID DOCUMENTS WITHIN PROPOSAL	<input type="checkbox"/> CASHIER'S CHECK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BID BOND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADDENDUMS NOTED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURES	<input type="checkbox"/> CASHIER'S CHECK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BID BOND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADDENDUMS NOTED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURES	<input type="checkbox"/> CASHIER'S CHECK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BID BOND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADDENDUMS NOTED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURES	<input type="checkbox"/> CASHIER'S CHECK <input type="checkbox"/> BID BOND <input type="checkbox"/> ADDENDUMS NOTED <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURES
TOTAL BID (AS READ)	\$4,550,217.10	\$4,260,268.89	\$4,266,028.68	\$4,684,333.76	NO BID
TOTAL BID (AS CORRECTED)					
	ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE	KIEFFER	STUTZ	SANGAMO	E.T SIMONDS

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to accept the low bid from Baxmayer Construction in the amount of \$3,397,043.05 for the construction of roadways to serve the Mary Jane Chesley Industrial Park. Seconded by Council Member Jeff May. Yeas: May, Moore, Young, and Lewis. No: Rippy.

CITY MANAGER

No report provided by City Manager.

CITY ATTORNEY

Corporation Counsel Bill Howard presented for second reading, an Ordinance Vacating Part of South Water Tower Place Drive. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that when this road was originally built, it was built as a cul-de-sac, then it was built as a through road but the cul-de-sac part was never removed. The Greenwalt Construction is constructing a commercial building south of the cul-de-sac and they would like to use part of the area for parking. The owners will do the curbing and other improvements.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to adopt Ordinance #2017-37, an Ordinance Vacating Part of South Water Tower Place Drive. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Abstain: May.

Corporation Counsel Bill Howard presented for first reading, an Ordinance Amending Article 13, Section 13.8 regarding Open Burning. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that many residents desire to burn their leaves and this Ordinance proposes to allow leaf burning during the following periods: Monday through Sunday during each the second full week of April, the second full week of May, the fourth full week of September, the second full week of October, and the second full week of November each year. Mayor John Lewis requested that the section pertaining to extending the leaf burning period, be removed. Lewis stated that if the City sets burning dates, those will be the only dates for burning with no extensions. Due to public comments, Council Member Jim Rippey feels that the proposed burning periods should be condensed as a compromise. Council Member Jeff May has no objections to reducing the number of burning dates. Council Member Donte Moore agreed to a compromise and explained that he is in favor of limited burning periods because leaves and clippings enter the City's storm sewers and cause serious flooding. Moore suggested allowing two weeks in the fall and one week in the spring for burning. Council Member Jeff May suggested reducing the number of days during the weeks such as Thursday through Monday. Mayor Lewis feels that reducing the number of days during the weeks is unfair to residents who work fluctuating days.

Charlie Heck stated that if the burning period is narrowed down, the City will have 17,000 residents burning at the same time causing quite a smoke bomb. He said that if the leaves are wet then they will smolder.

Richard Etienne foresees a problem when everyone burns wet leaves instead of being allowed to burn leaves at their leisure.

Eva May Ferreria asked that the Council reduce the amount of time proposed for leaf burning and use some common sense scheduling the burning periods.

Janetta Rightnower stated that she is not opposed to leaf burning, but five weeks is too long. She hopes the Council finds alternatives that work for everyone.

Mayor John Lewis asked why there should be burning in the spring. Council Member Mike Young explained that some leaves stay on trees after November.

Council Member Donte Moore explained that the City has considered purchasing a leaf vacuum, but it works the best on curb and gutter streets. Mayor Lewis said that with a vacuum the residents rake their leaves on the road and the leaves may remain for a week causing them to mold before the vacuum can pick them up. **First Reading was held.**

Corporation Counsel Bill Howard presented for first reading, an Ordinance Declaring Property Located at 117 N. 6th Street as Surplus. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that if the property is declared surplus, an individual has agreed to tear down the dilapidated structure at no cost to the City. The individual would have until March 1, 2018 to tear down the structure. **First Reading was held.**

MAYOR

Mayor John Lewis introduced Chairman Ray Botch to provide an update on the Public Utilities Committee. The Committee was charged to bring the City's utilities into the 21st Century. This has resulted in many hours of research and many meetings to determine the best and most economical plan for the utility customers. The Committee is investigating whether it would be more cost effective to replace the 500,000-gallon Opdyke Water Storage Tower and the 150,000-gallon L & N Water Storage Tower with one 750,000-gallon water storage tower. The Vernwood Water Storage Tower needs major repair, too. A Water Modeling Study is underway to determine the feasibility.

Sewer Lift Station #14 needs to be replaced. Seven other City lift stations empty into #14. Engineering has been underway for over a year. In the past two months, a major problem regarding the discharge of Lift Stations #1 and #14 into the Sewer Treatment Plant's Grit Chamber was discovered. Clean up is estimated at \$100,000. Based on the findings, the City may need to lengthen Lift Station #1 and #14 Force Mains.

Seven water meter companies have been interviewed regarding automatic read water meters. There are many different types of meters and they need to interface with the City's computer system. It is estimated that the automatic read water meters will cost between \$2 million and \$3.5 million. Soon, the Committee will ask Council's permission to seek bids.

Six companies have been interviewed about conducting an Acoustic Leak Survey, a Pipeline Condition Study, and a Sewer Main Condition Study. An Acoustic Leak Survey is needed to identify unknown underground leaks. The cost of this study is less than \$50,000 and will take less than 60 days. The Committee asks that the Council gives permission for this study.

A Pipeline Condition Study will assess the internal condition of the water mains as to thickness and iron build up. This study costs about \$6,000 per mile and the Committee is not recommending this study now.

A Sewer Main Condition Study is necessary. This is done with a TV camera, smoke testing and dye testing. The cost to study the entire city is estimated at \$1,125,000. The Committee decided to select known infiltration areas to test first.

Mr. Botch stated that the next challenge is to identify a funding source and prepare a detailed plan of action using a 1.5% Illinois EPA Loan and pay as you go. The public is always invited to attend the Public Utilities Committee Meetings and minutes are available in the City Clerk's Office.

CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Jim Rippey gave an update on the reopening of 7th Street at the railroad crossing. He said that the City met with Milano Railway Logistic Services and the railroads. The estimated cost is \$200,000 for gate and signal upgrades. The City will participate by assisting in grants for this upgrade. The estimated cost to make the crossing serviceable and open 7th Street is \$87,000. In the interest of solving this problem, the City agreed to pay one-half of that cost.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

No comments were heard from the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Jo Pemberton
City Clerk