

**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Monday, March 19, 2018
7:00 p.m.
MINUTES**

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, March 19, 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.

Father Ben Hankinson of the Trinity Episcopal Church 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 Journal for the March 5, 2018 Regular City Council Meeting was presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections.

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

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

JoAlice Pierce spoke against developing the former Park Plaza Shopping Center into a heavy industrial area. She spoke on developing 7th Street into a thoroughfare to Veteran's Memorial Drive. The road would be an asset to the area plus open it up to something positive. If heavy industry is allowed, then she feels that it would permanently prevent growth in this area.

APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$460,336.04. Seconded by Council Member Jeff May. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

BIDS & QUOTES

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel presented the bid results for the July 4th Salute to Freedom Fireworks display. Only one bid was received from Central States Fireworks for a three-year contact. It was hoped that more firms would bid if the contract was for a three-year period. This company has provided Mt. Vernon's fireworks show for the last several years. The bid is a comparable number of each size firework shell as last year and it is based on the budgeted amount of \$20,000. The Tourism Account will fund this project.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to award the bid for the July 4th Salute to Freedom Fireworks display to Central States Fireworks. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel presented for Council's consideration the Preliminary Plat of Withers Subdivision. The subdivision is located at 321 Withers Drive which is $\frac{3}{4}$ mile west of Interstates 57/64 on State Highway 15. To subdivide, the City was requested to accept Withers Drive road as a City road. The road was built to minimum City specifications, but there are some critical issues that need updating. These issues include; the regrading of the drainage, replacement of curbs, and replacement of some failed pavement. After the repairs are made and the City accepts the road, the petitioner can return for Final Plat approval. Marshall Davis of Round Table Design was present to answer any questions. Mayor John Lewis asked if the right-of-way will be deeded to the City. Bechtel replied yes.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve the Preliminary Plat of Withers Subdivision. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested Council's permission to seek funding up to \$2.7 million for the water meter replacement project. By the year end, Bechtel said that the meters could be installed and operational. The funding for the project will come from traditional financing which would be paid from the 1% Sales Tax. The financing would be for a 5-year or a 7-year term. Council Member Jim Rippy spoke on the Public Utilities Committee thoroughness of studying and investigating the best type of water meters for the City. Council Member Donte Moore asked what the City would receive in the water meter replacement project. Bechtel replied that the final contract has not been negotiated, however included in the bid will be the water meters, data collection, back-in computer website, and the analytical processes. The water meters will be fully integrated with the City's current water billing system.

Council Member Jeff May motioned to seek funding up to \$2.7 million for the water meter replacement project. Seconded by Council Member Jim Rippy. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel announced that Mt. Vernon has received a Housing Rehabilitation Grant through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). The grant will be administered by Crosswalk Community Action Agency. The grant number is 16-243015 and is for the amount of \$450,000. It is a two-year grant and will be for ten (10) homes. The specific target area has a west boundary of the railroad tracks west of 4th Street and east to the next set of railroad tracks with a north boundary of Caborn Avenue and south to Castleton Avenue.

Council Member Jeff May asked if the City received a similar grant two years ago. Bechtel explained that the City has two ongoing grants. One is the DCEO grant and the other is the Illinois Housing Development Grant.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested Council's permission to close 21st Street from Lamar to Logan for a children's event at Logan Street Baptist Church. The event will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2018, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The residents of the area agreed to the street closing. Deb Nelson from Angel's Cove was present to answer any questions.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to grant permission to close 21st Street from Lamar to Logan for a children's event at Logan Street Baptist Church. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested Council's permission to waive the bidding requirements for netting at the Lincoln Park Baseball Fields. The netting will protect everyone from being hit by foul balls. Matt Fauss designed the plan to install the netting. The expected cost of the project is \$6,500. The netting is requested to be purchased from a wholesaler in Centralia and City crews will install it. Mayor John Lewis stated that the JCSA is holding a \$6,000 donation to fund this project.

Council Member Mike Young motioned to grant permission to waive the bidding requirements for netting at the Lincoln Park Baseball Fields. Seconded by Council Member Donte Moore. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested Council's permission to seek bids on the South 42nd Street turn lane. Mach-1 and Culvers has a development on the corner of 42nd Street and Veterans Memorial Drive and Mach-1 will be constructing the turn lane. The City has an agreement with Mach-1 to refund them the cost of the turn lane from Retailer's Occupational Sales Tax revenue.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to grant permission to seek bids on the South 42nd Street turn lane. Seconded by Council Member Jeff May. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

CITY ATTORNEY

Corporation Counsel Bill Howard presented for Council's approval a Resolution Granting a Conditional Sign Permit for property located at 310 Old Fairfield Road. The petitioning party is Robert Hood. The Zoning and Planning Commission approved this request unanimously and no objectors were present. Mr. Howard explained that the Resolution reads that the Conditional Sign Permit is subject to the Sign Regulations of the Revised code in effect as of the date of this Resolution.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to approve the Resolution Granting a Conditional Sign Permit for property located at 310 Old Fairfield Road. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

Corporation Counsel Bill Howard presented for Council's approval a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Pepsi Mid-America. This Agreement allows Pepsi Mid-America to advertise and sell products at City facilities for the next ten years. Pepsi agrees to pay the City \$1,250 annually for the use at the Aquatic Zoo and baseball fields, a one-time payment of \$1,500 for the repair of the scoreboard at Lincoln Park, a monthly commission of 25.3% per case on all 20-ounce bottle products, and a reduced rate on the wholesale price of 5-gallon syrup for the Aquatic Zoo.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve the Resolution Approving an Agreement with Pepsi Mid-America. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

MAYOR

Mayor John Lewis requested the Council's advice and consent to appoint Robert White to the Police and Fire Commission to fill the vacancy and to serve the remainder of Ken Meyer's term. White's term will end on April 30, 2019.

Council Member Mike Young motioned to approve the appointment of Robert White to the Police and Fire Commission. Seconded by Council Member Jeff May. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

Mayor John Lewis introduced Ray Botch to give an update on the Public Utilities Committee. Mr. Botch reported that the water meter replacement project will provide 6,626 new meters including the delivery system and the integration of the data to the Billing Services Department. There will be no need for water meter readers.

Mr. Botch read the March 19, 2018 Public Utilities Committee update. The report follows:

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE UPDATE MARCH 19, 2018

Your Committee is making significant progress and shortly, our utility customers will see actual work on our infrastructure. This report is intended to provide transparency in our quest to bring our water and sewer utilities into the 21st Century.

WATER METERS

In February, the Committee narrowed our water meter purchase to Kamstrup and Badger. To see these meters in operation, Committee members visited Franklin, TN. and Elmhurst, IL. Based on our extensive research the Committee asked the City Manager to begin negotiations for the price to purchase Kamstrup Meters. The City Manager has been able to reduce our cost by \$665,000 from \$3,240,000 to \$2,595,000. The purchase contract will be on the April 2nd Council Agenda. The Water Meter Project along with the Acoustic Leak Survey and the Water Main Repair and Replacement Program will reduce our annual water lossage which has been as high as 21.9%. In 2017 the lossage was 18.3%. Councilman Jeff May suggested the City use conventional Bank Financing for the project. Tonight, you approved the City taking bids for Bank Financing.

LIFT STATION 14/FORCE MAIN

Councilman James Rippey and City Manager Bechtel have been negotiating with Heneghan and Associates for Final Engineering costs for Lift Station #14 and Force Main. This would also include the application for an IEPA low interest Loan. The new lift station will increase our pumping capacity from 2,300 gallons per minute (gpm) to 5,000 gpm.

IEPA LOAN PROGRAM

The City has submitted the updated funding nomination forms to IEPA to place Mt. Vernon on IEPA'S Cue. We were required to submit a 5-Year Plan for \$22,000,000 in potential projects. Round Table Design is preparing the application for the Opdyke Tower upgrading.

VERNWOOD TANK

The City is finalizing the bid documents for the Vernwood Tank and new valves, pits and systems for all four Water Tanks. This project will use Pay-As-You-Go Financing and should be ready for bid in April.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

The cleaning of the four inlet pipes at the Sewer Treatment Plant is 40% complete. This was put on hold for several weeks due to the amount of rain infiltration at the Sewer Plant. The Summersville Sewer Survey is about 90% complete. The Midtown Survey began last week and a major leak on 27th Street was found. Round Table Design is finishing the engineering on the 12th-15th Water Main Replacement. Plans must be submitted to the Railroad and IEPA for their approval.

Council Member Donte Moore stated that the citizens do not understand how critical the Lift Station #14/Force Main project is. This lift station serves 50% to 70% of the community. Ray Botch explained that it does not serve many residential units, but it serves the business district west of Interstate 57 to 42nd Street. Moore explained if the lift station would go down, the City would have five hours to get it operational. Otherwise, there would serious problems.

CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Donte Moore stated that today Linola Spann and Clarence C. Mays, Jr. were sworn-in as new Police and Fire Commissioners. He feels that expanding the Police and Fire Commission Board from three to five members will serve the community better.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

No comments were heard.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Jeff May motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippey, Young, and Lewis.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Jo Pemberton
City Clerk