

**CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, January 19, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building, Veterans Park, 800 South 27th Street, Mt. Vernon, IL.

The invocation was given by Rev. Ed Sprinkle of the Jefferson County Ministerial Association.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS

The Journals for the December 28, 2015 City Council Workshop Meeting and the January 4, 2016 Regular City Council Meeting were presented to Council for their consideration. **Council Member McEnaney made a motion to approve the Journals as presented. Seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.**

APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable were presented to Council for approval. Council Member Moore inquired about Item #4 City of Centralia - \$2,621.54 – Portion of Hazmat reimbursement for Mutual Aid call to Cisne and Item #5 City of Salem - \$2,473.20 – Portion of Hazmat reimbursement for Mutual Aid call to Cisne. The Fire Departments from Mt. Vernon, Centralia and Salem responded to an emergency in Cisne. Mt. Vernon processed the insurance claim and these payments represent refunds to those departments. Council Member May again expressed his concern about the excessive amount of overtime pay being expended. Interim City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel advised that two firemen are back to work on light duty and three are still off on disability. She reported this issue will be addressed in the upcoming budget preparation. Council Member McEnaney inquired about Item #3 Baxmeyer Construction - \$257,157.74 – construction of North 42nd from Victoria to Richview Road. This represents a progress payment with the road closed to through traffic at this time. Item #7 Construction Technology Laboratories - \$6,400.00 – Petrographic examination at Aquatics Zoo (to be reimbursed by FGM Architects). Item #10 Fager McGee Commercial Construction - \$105,028.64 – Aquatic Zoo Renovations (to be reimbursed by FGM Architects). Testing performed on cracks in the concrete

located in the lazy river area and ADA compliance. Item #12 Henry Meisenheimer and Gende - \$2,415.00 – West Industrial Park engineering. Expect some delay in completing the design work on the new Industrial Park. Neon Sign is very pleased with this project. Item #16 JK Trotter & Sons - \$47,656.57 – Broadway and Main Street water main Phase I construction. This project is on track. Item #18 Jefferson County Development Corporation - \$50,000.00 – final distribution of funds per 2015/2016 budget. This represents the last of three payments per the 2015/2016 budget.

Council Member Piper made a motion to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,275,646.07. Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

BIDS & QUOTES

No bids were submitted.

CITY MANAGER

Bechtel presented for Council's consideration a Request for Permission to Waive Bidding Requirements for Extrication Equipment for the Fire Department. Kevin Sargent, Assistant Chief, appeared and stated that the equipment to be replaced was purchased in 1995 and includes AMKUS spreaders and cutters along with rams. This equipment is utilized mainly for cutting people out of vehicles and is sold from a single source supplier for our region. MES (Municipal Emergency Services Inc. of Peoria, IL) is our source supplier for these items. The total quote is for \$17,400.00 for these items plus three rams. There is \$22,000.00 in the budget along with a \$3,000.00 grant from the Norfolk & Southern Railroad to purchase extrication equipment at a total of \$25,000.00.

Council Member Piper made a motion to grant Permission to Waive Bidding Requirements for Extrication Equipment for the Fire Department. Seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

Officer Of The Year

Police Chief Chris Deichman presented the Officer of the Year Award to Detective Derek DePoister. This Officer demonstrated outstanding skill, ability and professionalism in the performance of his assigned duties. Three Officers were nominated, and DePoister was chosen by the awards committee to receive the award.

CITY ATTORNEY

No business was presented by the City Attorney.

MAYOR

Chesley reminded everyone the first snow of the season is expected tonight, be careful on the highways, and watch out for Public Works employees who are working to clear the roadways. She will be presenting the State of the City address on Thursday, January 21, at the Holiday Inn at a luncheon sponsored by the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce. The Mayor's PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the City's website, www.mtvernon.com.

CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Moore asked residents to work with the Police Department in helping to solve the recent burglaries in the City.

Council Member Piper advised that a new Neighborhood Watch group has been formed on the north side of the City. Residents who are interested in establishing a group in their neighborhood may call Police Officer Barton at 242-2727.

Council Member McEnaney commended Interim City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel on her work on the recertification of the Enterprise Zone for Mt. Vernon/Jefferson County. It was necessary to acquire the consent of 22 taxing bodies to complete the process. Bechtel thanked Jonathan Hallberg, Nathan McKenna and Merle Hollmann for their assistance as well.

VISITORS/CITIZEN REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

James Rippy requested the City Council pass a Resolution encouraging the citizens of Mt. Vernon to vote “no” on the use of water revenues to support recreational activities at the Rend Lake Conservancy District.

Jere Shaw expressed his concern about how funds are spent at the Rend Lake Conservancy District.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bechtel requested an Executive Session in order to discuss litigation pursuant to Section 2(c)(11) of the Open Meetings Act. In addition, Mayor Chesley requested to discuss personnel pursuant to Section 2(c)(1).

Council Member Piper made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(11) and 2(c)(1). Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins
City Clerk