

**CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS
EMERGENCY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018
2:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

The Mt. Vernon City Council held an Emergency City Council Meeting on Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at the City Maintenance Building, 1201 Casey Avenue, Mt. Vernon, IL.

Mayor John Lewis called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

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

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

No comments were heard.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel presented an Ordinance Declaring a State of Emergency in the City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois and Authorizing the Mayor to Undertake Such Actions as maybe Necessary to Protect Public Health and Safety. Bechtel explained that on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, Rend Lake Conservancy District experienced a major water main break on a 36-inch main inside of their treatment plant. Rend Lake is struggling to get the main fixed and they are still working on the repair. Rend Lake has stopped distributing water to the City of Mt. Vernon and the other communities which they serve. This constitutes a state of emergency and a potentially significant threat to public health and safety. She reported that as of 12:30 p.m., the City of Mt. Vernon had 2.11 million gallons of water in reserve. The area villages agreed to turn off their water meters and operate off their water reserves. All non-essential businesses are asked to suspend services to conserve water. Continental Tire shut down two manufacturing shifts to help the community. This made it possible for residents to have potable water for a longer period. Continental Tire was thanked for their contribution to the community.

The proposed Ordinance authorizes the Mayor to impose regulations as he may deem advisable on the use of potable water in the City and to impose regulations as he may deem advisable to address the state of emergency. The authority of the Mayor will continue until the Mayor and/or Council determines that the state of emergency has ceased to exist.

Mayor John Lewis thanked Continental Tire for what they have done for the community and asked other businesses to curtail their operations that are not required. Lewis stated that the City will attempt to have water available for the citizens when the water stops. There is no guarantee when water will be turned on again.

Council Member Jim Rippy fully supported the Mayor's actions and encouraged citizens to be patient.

Council Member Mike Young assured the community that the City is working in the best public interest for the health and safety of the citizens.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel underscored the importance of Continental Tire stopping operations. Ceasing two manufacturing shifts is a huge ordeal. The time that water was available to the City and its residents was extended by their actions. Council Member Jim Rippy stated that Continental Tire has always been a valuable part of this community and they are a main reason for the success of the City.

Mayor John Lewis reported that the State of Illinois is aware of the water emergency. Rend Lake serves about 60 communities with over 180,000 residents.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to suspend the rules on voting on an Ordinance. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to adopt Ordinance #2018-24, an Ordinance Declaring a State of Emergency in the City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois and Authorizing the Mayor to Undertake Such Actions as maybe Necessary to Protect Public Health and Safety. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Jo Pemberton
City Clerk