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**CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
Wednesday, August 30, 2023**

The Mt. Vernon City Council called a Workshop Meeting for Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1100 Main Street, Council Chamber Room, 2nd Floor, Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

Mayor John Lewis opened the meeting.

ROLL CALL

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

Also present: Stephen Ibendahl with i5Group, City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel, Assistant City Manager Nathan McKenna, Administrative Assistant Kendra Donoho, and Administrative Assistant Lindsay Burris.

VISITORS/CITIZEN’S REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Bob White stated that the City needs bike paths. It is dangerous to ride on the City streets. Anything would be beneficial to the community. He also mentioned that the signs designating no parking are not being followed and he would like to see that enforced.

Bob Watt also agreed that it is challenging to find a safe place to ride around in the City. He would like to see safer streets to ride on.

Donna Watt asked if anyone had been in contact with Representative Dave Severin. City Manager Bechtel stated that the City is just getting started by conducting this study and will be in touch with Representative Severin and applying for grants. The study is important in helping with grant applications.

DISCUSSION OF BICYCLE AND MULTI-USE TRAILS

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that the Bicycle and Multi-Use Trails program is an effort through Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission who wrote the planning grant. The i5Group was chosen as the consulting company to help with the study. There is a public survey that is currently going on through September 30th. There have been staff meetings with Stephen Ibendahl of the i5Group and an advisory committee made up of local avid bicyclists. The City is hoping to have a good study and plan from these meetings so as grants become available, it will be able to apply for those.

City Manager Bechtel introduced Stephen Ibendahl of the i5Group to speak to the Council and community members present. Mr. Ibendahl explained that the Bicycle Master Plan is in the early stages of planning. There are 3 phases to the planning effort. This first phase is looking at existing conditions as to what the City currently has and the conditions. The survey is part of the first phase and is important in planning for future improvements. The second phase is analyzing additional routes and feasibility. The third phase will be a final plan and recommending routes, etc. IDOT is very dedicated toward funding bicycle improvements. As the streets are repaved and restriped, that is a chance that a bike path can be added. There is an advisory committee who has been meeting and has become a sounding board through the process. Mr. Ibendahl stated he will be at Market Days at Veterans Park on September 9th to speak to community members and help get the survey out to the community and answer questions. The survey is also available on the City's website. There is additional information on the website mtvernonbikeplan.com. There is an existing plan in place from 2004 and some of the trails were created in those stages. This new plan will replace and update the old plan.

The Council members and visitors had an open discussion regarding bike trails and shared information, options, and ideas.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Barbour
Deputy City Clerk