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**CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS
Special City Council Meeting
Friday, April 16, 2021**

The Mt. Vernon City Council met for a Special City Council Meeting on Friday, April 16, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1100 Main Street, Council Chamber Room, 2nd Floor, Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

Mayor John Lewis called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

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

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

No comments were heard.

DISCUSSION OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE NEW POLICE FACILITY

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel stated that in December, the Council gave permission to seek Qualifications for Architectural Services for the Construction of a new Police Department Facility. The City has come to an Agreement with Farnsworth Group based in Fairview Heights. This will be on the agenda for the Regular City Council Meeting on April 19. This meeting is an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. The City has been researching locations for a new facility. The proposal is to locate the new Police Facility at 27th and Logan Streets, which is the Northwest corner of Veterans Park. The City owns the property and that would reduce our site acquisition costs. The City owns 40 acres, and this facility would use less than 10% of the space. It would be where the building used for storage, formerly the fire station at 27th & Logan, is located.

Police Chief Trent Page spoke about the condition of the current police department building and explained all the challenges the Department faces in that location and the needs of the department going forward.

Assistant City Manager Nathan McKenna referred to the Agreement and the illustrations distributed showing the proposed location. He stated the contract amount is \$519,000.00. Timewise the City is looking to have the design complete by end of September 2021, begin bidding out and awarding the bids in October 2021, and substantial completion by December 2022. If everything goes as planned, the Police Department would be moved in and operating out of the new facility beginning in January/February 2023.

Assistant City Manager McKenna introduced Brian Paul and Jared Heller from Farnsworth Group to speak about the contract and the timeline.

Mr. Paul explained they would meet with officials on needs, design of the building based on those needs, and schematic design. They will review construction documents and be involved with the bidding phase. They will process all the submitted bids and be on site as needed to address any concerns during the construction phase.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel stated that the City is proposing to the Council that we request qualifications for Construction Management Companies to work in tandem with Farnsworth and the City as our representative. They would attend all the meetings and keep everything on track. They should have information regarding materials and lead times, acquiring all materials, as well as tracking what they believe reasonable costs will be before we get to bids.

Assistant City Manager Nathan McKenna spoke on the two options, as with a General Contractor, the City would receive one bid that has all the components – HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and construction of the building into one bid. With Construction Management, instead of having a General Contractor, there is a Construction Manager who would be on-site every day working for the City and with the Architect to get the lowest bids.

Mr. Heller stated that after the Agreement is approved, Farnsworth is a full-service company and they will be doing mechanical, electrical, plumbing, engineer, civil, survey, and Geotech. While they are doing programming, they can get survey and Geotech engineers on the site to gather all the information. Mr. Paul stated that they will be working with the City's team to establish an overall floor plan and the overall exterior look. They will consider the context of the park and of the neighborhood in the overall exterior design.

Assistant City Manager Nathan McKenna stated that the City will have to demolish the old fire station. That is not part of this Agreement with Farnsworth. He also stated that the City will have to reroute and resurface the walking path. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel stated the City has money in the budget for the walking path, separate from the money set aside for the new police facility.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Barbour
Deputy City Clerk