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**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois  
Regular City Council Meeting  
Monday, September 19, 2016  
7:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

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

Mayor Mary Jane Chesley called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Rev. David Eadie of the Jefferson County Ministerial Association.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS**

The Journals for the August 25, 2016 Special City Council Meeting and the September 6, 2016 Regular City Council Meeting were presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections. **Council Member Piper made a motion to approve the Journals as presented. Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: May, Moore, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley.**

**APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

The Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable were presented to Council for approval. Council Members asked City Manager, Mary Ellen Bechtel, to clarify the following items: #5 Baxmeyer Construction - \$150,306.80 – Construction of North 42<sup>nd</sup> Street from Victoria to Richview. The project is complete. The bills are paid and the road is open. #8 Cartec - \$1,858.25 – Body damage repair parts to vehicle in Park Department. This is repair of a fender bender accident. #16 Henry, Meisenheimer & Gende - \$10,651.23 – West Industrial Park engineering (\$3,879.20), Industrial Park Water Sewer design (\$6,481.25) and North 27<sup>th</sup> and Old Union road (\$290.78). EDA approval is expected any day. When that is received then bidding on the Industrial Park can move forward. #26 Kingdom Seed Ministries - \$24,935.41 – Downtown TIF tax reimbursement. Kingdom Seed Ministries performed about \$60,000.00 worth of improvements to their building on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Their benefit was for \$24,935.41 and the project is completed. #28 Mt. Vernon Festivals - \$5,000.00 – Mt. Vernon Fall Fest sponsorship. Mt. Vernon Festivals is a not-for-profit corporation that organizes the annual Fall Fest. #35 Round Table Design - \$26,305.00 – Safe Routes to School

(\$22,760.00) and Broadway and Main water main replacement. This covers sidewalks to be built on McCauley Road and Marteeny Street to the Summersville Grade School, as well as preparation of the bid documents for the second phase of the water line on Main Street. A special check was written to J K Trotter & Sons in the amount of \$290,976.21 for Broadway and Main Street water main replacement. This represents the final payment to Trotter on the first phase of the Broadway water main replacement. #22 J K Trotter & Sons - \$23,425 – South 42<sup>nd</sup> & Veterans stoplight materials (\$6,000.00) and Sewer work at South 8<sup>th</sup> and Broadway (\$17,425.00). It was necessary for Trotter & Sons to bore under the roadway to provide the electric power to operate the lights.

**Council Member Moore made a motion to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,430,863.30. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.**

**BIDS & QUOTES**

No bids and quotes were presented.

**CITY MANAGER**

No business was presented by City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel.

**CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Council’s consideration a Second Reading of an Ordinance Establishing Water and Sewer Rates and Implementing a Capital Improvement Fee Dedicated to Public Utilities Capital Improvements. Bechtel noted that certain facilities and lines within the water and sewer system of the City have been in service beyond their projected useful life and are obsolete or in need of substantial repair. In addition, the City is incurring substantial financial losses arising from leakage and from frequent repair of antiquated lines. City Council has determined that increases of water and sewer rates (2%) and the assessment of a Capital Improvement Fee (tiered rate meter fee) according to the type of meter, residential, commercial and government, are needed to provide funds to make capital improvements and to preserve the integrity of the water and sewer system of the City. If approved, the new rates and the capital improvement fee will be effective November 1, 2016.

<u>Residential</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Government</u>	<u>Residential</u>
5/8" \$12.00	5/8" \$25.00	5/8" \$25.00	5/8" <del>\$12.00</del> \$10.00
3/4" \$12.00	3/4" \$25.00	3/4" \$25.00	3/4" <del>\$12.00</del> \$10.00
1" \$18.00	1" \$25.00	1.5" \$37.50	1" \$18.00
2" \$24.00	1.5" \$37.50	2" \$56.25	2" \$24.00
6" \$48.00	2" \$56.25	3" \$84.38	6" \$48.00
	3" \$84.38	4" \$126.57	
	4" \$126.57	6" \$190.47	
	6" \$190.47		

**Council Member Moore made a motion to reduce the Capital Improvement Fee from \$12 to \$10. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Discussion was held.**

Council Member May shared his concern in lowering the Capital Improvement Fee to \$10 because of the reduction to funding by almost \$2 million. If the fee is reduced to \$10 then May suggested that a portion of the remaining 2012 bond funds be used to make up the difference. Council Member Moore agreed that the 2012 bond funds should be used to jump start the repairs to the water system.

Michael Bullard shared his concerns about low-income citizens affording the increase to water rates and meter fee.

Jim Rippy suggested a referendum should be conducted so citizens may make a choice and consider what City services should be curtailed in order to provide funding for the needed improvements.

Keisha Jackson suggested a comprehensive study by independent engineers be conducted before spending any money on the needed repairs.

John Lewis shared his concerns about an increase to water rates and a meter fee.

Ray Botch recommended that a ½% sales tax be adopted to finance the water system repairs. He also suggested a blue ribbon committee be appointed to analyze the City's water system.

Hortin Petties suggested experts be brought in to analyze the City's water system repair needs.

Bobbie Farris expressed his concerns about the increase in water rates.

Jere Shaw shared his concerns about the increases in water rates.

John Menke shared his concerns about the disinfectant, Chloramine, a chemical, that is added to the water system and the effect of rate increases to the City's low income residents.

Council Member Piper emphasized the amount of time spent by City staff analyzing the City's infrastructure and recognizing/prioritizing/understanding the repairs to the water and sewer systems. Bechtel reviewed the steps taken by the City to arrive at the proposed plan.

**The vote on the motion to reduce the Capital Improvement Fee from \$12 to \$10 was as follows - Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.**

**Council Member Moore made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2016-27 Establishing Water and Sewer Rates and Implementing a Capital Improvement Fee Dedicated to Public Utilities Capital Improvements. Seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.**

City Attorney Leggans presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving a Conditional Sign Permit for Summersville Grade School. Todd Ham of T. Ham Sign, Inc. appeared on behalf of his client, Summersville Grade School.

**Council Member Piper made a motion to approve a Resolution Approving a Conditional Sign Permit for Summersville Grade School. Seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.**

City Attorney Leggans presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Adopting the Jefferson County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Sargent appeared. Sargent explained the plan is a process for states and communities to identify policies, activities and tools to implement mitigation actions. Mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event. This process has four steps: organizing resources; assessing risks; developing a mitigation plan; and implementing the plan and monitoring progress. Since federal aid for mitigation projects is only distributed to those communities that have a FEMA-approved mitigation plan, it is a great idea for jurisdictions to complete this process.

**Council Member Piper made a motion to approve a Resolution Adopting the Jefferson County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.**

City Attorney Leggans presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Closing Portions of 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Casey Avenue and Jordan Street for Fall Fest from September 29 – October 2, 2016. Angela Schrum, Tourism Director, appeared.

The parade staging area will be at the Park Plaza Shopping Center parking lot. The parade will run backward from previous years. The route will run north on 10<sup>th</sup> Street, right onto Broadway and right onto 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Council Member Moore made a motion to approve a Resolution Closing Portions of 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Casey Avenue and Jordan Street for Fall Fest from September 29 – October 2, 2016. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.**

**MAYOR**

No business was presented.

**CITY COUNCIL**

Council Member Moore reminded residents to wear reflective clothing while walking on City streets during the night time hours.

**VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Jere Shaw expressed his concern about problems with Woodlawn's water.

Keisha Jackson expressed her disappointment in the Council's action in raising the water rate fee and meter fees.

Ray Botch questioned what is being done with the 2012 bond surplus? He urged the Council to use \$2.1 million to have the water storage tanks cleaned and repaired.

Horton Petties stated that a house at 1107 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, across from the Kenneth Martin Center, needs to be repaired. Apparently, the house belongs to the County. Mr. Petties was urged to inform the County Board of the issue.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was requested.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Council Member Piper made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins  
City Clerk