



Mary Jo Pemberton
City Clerk

Creativity Redefined!

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**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Monday, April 5, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, April 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber at City Hall, 1100 Main Street, Mt. Vernon, Illinois via teleconference due to the Covid-19 Quarantine via GoToMeeting. The Log-In for the meeting is <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/357016389>, Call in Number: (872) 240-3212, Access Code: [357-016-389](https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/357016389).

Mayor John Lewis opened the meeting.

Council Member Mike Young gave the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS

The Journals for the March 15, 2021 Public Hearing and the March 15, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting were presented for approval.

Council Member Joe Gliosci motioned to approve the Journals as presented. Seconded by Council Member Donte Moore. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Robert White of 30 Fairway Drive presented an issue he has regarding a water bill from February, 2021, which was \$944.86. He and his family were gone for 2 weeks during the time of the recent winter storm. Water was running for 6 days inside his home without his knowledge. Mr. White is requesting that the Council consider adjusting his water bill for that time period. Mr. White questioned the sewer charges for that same time, as he stated that the water did not go into the sewer system. The water drained in his neighborhood pond.

APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable were presented to Council for approval.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,347,221.77. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

BIDS AND QUOTES

None.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel asked permission to close various streets for the Mt. Vernon Fall Fest events to be held Thursday, September 23 - Sunday, September 26, 2021.

Council Member Joe Gliosci motioned to grant permission to close various streets for the Mt. Vernon Fall Fest events to be held September 23-September 26, 2021. Seconded by Council Member Ray Botch. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel asked permission to close 9th Street between Main and Harrison on June 5, 2021 from 5 p.m. – 10 p.m. for Webber High School Prom.

Council Member Ray Botch motioned to grant permission to close 9th Street between Main and Harrison on June 5, 2021 from 5 p.m. – 10 p.m. for Webber High School Prom. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel asked permission to close 9th Street between Jordan and Casey on August 7, 2021 from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. for Mt. Vernon Homebrewers Festival.

Council Member Ray Botch motioned to grant permission to close 9th Street between Jordan and Casey on August 7, 2021 from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. for Mt. Vernon Homebrewers Festival. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel asked permission to close 9th Street between Main and Harrison on November 6, 2021 from 3 p.m. – 10 p.m. for Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce 100th Anniversary.

Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce President Mike Beard stated this will be the end of their 100th Anniversary Celebration. They will have a trolley that will be taking people from parking areas to the Granada. Mr. Beard thanked the City for their assistance with the Chamber's 100th

Anniversary Celebration. Mayor Lewis commented that he appreciates all the effort made by Mr. Beard and the Chamber in planning the celebration of the Chamber's 100th Anniversary.

Council Member Mike Young motioned to grant permission to close 9th Street between Main and Harrison on November 6, 2021 from 3 p.m. – 10 p.m. for Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce 100th Anniversary. Seconded by Council Member Donte Moore. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Public Hearing and Approval of a Resolution Approving Agreement to Annex Real Estate at 9822 E. Richview Road owned by Caleb and Tiffany Johnson.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that this is a Pre-Annexation Agreement to tap on to the City Water. The property would not be annexed until it becomes contiguous with the incorporated limits of the City.

Council Member Joe Gliosci motioned to approve a Resolution Approving Agreement to Annex Real Estate at 9822 E. Richview Road owned by Caleb and Tiffany Johnson. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Council's consideration a Resolution to Reclassify Certain Water, Sewer, Garbage, and Corporate Accounts for Accounting Purposes.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that this Resolution is to write off bad debts in the Water Department from 2017 and part of 2018 for water, sewer, and garbage in the amount of \$41,121.45. The bad debts will be written off on the books, but still subject to collection. Write offs last year for 2016 was \$36,806.00.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve a Resolution to Reclassify Certain Water, Sewer, Garbage, and Corporate Accounts for Accounting Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the Historic Preservation of the L&N Water Tower.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel has been negotiating with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office regarding the L&N Water Tower. The City agreed to hire an historical contractor. The historical contractor will be hired to document the historic value of the water tower. The information will be supplied to the Lincoln Library in Springfield and an outdoor exhibit will be created at the Jefferson County Historical Village. This is part of the two-million-dollar project to demolish the L&N Tower and construct the new tower.

A modeling study is planned to ensure it is the right size for our system. It is currently 100,000 gallons. The Historic Preservation Office has been holding up the IEPA loan application at the State of Illinois and now can move forward after we execute this Agreement.

Mayor Lewis thanked City Manager Bechtel for all her work on this project, along with Kevin Phillips and Brad Ruble.

Council Member Ray Botch motioned to approve a Resolution approving a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the Historic Preservation of the L&N Water Tower. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Council's consideration a Resolution requesting IDOT Approval for Temporary Closure of IL 15 Westbound from Marlow Road (FAS 789) to Junction of IL 15 and Old Rt. 15 at the East Edge of Mt. Vernon for purpose of "Salute to Freedom" Fireworks Display on July 4, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. until midnight.

Council Member Ray Botch motioned to approve a Resolution requesting IDOT Approval for Temporary Closure of IL 15 Westbound from Marlow Road (FAS 789) to Junction of IL 15 and Old Rt. 15 at the East Edge of Mt. Vernon for purpose of "Salute to Freedom" Fireworks Display on July 4, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. until midnight. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Council's consideration a Resolution requesting Permission from IDOT to Close State Route 15 and 37 on September 25, 2021 from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. for the Fall Fest Parade.

Council Member Ray Botch motioned to approve a Resolution requesting Permission from IDOT to Close State Route 15 and 37 on September 25, 2021 from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. for the Fall Fest Parade. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

MAYOR

Mayor John Lewis reported on the March 2021 statistics from the various City Departments.

The Mt. Vernon Police Department handled 1687 calls which equals to about 54 calls each and every day. 97 people were arrested during the month. There were 121 criminal charges, 56 drug charges and 24 warrants served. They also conducted 310 traffic stops resulting in 111 citations. 15 people were arrested for D.U.I., responded to 80 traffic crashes and answered 86 alarms. The Detective Division was assigned 61 new cases (19 narcotics, 42 criminal), cleared 25 by arrest (25 narcotics, 0 general criminal) and referred 30 cases to the States Attorney (6 narcotic division, 24

general criminal). The Tactical Unit had 3 call outs, our K9 team had 8 deployments and there was 1 crime scene callout.

The Fire Department responded to 342 alarms and calls. The City Hall Station answered 189 alarms, the Airport Station answered 14 alarms, and the 42nd Street Station answered 139 alarms. Of the responses, 263 were recorded as EMS related, 15 of the responses were recorded as fire related, and 8 of the responses were recorded as hazard related. They responded to 3 structure fires, 3 passenger vehicle fires, 1 cooking fire, 6 trash/rubbish/dumpster fires, 15 motor vehicle crashes with injuries, 13 false alarms, and gave mutual aid on 1 call. The Fire Inspection Dept. performed 11 business site inspections, 5 consultations and 2 Plan Reviews. The Fire Prevention Division performed 6 car seat inspections, 1 Red Cross Blood Drive for the month, 4 public education events, and 2 CPR classes.

Our Public Utilities Department responded to 12 water breaks, repaired, or replaced 9 valves, exercised 33 valves, repaired, or replaced 4 fire hydrants, flushed 26 fire hydrants, installed 137 antennas, replaced 25 damaged antennas, processed 177 JULIE locates, had 115 red letter disconnects, and 19 water samples were collected.

Engineering and Inspection Department - They conducted 1 - 10A Inspection, and there have been 29 nuisance postings. There were 2 properties condemned so the total # of condemned properties waiting to be demolished is 53 and there were 10 building permits totaling \$931,565.

Mayor John Lewis had the following comments: *"This is America – we listen all the time to all that is wrong with America. America is the greatest experiment on the face of this Earth, the place where all the World wants to come. It is easy to forget how radical a new idea this was. Our founding fathers invented a new form of government. This is the only nation ever founded on the idea that your life belongs to you, not to the government. Do not delegate your freedoms by not having your voice heard through your vote. This Country has shed blood for your freedom and your right to vote. America is not perfect, but we have achieved so much and prospered as no other people on the face of this Earth and the World still looks to America. Whatever mistakes we make along the way, we the people always correct them, we the people are its voice and that is why I believe we all have the duty to vote. So please, go vote tomorrow."*

Mayor John Lewis presented for the advice and consent of the City Council, the Reappointment of Larry Sidwell, Sarah Sledge, Bill Pixley, and Joyce Secrest to the Mt. Vernon Tourism Advisory Board.

Council Member Ray Botch motioned to accept Reappointment of Larry Sidwell, Sarah Sledge, Bill Pixley, and Joyce Secrest to the Mt. Vernon Tourism Advisory Board. Seconded by Council Member Donte Moore. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis.

CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Donte Moore stated that polls are open from 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. tomorrow. Voting is extremely important. Please go vote. If you have any questions, call Connie Simmons at the County Clerk's office.

Council Member Ray Botch questioned when citizens fill swimming pools if the City charges sewer. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel responded that if they rent a traveling meter, the City will not charge sewer. Sewer is charged for all water that goes through the meter. Council Member Botch asked for a future Workshop Meeting. Mayor Lewis stated that a Workshop to discuss will be held in the future.

Council Member Joe Gliosci also stated that he wanted to reiterate to get out and vote tomorrow.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:36 p.m., Mayor John Lewis requested an Executive Session under Section 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(6) the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body and Section 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5) the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

Council Member Joe Gliosci motioned to go into Executive Session under Section 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(6) the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body and Section 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5) the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. Council Member Mike Young seconded the motion. Yeas: Botch, Gliosci, Moore, Young, Lewis.

At 8:04 p.m., Mayor John Lewis reconvened the Regular City Council Meeting.

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

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel spoke about the former Downtown Development Building located at 805 Main Street and the possibility of selling the building or transferring the ownership of the building to Jefferson County Development Corporation for them to sell and use that money for a project. The City decided to put the property up for sale. It has been appraised. The

proceeds would be reinvested either for another location for Downtown Development or a JCDC project.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Barbour".

Becky Barbour, Deputy City Clerk