

**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Monday, May 21, 2018
7:00 p.m.
MINUTES**

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, May 21, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building, Veterans Park, 800 South 27th Street, Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

Mayor John Lewis called the meeting to order.

Pastor Harold Quick of West Salem Trinity Church gave the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS

The Journals for the May 7, 2018 Regular City Council Meeting and the May 17, 2018 Emergency City Council Meeting were presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve the Journals as presented. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

No comments were heard.

APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Council Member Jeff May motioned to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,432,151.61. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

BIDS & QUOTES

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel presented the bid results for the Ambassador Road Box Culvert Project. Eight bids were received. Staff recommends the acceptance of the lowest responsive responsible bidder, Stutz Excavating, in the amount of \$126,800.20. Bechtel explained that this is a dilapidated wooden bridge west of the recently improved roadway for the high school. If the project goes proceeds in a timely manner, the bridge should be replaced before the next high school year.

1.	E.T. Simonds	Carbondale, IL	\$139,474.51
2.	Guinzy Construction	Ashley, IL	\$243,994.14
3.	Haier Plumbing	Okawville, IL	\$159,297.30
4.	J.K. Trotter & Sons	Mt. Vernon, IL	\$140,354.00
5.	Mathis Excavating	DuQuoin, IL	\$145,013.50
6.	Sierra Bravo	Sesser, IL	\$137,770.39
7.	Stutz Excavating	Alton, IL	\$126,800.20
8.	Baxmeyer Construction	Waterloo, IL	\$140,177.00

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to approve the low bid from Stutz Excavating in the amount of \$126,800.20. Seconded by Council Member Donte Moore. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel presented the bid results for the Water System Upgrade Project. Two bidders supplied bids for the project. Staff recommends the acceptance of the lowest responsive responsible bidder, J.K. Trotter & Sons for \$395,495.00. Public Works Director Matt Fauss explained that initially, the project consisted of replacing the valve pits, valve rerouting, and replacement pumps at Vernwood, entire pit at L & N Tower, entire pit at Opdyke Tower, and adding to the existing pit at Times Square Mall Tower. Fauss said that during the pre-bid meetings, it was found that at the Opdyke Tower, a Whisper Net above ground communications unit was sitting on the edge of the Opdyke Tower's vault. Whisper Net will be contacted to relocate this unit. The Opdyke Tower portion of this project will be bid separately. Council Member Donte Moore asked if the City's water towers will be completely updated after this project. Fauss explained that the Water System Upgrade Project does not include any work on the towers themselves, only the vaults at the base of the towers. Council Member Jim Rippy asked if the results from the Acoustic Water Leak Survey will be ready for the next Public Utilities Meeting. Bechtel stated that the survey is complete, and she is waiting for the written report.

1.	J.K. Trotter & Sons	Mt. Vernon, IL	\$395,495.00
2.	Followell Construction	Marion, IL	\$489,777.00

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve the low bid from J.K. Trotter & Sons for \$395,495.00. Seconded by Council Member Jeff May. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel presented the bid results for the Vernwood Water Tank Painting Project. Five bidders supplied bids for the project. Staff recommends the acceptance of the lowest

responsive responsible bidder, Worldwide Industries Corporation for \$396,143.00. This project includes the repair of the ladder gate, roof hatch, roof vent, interior coating, and exterior coating. Council Member Donte Moore asked how long the paint coating will last. Matt Fauss replied typically twenty years. The project is estimated to take at least three months to complete. Bechtel explained that the Vernwood Water Tank is the City's largest and most important tank. The Vernwood Tank kept water supply available during last week's water emergency. When Vernwood Tank is completed, the Opdyke Water Tower project will begin. Opdyke Tower is estimated to take at least six months to complete. The L & N Tower Project will take place after Opdyke Tower is completed. Mayor John Lewis asked if cathode water tank coating will be used. Bechtel stated that new technology, High Zinc Paint Coating, will be used. Council Member Jim Rippy asked if the tanks will have cathodic protection. Bechtel replied no. The Times Square Mall Tank has the High Zinc Paint Coating and the other tanks will have the same coating.

1.	Worldwide Industries	Chesterland, OH	\$396,143.00
2.	Maguire Iron	Sioux Falls, SD	\$495,500.00
3.	TeCorp, Inc.	Joliet, IL	\$481,800.00
4.	SES Infrastructure Services	Oak Ridge, TN	\$504,000.00
5.	Horizon Brothers	Howell, MI	\$463,000.00

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to approve the low bid from Worldwide Industries Corporation for \$396,143.00. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested permission to waive the bidding requirements to purchase new terminals for the Police Department Squad Cars. Quotes were requested from the State of Illinois and other businesses. Under the State of Illinois' contract, the City can purchase the Panasonic Toughbook Terminals at the best price of \$3,557.00 each. Eighteen terminals will be purchased for a total of \$64,026.00.

Council Member Jeff May motioned to waive the bidding requirements to purchase new terminals for the Police Department Squad Cars. Seconded by Council Member Jim Rippy. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested permission to waive the bidding requirements and seek quotes for the installation of an air-conditioning unit for the Lincoln Park Concession Stand. Bechtel explained that due to limited space, installing a window air-conditioner would cause a tripping and head bumping hazard. An air handler system will be necessary. Since the City does not know what this system will look like, this project would be difficult to bid, and she requested that quotes be accepted from local providers.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to waive the bidding requirements and seek quotes for the installation of an air-conditioning unit for the Lincoln Park Concession Stand. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney David Leggans presented for second reading an Ordinance Establishing the Administrative Procedure for the City of Mt. Vernon to Determine Eligibility under the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act (PSEBA). City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that this establishes a formal and defined application process under PSEBA. PSEBA was enacted to provide free health insurance benefits to the full-time police officers, and firefighters who are killed or catastrophically injured in the line of duty. The purpose of the application is to try to remove any subjective views.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to adopt Ordinance #2018-25, an Ordinance Establishing the Administrative Procedure for the City of Mt. Vernon to Determine Eligibility under the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act (PSEBA). Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

City Attorney David Leggans presented for second reading an Ordinance Annexing Real Estate to the City of Mt. Vernon. The property is located at 929 Fairfield Road having the PIN 07-28-226-006. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that the property owner, Linda Terrell, desires to have City water. No water lines need to be installed. The property is contiguous to the City.

Council Member Jeff May motioned to adopt Ordinance #2018-26, an Ordinance Annexing Real Estate to the City of Mt. Vernon. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Mt. Vernon Township High School District 201 for a School Resource Officer. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that the City will assign one uniformed Mt. Vernon Police Officer to perform the duties. The High School will pay 75% of the annual cost of the officer. The officer will be on-site at the High School for 8 hours per day when the school is in session. When school is not in session, the officer will perform regular police duties. The term of the Agreement is August 1, 2018 through May 30, 2020. Either party may terminate the Agreement not less than 90-days prior to the date of termination. Council Member Jim Rippy fully supports having a School Resource Officer at the High School, but he will vote no unless the High School pays 100% of the annual cost of the officer. Bechtel explained that they are paying 100% of time that the officer is at the school. Rippy stated that due to the condition of the City finances and the High School having more funds than the City, the High School should pay 100% of the total annual cost of the officer. Council Member Donte Moore explained that in the event of an emergency, the officer can be reassigned to perform police duties for the City. Council Member Jeff May said that this Agreement provides for an additional officer that the City would not have been able to afford. May feels that this is a good pro-active move on the part of the City.

Council Member Jeff May motioned to approve the Resolution Approving an Agreement with Mt. Vernon Township High School District 201 for a School Resource Officer. Seconded by Council Member Donte Moore. Yeas: May, Moore, Young, and Lewis. No: Rippy.

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Mt. Vernon City Schools District 80 for a School Resource Officer. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that this Agreement mirrors the High School's Agreement except that the term of this Agreement is for a five-year period instead of two years.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve the Resolution Approving an Agreement with Mt. Vernon City Schools District 80 for a School Resource Officer. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: May, Moore, Young, and Lewis. No: Rippy.

MAYOR

Mayor John Lewis read a statement thanking everyone for their efforts during last week's water crisis. Continental Tire stepped up and cancelled shifts to conserve water for the community. That action cost their company millions of dollars. Walgreens, American Water, Fastenal, and Mountain Valley Water donated bottled water to Jefferson County. Many volunteers assisted with the distribution of the bottled water. Lewis hopes that Rend Lake Conservancy District addresses this issue quickly, along with the communication issues which were apparent during the crisis. The City is lobbying for a second water line from Rend Lake as a proactive measure. Emergency provisions will remain in place until the City is sure that the situation at the Rend Lake Conservancy District is stable. Because of the actions of our businesses and citizens, the City avoided what could have turned into a catastrophe.

Council Member Donte Moore thanked Assistant Police Chief Trent Page, Firefighter Bryan Jennings, Jonathan Younger, Matt Fauss, Nathan McKenna, and the many volunteers who helped distribute the bottled water. He thanked Keisha Jackson and Nicholas Lemay from the Rend Lake Conservancy District for keeping the citizens updated on social media. He thanked Ben from Joe's Pizza for the food and the citizens of Mt. Vernon for listening and following the Mayor's directions.

Council Member Jim Rippy commented that he was very impressed by Mayor Lewis' calmness during this serious situation. His calmness and leadership skills were needed in this situation.

Council Member Mike Young stated that he was amazed at the professionalism and accuracy exhibited by the City employees by working together in this situation.

Council Member Jim Rippy added that the City, Jefferson County Development Commission, or other leaders need to challenge the Rend Lake Conservancy District to stop spending money on recreation and to spend it on infrastructure. He said that they cannot take water revenue which should be designated for water repairs and updates, and divert the funds to cabins, golfing, lodges, and other recreation programs.

Council Member Donte Moore gave thanks to City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel and Mayor Lewis for their great job. Leadership starts at the top.

Mayor John Lewis stated leaders are only as successful as the people around them. He thanked Bechtel, Assistant City Manager Nathan McKenna, Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Sargent, the Police, Fire, Public Works, and Public Utilities Departments. Everyone worked together as a team all night long.

CITY COUNCIL

No comments were heard.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Linola Spann thanked everyone for their efforts during last week's water crisis, especially the way the Police Department set up the water distribution station at the Park. There was no panic in the community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Jo Pemberton
City Clerk