

**CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, March 21, 2016

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, March 21, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building, Veterans Park, 800 South 27th Street, Mt. Vernon, IL.

The invocation was given by Rev. Don Bigham.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS

The Journals for the March 4, 2016 Special City Council Meeting and the March 7, 2016 Regular City Council Meeting were presented to Council for their approval: **Council Member Moore made a motion to approve the Journals as presented. Seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.**

APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable were presented to Council for approval. Council Member McEnaney requested an update from the City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel on the following: Item #1 Amalgamated Bank of Chicago - \$189,856.25 – Interest payments on the 2010 A & 2010 B Bonds. Bechtel reported this represents an interest payment on the bonds. Item #2 Ameren IP - \$16,977.14 – February street lighting. McEnaney expressed concern about the color and type of street lights being replaced by Ameren. Item #5 Campland - \$2,272.55 – Downtown TIF Reimbursement. This is a payment to the project on South 10th Street called Tavern on 10th. Item #10 Granada Center for Performing Arts - \$19,789.00 – downtown TIF reimbursement. This is the final payment on the rehabilitation of the Granada Theater. Item #11 HB Williamson Co - \$46,875.00 – Downtown TIF reimbursement. This represents the fourth of five payments. Item #21 Mt. Vernon City Schools - \$10,000.00 – Downtown TIF reimbursement. This represents the second payment of ten on their project to construct sidewalks around Casey Middle School. Item #22 One Stop Flooring - \$42,100.00 – Downtown TIF reimbursement. This is the fourth payment of seven. Item #8 Edwards

Pump & Valve - \$2,203.68 – Opdyke Tower altitude valve repair kit. The controls that manage the water level are faulty and this is a temporary fix to last for a couple of years.

Council Member Piper made a motion to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,360,067.35. Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

BIDS & QUOTES

Bechtel presented for Council’s consideration Permission to Seeks Bids for a Lawn Mower for the Parks Department. This is a budgeted expense in this year’s budget.

Council Member Piper made a motion to grant Permission to Seeks Bids for a Lawn Mower for the Parks Department. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

Bechtel presented for Council’s consideration Permission to Seek Bids for the North 27th Street Reconstruction Project. City Engineer Brad Ruble presented the following facts and history pertaining to this proposed project:

N. 27th Street Facts and History	
Reconstruction of N. 27th Street from Richview Road to Old Union Lane	
1	Project originally was on N. 27th/ Old Union around the corner all the way to Rte. 37
2	Project was shortened Wilshire Rd. due to bond moneys being over budget. Saved \$500K
3	Project was then shortened to be from Richview Road to Old Union Lane. Saved \$750K
4	Current project is near 100% designed at a cost of \$363K, Const. estimate of \$1.8 Million
5	Some of the savings from the project being shortened will fund Wilshire Rd. Sidewalks and S. 44th Street Water lne projects
6	Original intent of the project was to provide another North South Corridor in the city. Along with the S. 27th Street project, which is now cancelled, but is on the long range plan. The road will be a bypass for downtown during events. Currently 10th, 12th, 34th and 42nd are the main North South Corridors
7	Will provides a new roadway with enclosed drainage and multi-use trail to 2 tourism hubs in the city, Cedarhurst Center for the Arts and Jefferson County Historical Society.
8	Project will realign N. 27th Street across Richview Road, improving safety at the intersection.
9	15 crashes at 27th and Richview from 2010 thru 2014, one crash with injuries, a fatal crash at the intersection did occur in the past.
10	Traffic Counts are 1250 ADT for N. 27th and 6300 on Richview
11	Multi-use trail connects to trail being built along Richview from 24th to 27th and then to the C&C Family Fitness Trail that ends at Casey Middle School.
12	Cedarhurst will need to relocate 4 sculptures, new fencing will be built along the east ROW line of 27th Street
13	Existing water main along N. 27th is 6-inch PVC with no break history
14	Const. to begin as soon at June 1, 2016 with completion shortly into 2017.

Bechtel and Ruble expressed their concern that the project must go out for bid as soon as possible so the job is completed prior to December 2017 when the bond funds must be expended pursuant to the bond specifications. Council Members May and Moore want to delay final approval of this project until Bechtel has compiled the status of all City utilities. She advised that her utilities analysis will be available in approximately

one month. McEnaney expressed his strong desire for the project to move forward. Council agreed to go forward with the bid process and reevaluate the project when bids are presented to Council at a future Council Meeting.

Sharon Bradham, Executive Director of Cedarhurst Center for the Arts at 2600 Richview Road, urged the Council to go forward with the North 27th Street reconstruction project.

Sharon Francois, Vice President of the Jefferson County Historical Society at 1411 North 27th Street, encouraged the Council to go forward with the North 27th Street reconstruction project.

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to grant Permission to Seek Bids for the North 27th Street Reconstruction Project. Seconded by Council Member Piper. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

CITY MANAGER

No business was presented.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration an Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of Municipal Property – Surplus Property. Bechtel noted that this Ordinance authorizes the City to sell 24 more surplus properties and items, including the 1994 Spartan Fire Pumper and the Eckles building at the corner of 9th and Jordan.

Council Member Piper made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2016-3 Authorizing the Sale of Municipal Property – Surplus Property. Seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

City Attorney Howard presented for Council's consideration an Ordinance Rezoning Property Located on Wells Bypass Having PIN 10-12-151-001 from A-G; General Agriculture to B-2; Secondary Business. Petitioning Party is Gardell Strite. Mr. Strite plans to sell storage buildings/investment property. Although the property is outside of the City Limits it is within the 1½ mile zoning jurisdiction. This was reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Committee and passed with a unanimous vote.

Council Member May made a motion to approve an Ordinance No. 2016-4 Rezoning Property Located on Wells Bypass Having PIN 10-12-151-001 from A-G; General Agriculture to B-2; Secondary Business. Seconded by Council Member Piper. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

City Attorney Howard presented for Council's consideration an Ordinance Approving a Conditional Use for Property Located at 414 E. Main St. for a Doggy Daycare/Kennel. Petitioning Party: Randy and Connie Olson. Jagger's Doggy Daycare will be moving to a new and larger location. This was reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Committee with unanimous approval. Randy and Connie Olson appeared. They intend to add kenneling to their services offered.

Council Member Piper made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2016-5 Approving a Conditional Use for Property located at 414 E. Main St. for a Doggy Daycare/Kennel. Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

City Attorney Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Donating 1994 Spartan Fire Pumper to the Mt. Vernon Township High School District No. 201. Several options have been presented to Council for

use of the old pumper – 1) Give it to the High School for use in their Fire Science class; 2) Donate the pumper to the City of McLeansboro for use in their Fire Department; 3) Auction it off along with other surplus property; or 4) Scrap it. A majority of the Council wants to donate the old pumper to the High School for their Fire Science Program. Rob Knutson, Vice Principal at Mt. Vernon Township High School and Director of the Career and Technical Education Department, commended the City's Fire Chief and staff for their involvement in the Fire Science Classes at MVTHS. He expressed his desire to have the pumper at the high school to be used in training students about fire science.

Mayor Chesley read aloud a letter from McLeansboro Mayor Dick Dietz asking that the pumper be donated to McLeansboro because they are currently using a 1977 pumper. Mayor Chesley stated that she is in favor of the pumper going to McLeansboro. Council Members Piper and Moore noted that the taxpayers in this community paid for the pumper and it should stay in this area to benefit this community.

Council Member Piper made a motion to adopt a Resolution Donating the 1994 Spartan Fire Pumper to the Mt. Vernon Township High School District No. 201. Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore and Piper. Nay: Chesley.

City Attorney Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Requesting IDOT Approval for Temporary Closure of IL 15 Westbound from Marlow Rd (FAS 789) to Junction of IL 15 & Old Rt. 15 at East Edge of Mt. Vernon for Purpose of "Salute to Freedom" Fireworks Display on July 4, 2016.

Council Member Moore made a motion to adopt the Resolution Requesting IDOT Approval for Temporary Closure of IL 15 Westbound from Marlow Rd (FAS 789) to Junction of IL 15 & Old Rt. 15 at East Edge of Mt. Vernon for Purpose of "Salute to Freedom" Fireworks Display on July 4, 2016. Seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

City Attorney Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving Agreement with Illinois Department of Transportation Fairfield Road Resurfacing Project. This improvement of Fairfield Road is from IL Route 15 to Stinson Drive and approximately 1.61 miles in length. IDOT will provide \$820,000.00 and the City's share is \$205,000.00.

Council Member May made a motion to adopt a Resolution Approving Agreement with Illinois Department of Transportation Fairfield Road Resurfacing Project. Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

City Attorney Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving a Loan Mortgage Modification Agreement with John Paul Braswell and Johnna Braswell. This modifies the agreement to extend the term another 10 years at the same rate of 3%. The Revolving Loan Committee reviewed the modification, and it was unanimously approved.

Council Member Piper made a motion to adopt a Resolution Approving a Loan Mortgage Modification Agreement with John Paul Braswell and Johnna Braswell. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

City attorney Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Subordination of a Revolving Loan Agreement with Z&G Restaurant Group, LLC (Buffalo Wild Wings). They have asked that the City subordinate the revolving loan interests on UCC security to this new primary lender. The Revolving Loan Committee reviewed this and it was unanimously approved.

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to adopt a Resolution Subordination of a Revolving Loan Agreement with Z&G Restaurant Group, LLC (Buffalo Wild Wings). Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

MAYOR

No information was shared by Mayor Chesley.

CITY COUNCIL

Bechtel advised that Council Member Donte Moore is directing the City Manager to Draft an Ordinance Amending Article 13 Section 13.8 "Open Burning" to Allow 8 Days a Year for Landscape Waste Burning. Moore stated many residents have asked that he approach the Council regarding a possible compromise regarding the City's no burning position. He suggested that four days in the spring and four days in the fall would be a huge benefit to the residents. He added that a total of only four burning days per year would be acceptable as well.

John Menke appeared to discourage leaf burning in the City. A brochure from the University of Illinois was disseminated. He referred to remarks made by then Council Member David Wood at a City Council Workshop in June, 2014.

Mickey Ward, of Fox Creek, suggested that the City lease or purchase a leaf vacuum truck similar to what is used in Centralia, Salem and Carbondale.

Linola Spann stated that she would be in favor of some days for burning small limbs. She noted that the drainage ditch on Lamar from 17th to 24th Street is deep, dirty and needs some attention.

Hortin Petties agreed that leaf burning eight days per year and a leaf vacuum truck would be helpful.

Julie Quinn encouraged the community to use alternative methods of disposing of leaves along with educating the public as to the other methods for leaf disposal. She agreed that a vacuum truck would be excellent. In addition, she suggested community service workers and/or juvenile offenders can be used for bagging leaves.

Leah Mooney agreed that four or eight days per year would be beneficial for burning off her garden.

Rev. Ron Lash reminded Council that he is against any burning of leaves because of negative health effects.

Council Member McEnaney does not support leaf burning and urged residents to use alternative methods for the disposal of leaves.

Council Member Piper suggested that the City Manager contact Republic and other similar companies about leasing a vacuum truck.

Council Member Moore made a motion to table his motion so that further information and discussion may be had regarding amending the City's leaf burning ban. Council Member McEnaney seconded the motion to table the leaf burning issue for now. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

VISITORS/CITIZEN REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Jim Rippy thanked the City for helping to get voters to the polls at the recent election. He added that he and Jere Shaw will be approaching the Franklin County Board to place a similar Resolution on the November ballot.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting. Seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins
City Clerk