

**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Monday, October 2, 2017
7:00 p.m.
MINUTES**

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, October 2, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building, Veterans Park, 800 South 27th Street, Mt. Vernon, IL.

Mayor John Lewis called the meeting to order.

Harold Quick of the West Salem Trinity United Methodist Church gave the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS

The Journals for the September 15, 2017 City Council Workshop Meeting and the September 18, 2017 Regular City Council Meetings were presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections. **Council Member Mike Young motioned to approve the Journals as presented. Seconded by Council Member Jim Rippy. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.**

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

No comments were heard from the public.

APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable were presented to Council for approval. Council Member Jim Rippy asked why money is still being spent on the armory. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that the City has not completed the project. Recently, the City went out for bid on the armory. The costs are for the architects for bidding purposes.

Council Member Jim Rippy asked about the payment to Round Table Design for the revision of Safe Routes to School plans. Bechtel explained that the Safe Routes to School project is the project that the City applied for a grant from the State for sidewalks on Marteeny and McCauley Road. This project languished and

the routes keep being changed. Finally, the City did not use the grant. The design was changed for work on Marteeny only.

Council Member Jim Rippy asked about a payment for over \$1,200 for a cell phone. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel will look up the payment and advise him later.

Council Member Jim Rippy asked about the payment to Henry, Meisenheimer & Gende (HMG) for the construction inspection for the Industrial Park water and sewer. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that this is for the new industrial park. With the three grants for the industrial park, the City had to provide a construction oversight and HMG is doing this work. Rippy asked for the cost of the entire construction oversight. Mary Ellen Bechtel will look up the payment and advise him later.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,497,739.48. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.

BIDS & QUOTES

No bids and quotes were presented.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested permission to seek bids on the Rackaway Street Water Line Project. This project will replace the water line to improve the fire suppression resources in this area. The 2012 Bonds will fund this project.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to give permission to seek bids on the Rackaway Street Water Line Project. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested permission to seek bids for six Police squad cars. These six cars would replace other cars based on age, mileage, and maintenance cost. The City is proposing to purchase six fully outfitted Interceptor Police Vehicles. The 2017 revenue will fund this project. Council Member Jim Rippy asked if the cars come from the State or local dealers. Bechtel replied that it is according to how the Council wants to proceed. Now, the City is going to seek bids and the low bidder will be awarded unless there is some type of exception.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to give permission to seek bids for six Police squad cars. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested permission to seek bids for two backhoes. These two backhoes would replace other backhoes based on number of operational hours, age, and maintenance cost. The 2017 revenue will fund this project.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to give permission to seek bids for two backhoes. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested permission to seek bids for a street sweeper. Bechtel explained that the former vacuum street sweeper quit several months ago and the City has tried to get by without one. The City found that it was not manageable to operate without a sweeper because the debris is clogging the storm sewer inlets. The lifespan of a mechanical sweeper is longer than a vacuum sweeper. The 2017 revenue will fund this project.

Council Member Mike Young motioned to give permission to seek bids for a street sweeper. Seconded by Council Member Jim Rippy. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested permission to seek bids for the cleaning and inspection of the 24-inch and 30-inch gravity sewer mains feeding the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Bechtel explained that there are four large gravity sewer mains. One main is completely blocked, another is 50% blocked, and two are 25% blocked. This project would clear the lines, video, and grade the lines for future maintenance or repair. The Utility Capital Investment Fee (meter fee) will fund this project.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to give permission to seek bids for the cleaning and inspection of the 24-inch and 30-inch gravity sewer mains feeding the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested permission to seek bids for the cleaning, televising, and grading of sewer mains identified as Project Areas A, B, C, and D. These four areas have historically shown major problems. This is a recommendation from the Public Utilities Committee. From these reports, the next step is to repair or replace the sewer mains. Council Member Jim Rippy complimented Jonathan Younger and Matt Fauss on their excellent work.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to give permission to seek bids for the cleaning, televising, and grading of sewer mains identified as Project Areas A, B, C, and D. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested permission to seek bids for the cleaning, televising, and grading of the sewer mains in the Summersville Area. This is an area with a great deal of infiltration. This is a recommendation from the Public Utilities Committee. From these reports, the next step is to repair or replace the sewer mains. Council Member Jim Rippy thanked Ray Botch and City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel along with Jonathan Younger and Matt Fauss for the hard work they put into this project. Mayor John Lewis and Council Member Mike Young agreed.

Council Member Mike Young motioned to give permission to seek bids for the cleaning, televising, and grading of the sewer mains in the Summersville Area. Seconded by Council Member Jim Rippy. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested permission to seek proposals for an Acoustical Leak Detection Study of the City-Wide Water System. This is a recommendation from the Public Utilities Committee. This project would find leaks in the system and provide a report on the location of the leaks. From the report, the City would develop a plan to bid the repair or replacement of the water mains. This type of leak detection can find leaks that do not come to the surface. Council Member Jim Rippy stated that this is a very important project because the City needs to know the shape of their water system, and have an idea on how much it will cost to repair.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to give permission to seek proposals for an Acoustical Leak Detection Study of the City-Wide Water System. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested permission to seek proposals for a System-Wide Water Meter Replacement Project. It is a recommendation from the Public Utilities Committee. This proposes the replacement of all City water meters with the RFI System. The RFI System is a remote read system. Bechtel reported that seven companies have been researched. The companies have different strategies, equipment, and computer programs. The purpose is to improve the accuracy of the meter readings and to capture under billing. The cost is estimated to be \$1.8 to \$2.5 million. It is projected to recapture 3% to 10% of water not being billed. The funding source may be a short-term loan for 5 years with traditional financing funded by the new 1% Sales Tax Revenue. Based on the \$2.5 million estimate, an annual payment at 2.5% interest would be \$560,000. Mayor John Lewis asked if this project qualifies for the IEPA Loan. Bechtel replied yes, but it would take the project off its timeline. The IEPA Loan would take 8 months to one year to award.

Council Member Mike Young motioned to give permission to seek proposals for a System-Wide Water Meter Replacement Project. Seconded by Council Member Jim Rippy. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel presented a request to seek bids for a City Hall Copier. The current copier is six years old with over a million copies. Service is called at least once a month. This copier serves the City Hall Offices. Finance Director Merle Hollmann has researched the best financing method for this project and he feels that purchasing a copier is the best deal for the City. The cost is estimated at \$14,000. The 2012 Bonds will fund this project.

Council Member Mike Young motioned to give permission to seek bids for a City Hall Copier. Seconded by Council Member Jim Rippy. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested permission to waive the bidding requirements to purchase an Emergency Siren for the West Side of Mt. Vernon. Blue Valley Public Safety is the distributor. It is the only company that has permission to sell the brand of the City's current system. Bechtel explained that the new siren would be in the Lincoln Park area. It is needed because of the deficit of coverage on the west side and by the high school and hospital locations. The cost would be \$35,439.73. The 2017 revenue will fund this project.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to give permission to waive the bidding requirements to purchase an Emergency Siren for the West Side of Mt. Vernon. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested permission to waive the bidding requirements to purchase materials for an Air Ventilation System for the Fleet Services Building. The new ventilation system is a step closer to OSHA compliance as well as providing a healthier work environment for the Fleet Services employees. The request is to purchase the materials only. The system will be installed by City employees. The 2012 Bonds will fund this project. The estimated cost is \$11,000. Fleet Services Director Mike Shannon explained that the ventilation system consists of one fan unit connected to three fume collector hose reels suspended from the ceiling.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to give permission to waive the bidding requirements to purchase materials for an Air Ventilation System for the Fleet Services Building. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested permission to expand Verizon Services to include a GPS System for the City Fleet. Along with GPS services, this will provide alerts on GIS boundaries, diagnosis, drive time, routes, stop time, fuel economy and usage, odd hour movement, geo-fence service, crash alert, speeding and hard braking alert, seatbelt usage, and roadside assistance within a 500-mile radius. The information will go directly to the cell phones of assigned administrators. There is a one-time \$14,549 charge for the equipment and a monthly service fee charged to the individual departments based on the equipment assigned to the department. The purpose is to significantly improve the use and the maintenance cost of the City fleet. This service can be cancelled at any time if the City does not see the expected results. Council Member Jim Rippy sees the value of the service, but he hopes that the plan is communicated properly. Bechtel stated that she has spoken to the unions. Council Member Mike Young stated that this is common practice for many companies.

Council Member Mike Young motioned to give permission to expand Verizon Services to include a GPS System for the City Fleet. Seconded by Council Member Jim Rippy. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested permission to seek bids for window replacement at City Hall. This is part of the City Hall improvement plan. The 2012 Bonds will fund this project.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to give permission to seek bids for window replacement at City Hall. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Council's consideration an Ordinance Approving a Downtown TIF Redevelopment Agreement with Brian Mooney for property located at 223 South 9th Street. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that Brian Mooney came before the Downtown TIF Committee. Mooney purchased property at 223 South 9th and has plans to renovate the property into a hair salon with a second-floor apartment. The total cost is estimated at \$256,000. The TIF Committee recommended funding this project with no more than 50.72% of the eligible expenses or \$130,000 to be paid over a three-year period upon successful completion of the project.

Council Member Mike Young motioned to adopt Ordinance #2017-43, an Ordinance Approving a Downtown TIF Redevelopment Agreement with Brian Mooney for property located at 223 South 9th Street. Seconded by Council Member Jim Rippy. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.

City Attorney David Leggans presented for first reading an Ordinance Amending Article 18, Section 18.20, Subparagraph (e) Prohibiting Parking on Certain Streets. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that City staff has identified several streets where restricted parking would benefit the safety of the residents in case of emergencies as well as maintenance for snow and ice removal. The proposed streets are:

1. The East side of 10th Street from Main to Broadway

2. The South side of Main Street from the West side of the Jefferson County Courthouse steps to 10th Street
3. The South side of Mannen Street from 27th Street to Logan Street
4. The West side of 19th Street from Logan Street to Perkins Avenue
5. The East side and West side of 22nd Street from Broadway to Perkins
6. The East side and the West side of 24th Street from Broadway to Perkins
7. The East side of 26th Street from Perkins Avenue to Forest Avenue
8. The East side and the West side of 26th Street from Forest Avenue to Veterans Memorial Drive
9. The South side of Casey Avenue from 19th Street to 27th Street

Bechtel asked the Council to look at the proposed streets to see if they agree with the Staff's recommendation. **First Reading was held.**

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Council's consideration a Resolution approving an Agreement with Evansville Western and CSX Rail for the Sewer Project on North 20th Street. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that this agreement allows the City to bore under the railroad on North 20th Street to construct a new sewer line. Mayor John Lewis asked when the project will begin. Bechtel explained that the quotes are in and they are ready to start. City Engineer Brad Ruble explained that the City will need to obtain the railroad approval of the Agreement and provide insurance certificates. After approval the railroad will issue a permit and schedule a flag man.

Council Member Jim Rippy motioned to approve the Resolution approving an Agreement with Evansville Western and CSX Rail for the Sewer Project on North 20th Street. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Rippy, Young, and Lewis. Absent: May and Moore.

MAYOR

Mayor John Lewis introduced Jonathon Hallberg, Executive Director of the Jefferson County Development Corporation to speak on the upcoming "Manufacturing Day" in Mt. Vernon. Hallberg explained that with the Southern Illinois Workforce Development Board and the State of Illinois Department of Commerce, October 5, 2017 was declared as "Manufacturing Day". He said on that day, one hundred and sixty-two participants will be touring six of Mt. Vernon's manufacturing facilities. The purpose of this day is to shine a light on manufacturing as a viable career opportunity. Hallberg hopes that this carries on into the future and requested that Mayor Lewis proclaim the first full week of October as "Manufacturing Week" in Mount Vernon to encourage local collaborative efforts to expand knowledge about and improve the general public's perception of manufacturing careers and manufacturing's value to the local economy. **Mayor Lewis read the Proclamation proclaiming the first full week of October as "Manufacturing Week" in Mount Vernon.**

Mayor John Lewis reminded everyone to attend the new I-57 Roadhouse Harley Davidson's grand opening on Saturday, October 7, 2017 from noon to 10 p.m. The ribbon cutting will be at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor John Lewis introduced Chairman Ray Botch to provide an update on the Public Utilities Committee. Botch reported that the Committee has come a long way. Tonight, the City Council granted permission to seek bids on five different projects. Many more projects are needed to bring Mt. Vernon's water and sewer systems into the 21st Century. He thanked the individuals who have dedicated so much time towards this goal especially Council Member Jim Rippy, Council Member Jeff May, City Manager Mary

Ellen Bechtel, Public Works Director Matt Fauss, Asst. Public Utilities Director Jonathan Younger, and City Engineer Brad Ruble. Council Member Jim Rippy appreciated everything that Mr. Botch was doing too.

CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Jim Rippy spoke on the opening of 7th Street at the railroad crossing. The reason for the delay is that one of the participants is experiencing a very serious health issue in the family. Rippy believes that a conclusion agreeable to all will be reached.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

No comments were heard from the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Jo Pemberton
City Clerk