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City Clerk



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**CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
Monday, May 15, 2017**

The Mt. Vernon City Council met in a Workshop Meeting on Monday, May 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building, Veterans Park, 800 South 27th Street, Mt. Vernon, IL.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor John Lewis called the meeting to order.

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

VISITORS/CITIZEN REQUEST/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

No visitors spoke at the meeting.

REVIEW OF 2012 BOND FUNDS AND PROJECTS

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel presented a worksheet showing the projects proposed to be funded with the 2012 Bond proceeds.

Projects PROPOSED - as of 2/15/2017			
Quality of Life			
Armory	500,000	\$1.5 Million Grant and Poettker - going to bid	
Park Plaza Demo	510,000		
Aquatic Zoo Parking	221,700	In House design - going to bid	
Lincoln Park /South Parking	243,000	In House design - going to bid	
Tennis Courts - Lincoln Park (4)	450,000	Entire Project awarded 2014/suspended 2015	
City Hall Building Improvements	867,000	Started - McCoy Howard	
Summersville Sidewalk	450,000	Design complete	
Total Quality of Life/ Ec Dev			3,241,700
Infrastructure			
Storm Sewer			
E. Last/N. Last/Rufus/Peek	200,000	Round Table Design	In Design
Brownsville/Harlan	224,000		
Northbrook Dr.	160,000	Engineering in house -	Bid awarded; going to construction
Water Lines / Sewer			
Rackaway Water line replacement	150,000	Hennigan - engineering	
44th St. North Water line replacement	200,000	In House Design	
Road Improvements			
44th N and S. Street Overlay	665,000	Rhutasal Engineering A	In Design
44th Street N. Lighting	10,000	Ameren & Tri County	In Process
Richview Road Overlay	650,000	Rhutasal Engineering A	In Design
Parking lanes - Broadway/Main	70,000	IDOT - Committed	
Harlan Road Road Overlay	300,000	On Hold * Estimate includes water and sewer extension	
Lake Terrace/ East and West (both lanes)	750,000	Contract in hand, not approved	
			3,129,000
	6,370,700		

The worksheet total is an estimate and the amount could change. Bechtel explained that the 2012 Bonds have a call date in 2020 and the City needs to invest this money into community projects as soon as possible. She recommended by December 2017 to remain in compliance with bonding agent and procedures.

Under the Quality of Life portion, Bechtel explained the seven (7) projects totaling \$3,241,700.

1. Armory: The City received a \$1.5 million State Grant for the development of the Armory. This grant is matched with \$500,000 from the City. Poettker Construction is managing this project and it is ready to go to bid.

2. Park Plaza Demo: For the demolition of the Park Plaza Shopping Center, \$510,000 remain. This is separate from the \$89,000 previously spend for the repair of the wall and roof on the east side of the Post Office.
3. Aquatic Zoo Parking: The biggest complaint with the Aquatic Zoo is that there are not enough parking spaces. Completed in-house, the design increases parking by sixty spaces. The funds allocated to this project are \$221,700.
4. Lincoln Park/South Parking: This lot is heavily used. In the first phase, the City asphalted half of the parking lot. The first phase is now in poor condition and the second half of the parking lot was never asphalted. The proposed allocation of \$243,000 is to asphalt the entire parking lot. This would provide over 300 parking spaces in this area.
5. Tennis Courts – Lincoln Park (4): The tennis courts were part of a much bigger project that started out at \$1.6 million. \$1.2 million were from the bond proceeds and \$400,000 were from an Outdoor Spaces Grant. The entire project was awarded in 2014, but suspended in 2015. The scope of the project was reduced to four (4) tennis courts at a cost of \$450,000. Council Member Donte Moore explained that if the City builds new courts or rebuilds the existing courts, the \$450,000 cost is the same. Council Member Jim Rippe asked what was the dollar amount before the City seeks bids from outside engineering firms. Bechtel replied that there is no set dollar amount. The City Engineering Department does what they can in-house, then other projects are awarded to outside firms. Bechtel explained that if the project cost is over \$25,000, the City asks for qualifications and bids. For the initial tennis court project, the project went through the bidding and award process. The City is trying to deal with the company, who won the award, to reduce the scope of this project. Mayor John Lewis asked what will happen to the \$400,000 Outdoor Spaces Grant. Bechtel stated that the funds will return to the State unless the entire \$1.6 million project is completed. The City will be barred from applying for another Outdoor Spaces Grant for a minimum of two years when the City notifies the State that the grant will not be used for the initial project.
6. City Hall Building Improvements: The City has spent \$200,000 on earlier improvements and additional \$867,000 is requested for upgrades to electrical, plumbing, and HVACs, reroofing, entry to Fire Station bays, front and west doors of City Hall. Nathan McKenna explained that bids are out for the redoing of the entry to the Fire Station bays and the City Hall doors. If funds are available the west side awning would be replaced.
7. Summersville Sidewalks: The scope of this project has been reduced because the cost had escalated to \$600,000. The current proposal is scaled back to \$450,000 for sidewalks on Marteeny Road. Initially, the City received a \$137,000 grant but the time has passed the point to meet the grant requirements.

Under the Infrastructure portion, Bechtel explained the three (3) storm sewer projects, two (2) water/sewer line projects, and the six (6) road improvement projects totaling \$3,129,000.

Storm Sewer Lines

1. East Last/North Last/Rufus/Peek: Round Table Design is working on the design. The estimated cost is at \$200,000. There have been many problems and complaints about storm water in this area.
2. Brownsville/Harlan: The City has worked on Brownsville Road in the past to mitigate the storm water problems, but some problems remain. Round Table Design is working on the design. This project is estimated at \$224,000. Council Member Jim Rippe asked if the City received any other bids other than Round Table's bid. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that \$25,000 is the limit before seeking bids. The engineering cost on this project was \$17,000.
3. Northbrook Drive: This project has been bid and work will begin as soon as possible. The engineering was completed in-house and the estimated cost is \$160,000. This is a twenty-inch storm sewer that lies underneath a residence and the storm pipe is failing.

Water Lines/Sewer Lines

1. Rackaway Water Line Replacement: This project has started and Hennigan Engineering Company is the engineer. The City is trying to place the line on the east of the CXS Railroad to avoid right-of-way issues. The line will go under CXS Railroad and the design has been sent to CXS for review. The estimated cost is \$150,000.
2. 44th Street North Water Line Replacement: This line is located on North 44th Street from Drury Inn to Steak N Shake. The estimated cost is \$200,000.

Road Improvements

1. 44th North and South Overlay: Rhutasel and Associates is in design. This project is estimated at \$665,000.
2. 44th Street North Lighting: Both Ameren and Tri-County are working on this project to improve the street lighting. This project is estimated at \$10,000.
3. Richview Road Overlay: The cost to overlay Richview Road from 12th Street to 42nd Street is \$650,000.
4. Parking Lanes – Broadway/Main: IDOT is scheduled to overlay Broadway and Main, but they will not overlay the parking lanes unless reimbursed by the City. The estimated cost is \$70,000.
5. Harlan Road – Overlay: This project is on hold. The estimated cost of \$300,000 includes water and sewer extensions.
6. Lake Terrace/East and West (both lanes): Lake Terrace NE is the main entrance to Walgreens Distribution Center and the Rolland Lewis Industrial Park. The design was completed in-house and the project is estimated at \$500,000.

Mayor John Lewis asked if the funding for the South 28th Street Sanitary Sewer Project, comes from the 2012 Bonds. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that this project is to be funded from the new utility fee revenue.

Council Member Jeff May stated that if City does not spend the bond money by 2020, the City will have an option to use the funds to retire debt.

DISCUSSION ON ORDINANCE REGARDING OPEN BURNING

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel reported that under a previous leaf burning ordinance, the City allowed burning from 9 am to 5 pm, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from October 1st to December 15th and March 1st to April 30th each year. She requested direction from the Council as to what would be appropriate to allow leaf burning within the City limits.

Mayor John Lewis stated that leaf burning was an item brought up numerous times during the recent campaign. He is open for a compromise between no leaf burning and partial leaf burning.

Council Member Mike Young was in favor of partial leaf burning. He did not know what the answer was, but the citizens he spoke with were willing to compromise to get rid of the leaves.

Council Member Donte Moore stated that previously he suggested four leaf burning days both in the Fall and Spring. Moore is aware of the concerns of citizens with respiratory issues, but there is an unbelievable amount of leaves that end up in the City's sewer lines which causes serious flooding issues. Moore asked about a Leaf Sweeper. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained that the equipment would cost \$650,000 plus manpower and it would only work on part of the City streets.

Council Member Jim Rippy suggested a "Sensing Session" to receive full feedback from the citizens.

Mayor John Lewis said that during the campaign, opinions are all over the board. Complaints range from cost of leaf bags to people with asthma. He does not know what he answers are, but would like to find a compromise. He recommended postponing action indefinitely and taking Council Member Jim Rippy advice to receive input from the citizens.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel suggested that a survey on this issue be publicized by way of City utility bills, advertising, Facebook, and on the City's website.

Shirley Riley spoke against leaf burning. She stated that she does not see any reason to burn leaves. A person should mow and grind up the leaves. Many people have medical issues and the smoke could choke them to death.

John Menke spoke against leaf burning due to health issues. In 2014, David Wood conducted a survey and it showed that 10-15% of citizens have respiratory problems.

DISCUSSION ON ORDINANCE REGARDING PUBLIC FORM RULES OF PARTICIPATION

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel said that there are many differing opinions on this issue and requested direction on how to change the ordinance to suit the Council.

Council Member Jim Rippy stated that he has no problem having a five-minute limit for someone to speak, but there should not be a limit on the number of people who speak. Everyone who wishes to speak at a City Council Meeting, should be able to speak.

Council Member Jeff May supported Council Member Jim Rippy's recommendation.

Mayor John Lewis asked for discussion regarding speaking before or after the meeting or both.

Council Member Donte Moore is for allowing to speak after the meeting and before the meeting using the sign in sheet.

Lewis feels that public input is nicer at the end of the meeting because questions come up regarding Council items.

May and Moore recommended allowing public input before and after the meeting.

Bechtel summarized that a sign-in sheet will be used at the beginning of the meeting and open forum at the end of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Mike Young made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Donte Moore seconded the motion. Yeas: May, Moore, Rippy, Young, and Lewis.

The Workshop Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Jo Pemberton
City Clerk