

**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 17, 2017
7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building, Veterans Park, 800 South 27th Street, Mt. Vernon, IL.

Mayor Mary Jane Chesley called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Rev. Terry Edwards of the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS

The Journals for the January 3, 2017 Regular City Council and the January 9, 2017 City Council Workshop were presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections. **Council Member May made a motion to approve the Journals as presented. Seconded by Council Member Piper. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Absent: Moore.**

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Brad Dickneite requested to address the Council after the presentation made by Parks Director Wes Plumber regarding Proposed Bike Trails at JC Lake. Council agreed.

APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable were presented to Council for approval. City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel clarified the following items: #2 Apple time - \$2,681.31 – various promotional items for Fire Prevention. Fire Safety Officers use these items as instructional tools for teaching fire safety at the City Schools. #20 One Stop Flooring of America - \$42,100.00 – downtown TIF reimbursement. Two payments remain to complete the TIF benefit to One Stop Flooring in the amount of \$294,000.00. The total project cost is \$598,000.00. #27 Rend Lake Conservancy District - \$160,128.00 – December water purchases (\$182,338.00) and credit for Village of Woodlawn (-\$22,210.00). August, September and October, 2016, Woodlawn had water issues and Rend Lake Conservancy District agreed to give them a credit on their water bill.

Council Member Piper made a motion to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$921,043.99. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Absent: Moore.


BIDS & QUOTES

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel presented for Council's consideration bids for the purchase of one long range closed-circuit television (CCTV) inspection system. There was one (1) bid submitted by Key Equipment & Supply Co., Maryland Heights, MO, in the amount of \$72,200.00 with an annual service agreement in the amount of \$1,475.00. The winning bid amount was lower than the City's cost estimate. Jonathan Younger, Assistant Public Utilities Director, displayed a video of the CCTV inspection system in operation. A complete sewer assessment is essential to prioritizing maintenance activities, planning cleaning and rehab work, and meeting regulatory obligations. Bechtel noted that in 2016 the City paid a company \$25,000.00 to perform these inspections, and it could have been used much more if not for the excessive cost. Bechtel recommended that City Council approve this bid. She anticipates paying for the system with the new capital investment revenues.

Council Member May made a motion to accept the bid from Key Equipment & Supply Co., Maryland Heights, MO, in the amount of \$72,200.00 with an annual service agreement in the amount of \$1,475.00. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Absent: Moore.

CITY MANAGER

Pam Schallhorn of the University of Illinois Extension provided Council with an update on the progress of the Community Garden program. The May's garden on Conger & 9th Street serves two purposes: to provide residents in the housing authority with fresh food and garden education as well as provide additional fresh food for the local food pantry. The garden at Veterans Park will also serve two purposes: 16 beds will be educational beds that will be used to teach the community the ins and outs of gardening and to produce food that will be sold to raise money to ensure the garden's sustainability; there will also be 24 community beds available each year for community members to plant their own fresh produce to take home; and there will be a "no food waste policy" so any extra food produced in the community gardens will be harvested and either sold to sustain the gardens or given to local food banks. A garden-to-table fundraising event at RARE Chophouse in Mt Vernon, IL is being planned for the near future.



**Community Gardens
MT. VERNON**

Beginner Gardening Series

Rolland Lewis Building, Mt. Vernon Veterans Park
Six FREE workshops open to everyone... attend one or attend them all!

Soil Health	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16 • 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.
Weed Identification	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 • 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.
Insects	THURSDAY, MARCH 2 • 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.
Diseases & Diagnosis	THURSDAY, MARCH 9 • 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.
Composting & Mulching	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15 • 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.
Organic Gardening Companion Planting	THURSDAY, MARCH 23 • 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

Extension Master Gardeners will help you explore important topics designed to get your garden off to a great start this spring!



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

University of Illinois - U.S. Department of Agriculture - Rural Extension Councils Operating
University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.
For media inquiries or to learn more about this program, please call 618-243-6767.

Residents are encouraged to call Chris Lueking at 618-242-0780 in the Mt. Vernon Extension office or 618-548-1446 in the Salem office if interested in your own 4 x 8 ft. raised garden bed.

Wes Plummer offered for Council's information a presentation on the proposed bike trails at Jaycee Lake utilizing approximately 30 acres of City owned property. Plummer does not expect any parks and recreation department budget expenditures. **BENEFITS OF TRAILS:** Added options for recreation fitness; increase environmental awareness and conservancy; added development for future programs/events; regional attraction for users with economic impact; minimal funding needed with donations, volunteers and sponsorships. **GOAL:** To develop a multi-use trail network around Jaycee Lake using previously undeveloped City land to improve the quality of life for surrounding area by giving the community a safe area to bike, relax, host family events, services and school events and hold public events such as races, festivals and fun run/walks. **QUALITY OF LIFE:** Quality of life is one of the top three reasons cited by businesses in making relocation decisions. Parks are a tangible reflection of the quality of life in a community and a major factor in the perception of quality of life in a community. Access to parks and recreation opportunities has been strongly linked to a reduction in crime and juvenile delinquency. **ADA COMPLIANCE:** ADA guidelines are not applicable to trails primarily designed and constructed for recreational use by equestrians, mountain bicyclists, snowmobile users, or off-highway vehicle users, even if pedestrians may occasionally use the same trails. **PHASE BUILDS:** Work plan will be to build a trail loop to encompass the available property. There will also be many small trails of varying difficulties that branch off from the main trail. **OVERALL GOALS:** Make this a destination trail with extensive use in a 15-mile radius of Mt. Vernon. Build up to 10-20 miles of trails for families to enjoy the outdoors and exercise freely in a natural setting. Other amenities such as landscaping, rest areas, benches, bike racks and natural viewing platforms will be incorporated. The increased outdoor opportunities and ecotourism for bikers and pedestrians will create recreation that has never been offered in our area.

Brad Dickneite expressed his interest and excitement in developing the bike trails at Jaycee Lake. He has invited the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Church groups and others to volunteer in building the trails.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration the Second Reading of an Ordinance Declaring Property Surplus. The surplus property is scrap iron and iron pipes from the boiler at the Armory Building that are no longer necessary, useful to, or for the best interest of the City of Mt. Vernon to retain.

Council Member Piper made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2017-05 Declaring Property Surplus. Seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Absent: Moore.

City Attorney Howard presented for Council's consideration an Ordinance Rezoning Property Located at 11525 N. Illinois Hwy 142 from AG; General Agriculture to I-2; General Industrial. The Petitioning party is Continental Tire the Americas. An expansion of the facility including a parking lot is being built. The Zoning and Planning Committee unanimously approved this rezoning.

Council Member May made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2017-06 Rezoning Property Located at 11525 N. Illinois Hwy 142 from AG; General Agriculture to I-2; General Industrial. Seconded by Council Member Piper. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Absent: Moore.

City Attorney Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving an Agreement with HMG Engineers, Inc. regarding North 27th Street Reconstruction. Revisions have been made in the design plan of the reconstruction of North 27th Street which resulted in additional services being provided by HMG and additional charges incurred.

Council Member Piper made a motion to approve a Resolution Approving an Agreement with HMG Engineers, Inc. regarding North 27th Street Reconstruction. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Absent: Moore.

City Attorney Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving a Proposal from Heneghan and Associates PC for Conceptual Engineering Services for Lift Station #14 Replacement. Bechtel advised this is the first phase of the Lift Station #14 Replacement. Heneghan and Associates PC will coordinate, research, summarize collected data and perform the initial assessment of power and equipment for this project in the amount of \$60,398.50. Council will decide

on how the project will be funded – with 2012 bonds or the new infrastructure improvement fee (water & sewer) which would require an IEPA loan. Bechtel is still in talks with the State about the use of the Revolving Loan Fund. The issue with a Revolving Loan fund is the project must serve low to moderate income households per the CDAP guidelines, and the area it serves may not qualify.

Council Member May made a motion to approve a Resolution Approving a Proposal from Heneghan and Associates PC for Conceptual Engineering Services for Lift Station #14 Replacement. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Absent: Moore.

City Attorney Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving a Tax and Disclosure Compliance Procedure. The IRS advised that issuers of tax exempt bonds should have a tax and disclosure compliance procedure in place.

Council Member Piper made a motion to approve a Resolution Approving a Tax and Disclosure Compliance Procedure. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Absent: Moore.

City Attorney Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Round Table Design, Inc. related to the Demolition of Structures upon the Park Plaza Property. A structural Engineer at Round Table will investigate the USPS Post Office tenant space located in the Park Plaza Mall to determine if the structure can remain independent if the surrounding Mall buildings are demolished. The cost of the professional services is \$8,100.00.

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to approve a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Round Table Design, Inc. related to the Demolition of Structures upon the Park Plaza Property. Seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney and Chesley. Abstain: Piper. Absent: Moore.

City Attorney Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Amending an Agreement with Brennan Klein Field Foundation. Bechtel noted that the Council entered an agreement with Brennan Klein Field Foundation to give them time to do fundraising to build a concession stand. The Foundation requested the City extend the date to complete the construction of a concession stand to December 31, 2017.

Council Member Piper made a motion to approve a Resolution Amending an Agreement with Brennan Klein Field Foundation. Seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Absent: Moore.

MAYOR

Police Chief Chris Deichman announced that Mt. Vernon Police Department Sgt. Brian Huff has been named the 2016 Officer of the Year. The award is given annually through a nomination process. Nominations are received by fellow officers and supervisors, then nominations are discussed by the command staff and the bargaining unit. The nominee with the most votes from their peers receives the award. Det. Kevin Jackson was also nominated for the award. This is the second-time Huff has received an Officer of the Year Award, and Deichman said he continues to be deserving of the honor. Huff was nominated by Capt. Chris Webb. Deichman read the nomination letter that was submitted for consideration of Officer of the Year. Chief Deichman said Sgt. Huff represents the city of Mt. Vernon and the police department well; he is professional, he is a professional that exemplifies the best in law enforcement. "It is an honor and a privilege to work for a great department — be a very small part of helping keep this community safe," Huff said when accepting the award medallion. "Thank you."

Mayor Chesley reminded everyone that she will deliver the "State of the City" address at the Jefferson County Chamber luncheon on Thursday, January 19, at 11:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn.

CITY COUNCIL

No business was presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member May made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member Piper. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Absent: Moore.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins
City Clerk