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**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Monday, November 4, 2024
7:00 p.m.**

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, November 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber at City Hall, 1100 Main Street, Mt. Vernon, Illinois. Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/MtVernonIL>.

Pastor Bumper Quick with West Salem Trinity Methodist Church led the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

The roll call showed present: Council Member Joe Gliosci, Council Member Mike Young and Mayor John Lewis. Absent: Council Member Ray Botch and Council Member Donte Moore.

PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS

The Journal for October 21, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting was presented for approval.

Council Member Joe Gliosci motioned to approve the Journal as presented. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Gliosci, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Botch and Moore.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Mayor Lewis introduced visitors, Rebeccah McConnaughay and Lynn Foreman with YouthBuild of South Central Illinois to speak about their program. Ms. McConnaughay stated that this program helps young people from the ages of 16 to 24 get their GED and vocational experience in construction, customer service, and sales. They currently have a house in Centralia that was donated to them that the students are rebuilding. When completed, the house will be sold back to the community to a low income family. That money then goes back into the program, which is funded by the Department of Labor. YouthBuild helps participants obtain jobs in the community. This is a six month program, and in addition, twelve months of aftercare is provided.

Mayor Lewis thanked them for coming to the meeting and sharing this information with the Council and the citizens.

APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Council Member Mike Young motioned to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$3,174,586.93. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Gliosci, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Botch and Moore.

BIDS AND QUOTES

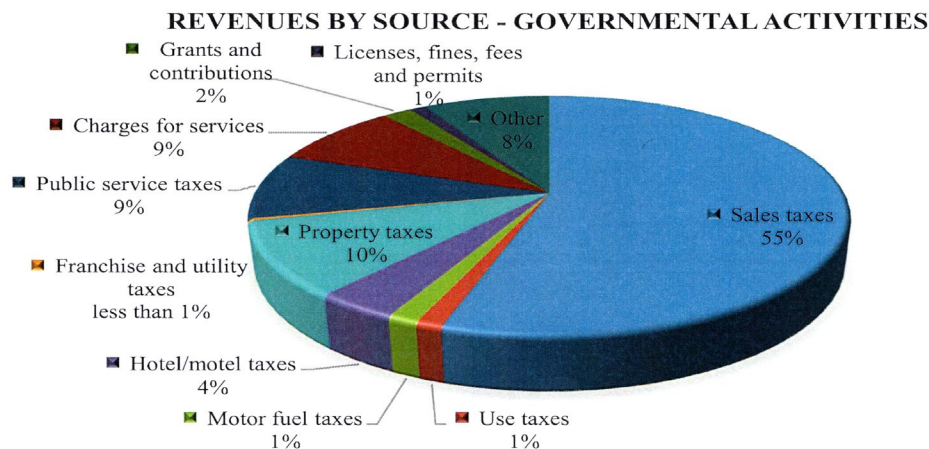
None.

CITY MANAGER

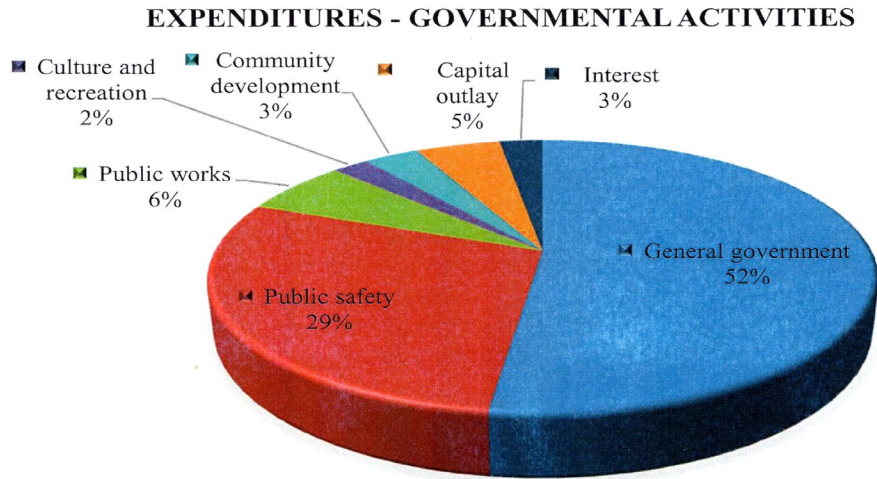
City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel introduced Finance Director Stephanie Bailey to present the 2024 audit to the Council. City Manager Bechtel stated the City does have a clean audit and there were no findings.

Finance Director Bailey then came forward to present the results from the audit. A copy of the full audit report was given to the Council. Bailey stated that the General Fund had a total revenue of \$22,276,482, and total expenditures of \$25,040,310.

This year the City's total governmental activities amounted to \$45.4 million in the fiscal year 2024. The largest revenue category is taxes, which amounted to \$36.4 million. In fiscal year 2024, 68% of all taxes came from sales tax collections. \$4.7 million of total revenue was derived from program revenue, which consists of charges for services, federal and state grants, and other contributions.



Total governmental activities expenses amounted to \$33.5 million in fiscal year 2024. The City's largest program expenditures comprised of general government (52%) and public safety (29%). The graph below presents the cost of each of the City's expenditures-general government, public safety (police and fire), public works, culture and recreation, and community development, as well as capital outlay and interest expenses.



GENERAL CORPORATE FUND 01 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY

11/4/2024

	BUDGET FY 2023-2024			BUDGET FY 2024 - 2025		
	TOTAL PROPOSED OPERATING 2024	Transfer IMRF/FICA/MEDICARE POLICE/FIRE PENSION	TOTAL 3/27/2024	TOTAL PROPOSED OPERATING 2025	Transfer IMRF/FICA/MEDICARE POLICE/FIRE PENSION	TOTAL PROPOSED FY 2025
WORKING FUND BALANCE BEGINNING	\$ 16,609,831		\$ 16,346,900	\$ 17,959,865		\$ 17,959,865
REVENUE	19,262,923	1,849,700	22,276,482	20,217,427	1,849,700	22,067,127
TOTAL REVENUES including Working Fund Balance	35,872,754	1,849,700	38,623,382	38,177,292	1,849,700	40,026,992
TOTAL EXPENDITURES						
MAYOR AND COUNCIL - 2000	44,001	-	44,001	38,502	-	38,502
CITY MANAGER - 2001	447,035	-	447,035	397,903	-	397,903
CITY CLERK - 2002	141,468	-	141,468	145,302	-	145,302
CITY TREASURER - 2003	-	-	0	-	-	0
HUMAN RESOURCES - 2004	204,359	-	204,359	231,196	-	231,196
LEGAL - 2010	166,762	-	166,762	167,077	-	167,077
PARKS & RECREATION - 2014	850,942	-	850,942	1,002,074	-	1,002,074
AQUATIC ZOO - 2015	560,000	-	560,000	580,194	-	580,194
FINANCE - 2020	614,980	-	614,980	467,850	-	467,850
ENGINEERING - 2030	664,945	-	664,945	778,839	-	778,839
POLICE - 2040	6,041,297	-	6,041,297	6,534,222	-	6,534,222
FIRE - 2050	3,490,044	-	3,490,044	3,676,207	-	3,676,207
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY - 2055	20,815	-	20,815	25,316	-	25,316
PUBLIC WORKS - 2060	2,102,363	-	2,102,363	1,938,445	-	1,938,445
FLEET SERVICES - 2085	682,536	-	682,536	652,536	-	652,536
GEN GOVT - GENL EXPENSES - 2090	3,599,400	-	3,599,400	2,070,525	-	2,070,525
1201 CASEY - 2091	201,082	-	201,082	225,128	-	225,128
DEBT SERVICE - 2095	139,751	-	139,751	-	-	-
Proposed Additional Transfer		1,849,700			1,849,700	
OPERATING EXPENDITURES without Transfers	19,971,780		19,971,780	18,931,316		20,781,016
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES with Transfer	25,040,310	1,849,700	25,040,310	24,831,316	1,849,700	26,681,016
ANNUAL CHANGES IN WORKING FUND BALANCE			(2,763,828)			(4,613,889)
WORKING FUND BALANCE ENDING with Transfer	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,959,865	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,345,976
ONE MONTH OF OPERATING EXPENDITURES			\$ 1,496,655			\$ 1,112,165
NO. OF MONTHS INCL IN WORKING FD BALANCE			10.8			7.7
AMT OF REC FROM DOWNTOWN TIF INCL IN THE ABOVE			\$ 250,000			\$ 250,000
* Transfer to other Funds		\$4,000,000.00			\$3,400,000.00	\$2,500,000.00

The City's overall General Fund revenues increased by \$2.6 million (13%) in fiscal year 2024. The increase in revenue comes from the increased taxes collected. In addition, expenditures from the General Fund increased by \$2.5 million (15%) in fiscal year 2024.

Overall revenues from business-type activities increased by 5% from the prior year. The increase comes from charges for services. Expenses Total expenses from business-type activities increased by 2%.

The City's overall General Fund revenues increased by \$2.6 million (13%) in fiscal year 2024. The increase in revenue comes from the increased taxes collected. In addition, expenditures from the General Fund increased by \$2.5 million (15%) in fiscal year 2024.

The total fund balance for the Quality-of-Life fund decreased by \$4.0 million (47%) from the prior year's total fund balance. This decrease is primarily due to the building of the Police Station.

The fund balance for the Home Rule Tax fund increased by \$1.5 million (38%).

The City's Water Fund net position increased by \$2,486,681 million, with revenues of \$5,391,410 and expenses \$5,178,010 during the fiscal year. Ending Cash Balance \$4,301,079.

The City's Sewer Fund net position increased by \$663,429 which is a minimal movement from the prior year's net position. Revenues of \$4,018,093 while expenditures were at \$4,004,790 during the fiscal year. Ending Cash Balance \$4,116,996.

The City's Sanitation Fund net position increased by \$72,286 which also is minimal movement from the prior year's net position. Revenues of \$1,389,269 and expenses of \$1,324,527 during the fiscal year. Ending Cash Balance \$178,039.

The City's self-insured Health Insurance Fund, which is considered an "Internal Service Fund," had an increase in net position of \$27,908, which is a minimal movement from the prior year's net position. Ending Cash Balance \$3,105,620.

Bailey briefly went over the Pensions. The City of Mt Vernon has three pensions:

1. IMRF Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund 98.77% Funded
2. Police Pension Fund 54.68 % Funded
3. Fire Pension Fund 54.15 % Funded

All of which are funded by the employee, the employer and gains on investment earnings. Each year an amount is given to the City by the Department of Insurance that has a required schedule

of contributions to ensure 90% funded by 2040. The Pension Actuarial Evaluation provides the City with the amount for the Police and Fire Levy. The difference between the two is supplemented by the City of Mt Vernon's Pension Sales Tax Fund.

Finance Director Bailey reported the following regarding loans:

Bonds \$31,441,352 balance, with \$2,272,613 relieved from Fiscal Year 2023.

Loans Payable \$634,993 relieved from Fiscal Year 2023.

Mayor Lewis asked Bailey what the actuaries had determined the City's contribution to fire and police pensions. Bailey stated that we don't know yet but should have this information soon.

Mayor Lewis also asked in the 5 year projections, what is the cause of the big decrease from fiscal year 2028 to 2029. Bailey stated that this is anticipating flat revenue or the revenue going down because of the interstate closure.

CITY OF MT. VERNON, IL						
GENERAL CORPORATE FUND						
ESTIMATED OPERATING WORKING FUND BALANCE PROJECTIONS						
10/31/2024						
	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	
	Ending	Ending	Ending	Ending	Ending	
	4/30/2025	4/30/2026	4/30/2027	4/30/2028	4/30/2029	
Est Operating Working Fund Bal at Beginning of Yr	\$ 17,959,865	\$ 13,345,976	\$ 13,587,021	\$ 12,737,063	\$ 10,741,551	
Estimated Revenues	22,067,127	22,061,112	22,061,112	22,061,112	19,234,488	
Estimated Expenses 5% increase yearly	20,781,016	21,820,067	22,911,070	24,056,624	25,259,455	
Transfer to Capital Projects	3,400,000					
	2,500,000					
Est Operating Working Fund Bal at End of Year	\$ 13,345,976	\$ 13,587,021	\$ 12,737,063	\$ 10,741,551	\$ 4,716,585	
Estimated Months of Operating Expenses	7.7	7.5	6.7	5.4	2.2	
Expenditure Assumptions						
1) Assuming staffing levels budgeted for 2024-25 will continue through 4/30/2027						
2) Assuming 4% increase each year in wages (union contracts are to expire 4/30/2027)						
3) Assuming 4% increase each year in self-funded health insurance						
4) Assuming 4% increase each year in Plan F health insurance						
5) Assuming 3% increase each year in property casualty insurance						
6) Assuming 5% increase each year in work comp insurance						
7) Assuming 5% increase each year in all other expenses						

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel stated that this does not include the projections for the parks and recreation development that the City has been discussing with the public.

Council Members thanked Finance Director Bailey for the report.

Council Member Mike Young motioned to approve and accept the 2024 Audit. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Gliosci, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Botch and Moore.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel presented for First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Prior Ordinance and to Increase the EPA Sewer Loan. This Ordinance will increase the IEPA sewer loan amount to cover all of the expenses/costs of the project to \$5,447,717.51. This loan is for mid-town relining, Maple Street force main replacement, Wagner Road force main replacement, sewer plant inlet, and other sewer replacement and relining. The City increased this to \$5.1 million for after COVID estimates, and the project still came in over budget due to unforeseen costs. The loan forgiveness is \$1,526,579.34. The loan interest rate is 0.83% for 20 years. The final loan amount will be \$3,921,138.

Council Member Joe Gliosci made the motion to suspend the rules and take action on the Ordinance, an Ordinance to Amend the Prior Ordinance and to Increase the EPA Sewer Loan. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Gliosci, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Botch and Moore.

Council Member Joe Gliosci motioned to approve Ordinance #2024-38, an Ordinance to Amend the Prior Ordinance and to Increase the EPA Sewer Loan. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Gliosci, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Botch and Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel presented for First Reading of an Ordinance Amending the City Code Related to the Police Department. The City is asking for a change in the Ordinance to allow up to four (4) Captains in the Police Department. This would add a Support Operations and Professional Standards position for the handling of all matters pertaining to found and seized property, conducting internal affairs investigations, acting as quartermaster and supervising crime scenes and lab personnel, records and FOIA personnel, abate officer, technology personnel, and doing background checks for patrol candidates. With these changes in the Ordinance, it gives the Chief of Police flexibility regarding the assignment to this position: Captain, Sergeant or Corporal.

Council Member Mike Young made the motion to suspend the rules and take action on the Ordinance, an Ordinance Amending the City Code Related to the Police Department. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Gliosci, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Botch and Moore.

City Council Member Gliosci asked if this is creating a new position. City Manager Bechtel stated yes, it is a new position that can be filled by a captain, sergeant or a corporal.

Council Member Mike Young motioned to approve Ordinance #2024-39, an Ordinance Amending the City Code Related to the Police Department. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Gliosci, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Botch and Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel presented a Resolution Releasing Mobile Home Restrictive Covenant at 412, 416, and 420 Herbert Street. This deed was transferred at a time when the City did not allow mobile homes in the City and this restriction was added to the deed. Now, that restriction has been changed and we want to remove this restriction from this deed in order for a mobile home to be placed on this property.

Council Member Joe Gliosci motioned to approve a Resolution Releasing Mobile Home Restrictive Covenant at 412, 416 and 420 Herbert Street. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Gliosci, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Botch and Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel presented a Resolution to Resurface Fairfield Road from Stinson Road to Marysville Lane using IDOT Funds. This Resolution is for the State of Illinois showing that we are obligating \$167,803 of Rebuild Illinois Motor Fuel Tax as well as \$132,197 from the City's Motor Fuel Tax funds or as much as may be needed for the proposed improvement. The balance of the cost of this project will be about \$450,000 from IDOT FAU funds allocation only for the maintenance of this road. Total cost is about \$733,000. It will be a 2025 project.

Council Member Mike Young motioned to approve a Resolution to Resurface Fairfield Road from Stinson to Marysville Lane using IDOT Funds. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Gliosci, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Botch and Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel presented a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Perry Ridge Landfill, Inc. for Non-hazardous Waste Disposal. The City has an annual contract with Perry Ridge Landfill for disposal of the Waste Water Treatment Plant waste. This is a one-year contract and the cost increased by \$2.00 per ton to \$27.00 per ton. This agreement ends October, 2025. Based on last year's figures, this will increase the cost by about \$3,200.00.

Council Member Joe Gliosci motioned to approve a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Perry Ridge Landfill, Inc. for Non-hazardous Waste Disposal. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Gliosci, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Botch and Moore.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel presented a Resolution Authorizing the Illinois Telecommunicator Emergency Response Task Force Agreement. With the approval of this Resolution the City will apply to be an active member with the Illinois Telecommunicator Emergency Response Task Force. This is a group of trained telecommunicators that may respond or assist other local governments when natural or man-made emergencies happen, and their local resources are not enough to manage the calls. This also gives the City the option to request assistance if we have a disaster that requires more manpower than we have available to manage call volume. There is some additional training required, and this is all voluntary on the part of the City and the telecommunicator about participating and responding to calls for additional manpower.

Council Member Mike Young motioned to approve a Resolution Authorizing the Illinois Telecommunicator Emergency Response Task Force Agreement. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Gliosci, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Botch and Moore.

MAYOR

Mayor Lewis wanted to remind citizens to go vote tomorrow. This is one of the most important days in our nation.

CITY COUNCIL

City Council Member Gliosci thanked Rebecca McConnaughay and Lynn Foreman for attending the council meeting and sharing information with the Council and community.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Joe Gliosci motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Gliosci, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Botch and Moore.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Barbour

Becky Barbour, Deputy City Clerk