

**CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS  
CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION  
Monday, September 17, 2018**

The Mt. Vernon City Council met in Executive Session on Monday, September 17, 2018 at 8:15 p.m. at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Center, Veterans Park, 800 South 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Mt. Vernon, IL.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel requested an Executive Session under 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (5) – The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body and 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (6) – The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body.

Mayor John Lewis opened the Executive Session.

Roll call showed present: Council Member Jeff May, Council Member Jim Rippy, Council Member Mike Young, and Mayor John Lewis. Absent: Council Member Donte Moore. Also present were City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel, Assistant City Manager Nathan McKenna, Corporation Counsel Bill Howard, City Clerk Mary Jo Pemberton, Fire Chief Kevin Sargent, and City Engineer Brad Ruble.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel explained the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Flood Hazard Mitigation Program and described real estate purchases required by the Program. Due to the September 8, 2018 rain event, the City identified thirty-three (33) properties that were damaged by flooding. Of the thirty-three (33) properties, thirteen (13) were in the floodplain area. The program allows the City to acquire for the State, the damaged real property within the floodplain (excluding mobile homes) by purchasing the structures from the owners. The City will be reimbursed all costs by State after the demolition and closing on the properties is completed. The upfront costs are estimated at \$1 million, and reimbursement **may** take up to two years. The State would donate the property to the City for parks or natural areas. This is a voluntary program and owners are not required to sell their property to the City. Owners who rebuild on the floodplain are required to build according to the code. Fire Chief Kevin Sargent and City Engineer Brad Ruble explained the program in detail. The Council directed the City Manager to proceed with the Program and the required documents for consideration at a future Council meeting.

Fire Chief Kevin Sargent and City Engineer Brad Ruble left the meeting.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel spoke on the relocation of the US Post Office currently located in the former Park Plaza Shopping Center. After research, Bechtel recommended purchasing a

property located north of the Jefferson County Jail on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. The list price is \$161,500 plus costs for the restoration of the building. The Council directed the City Manager to negotiate an option on the property and to make a counter-offer.

Council Member Jim Rippey motioned to close the Executive Session. Council Member Mike Young seconded. Yeas: May, Rippey, Young, and Lewis. Absent: Moore.

The Executive Session adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jo Pemberton".

Mary Jo Pemberton  
City Clerk