

**CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, April 18, 2016

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, April 18, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building, Veterans Park, 800 South 27th Street, Mt. Vernon, IL.

The invocation was given by Elder Warren McClain of the Victory Christian Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS

The Journal for the April 4, 2016 Regular City Council Meeting was presented to Council for their approval: **Council Member May made a motion to approve the Journal as presented. Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.**

APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable were presented to Council for approval. Council Member May noted that the City's overhead expenses appear to be less than previous months. He encouraged City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel to focus on reducing expenses in next year's budget. Council Member McEnaney inquired about Item #9 Jeff & Rachel Sledge - \$2,089.49 – Downtown TIF reimbursement. Bechtel advised this represents the third payment on their dance studio. The total TIF award is \$50,000.00. Item #13 Midwest Environmental Consulting - \$6,600.00 – Asbestos surveys for spring demolitions projects. Fourteen structures are slated to be demolished – 13 are residential and one is commercial. Item #15 Moniger Excavating - \$77,821.04 – Richview Road Sidewalk construction. This is the first payment made on this \$389,000.00 project and is to be completed in June. Item #24 Round Table Design - \$10,620.00 – Summersville Safe Routes to School design to improve Marteeny and McCauley Roads. Design work will be completed in June and must be out for bid by September.

Council Member Piper made a motion to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$844,977.41. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

BIDS & QUOTES

Bechtel presented for Council's consideration a request for Permission to seek Bids on Broadway and Main Street Water Main Replacement Phase 2. Phase 2 will run on Broadway from 5th Street to the Appellate Courthouse.

Council Member May made a motion to grant Permission to Seek Bids on Broadway and Main Street Water Main Replacement Phase 2. Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

CITY MANAGER

Bechtel presented for Council's consideration a Preliminary and Final Plat for The Heits Subdivision at Part of the East ½ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 25, T2S, R2E of the 3rd P.M. Bechtel advised that this property contains 15 acres and located just west of Webster Hills subdivision. The property is not currently in City limits but is within one and one-half mile of the City's boundary. The plat has been reviewed and approved by City Engineer Brad Ruble and was unanimously approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Marshall Davis with Round Table Design, Judy Heitmeyer and Troy Heitmeyer appeared.

Council Member Piper made a motion to approve the Preliminary and Final Plat for The Heits Subdivision at Part of the East ½ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 25, T2S, R2E of the 3rd P.M. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Council's consideration the Second Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Ceding of Private Activity Bonding Authority. Bechtel noted as a home rule community, \$100 per capita is allotted by the state for Volume Cap Bonds to be used by private industries moving to Mt. Vernon. If it is not used by May 1st it must either be returned to the State or ceded to another organization for use. The City has ceded their allotment (\$1,517,700.00) to SIEDA (Southeastern Illinois Economic Development Authority) the last four years, and it is the recommendation to do so again this year. NO cash is involved in this transaction.

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2016-6 Authorizing the Ceding of Private Activity Bonding Authority. Seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

City Attorney Leggans presented for Council's consideration the First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Article 6, Section 6.9 of the Revised Code of Ordinances regarding the Number of Liquor Licenses – Restaurant License for Ali Asian Cuisine. Restaurant owner Chang Lin appeared. **FIRST READING.**

City Attorney Leggans presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Parking Lane Improvement for IL Route 15 from 15th Street to Old Fairfield Road. The Illinois Department of Transportation will repave IL 15 once the water main replacement project is complete. IDOT only covers the cost of the driving lanes so that the parking lanes are the City's responsibility. The cost of the City's portion is estimated to be \$69,000.00. IDOT will perform the work on the

parking lanes and the City will reimburse IDOT when the work is complete. Mayor Chesley is concerned about the road surface in front of the Appellate Courthouse and is it included in the repaving project.

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to adopt a Resolution Approving Agreement with Illinois Department of Transportation Parking Lane Improvement for IL Route 15 from 15th Street to Old Fairfield Road. Seconded by Council Member Piper. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

City Attorney Leggans presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving Closure of the 900 Block of Main Street for the Memorial Day Celebration. The American Legion requested the one-hour closing on May 30 in conjunction with their annual event on the north side of the Jefferson County Courthouse.

Council Member Moore made a motion to adopt a Resolution Approving Closure of the 900 Block of Main Street for the Memorial Day Celebration. Seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

MAYOR

Mayor Chesley presented for Council's consideration the Reappointment of Mary Ellen Bechtel to the Fire Pension Board and the Reappointment of Mary Ellen Bechtel to the 911 Board.

Council Member May made a motion to Reappoint Mary Ellen Bechtel to the Fire Pension Board and to Reappoint Mary Ellen Bechtel to the 911 Board. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

Police Chief Chris Deichman presented the Unit Citation Award to members of his department as a result of their heroic actions during the March 22 accident and subsequent explosion and fire at Garden Glen Apartments on Veterans Memorial Drive. The Officers receiving the commendations were Sgt. Terry Hughes, Cpl. Rich Johnston, Officer Aaron Weidemann, Officer Jessica Callahan, and Officer Andrew Blandford.

CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Moore commended hundreds of volunteers wearing yellow T-shirts who participated in Central Christian Church's "Central Serve Day" projects this past Saturday.

VISITORS/CITIZEN REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

James Rippy, of Mt. Vernon, expressed his concern about the high price the City pays for water from the Rend Lake Conservancy District as well as the need for more equal representation on the RLCD Board.

Bobby Staley, of Texico, IL, and employed at Continental Tire, expressed his dissatisfaction with the closing of 7th Street at Shawnee Street. He presented petitions containing over 1,000 signatures asking the City Council, Mayor and City Manager to make every reasonable effort to facilitate and secure the reopening of the road crossing.

Ron Moyer, of South 10th Street, stated that the closure of 7th Street has helped his business, but encouraged the Council to reopen the street.

Ernie Holloway, of Holloway Heating, stated that the closure of 7th Street has cost him approximately \$25,000.00 per year.

Paul Rainwater, of Liebengood Road, indicated that the closure of 7th Street was a mistake. Heavy trucks are utilizing South Liebengood Road because of the closure and the road was not built to withstand the heavy traffic.

Adam Barbian, of Mt. Vernon, owns property located on East Swift Road which is within 1.1 mile of the City's corporate limits. He is prohibited from placing a manufactured/modular home on the property and requested that the City amend their zoning ordinance.

Hortin Petties, of Mt. Vernon, suggested the City consider contracting out the mowing of vacant lots owned by the City.

Linola Spann, of Mt. Vernon, commended the Police Department for their attention to the neighborhood and Council Member Donte Moore for his efforts to organize a Neighborhood Watch program.

Brandon Bullard, of Mt. Vernon, shared information and facts he received from Milano Metals regarding the benefit of maintaining closure of 7th Street. He noted that this information needs to be shared with community members.

Mike Bullard, of Bluford, commended Mary Burgan for her ambitious business plan for Milano Metals.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Piper made a motion to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting. Seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins
City Clerk