

**CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, February 16, 2016  
7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building, Veterans Park, 800 South 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Mt. Vernon, IL.

The invocation was given by Ms. Linola Spann.

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 Journals for the January 28, 2016 Special City Council Meeting, January 29, 2016 Special City Council Meeting and the February 1, 2016 Regular City Council Meeting were presented to Council for their consideration. **Council Member Moore made a motion to approve the Journals as presented. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. 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. Interim City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel noted that Item #19 Lawn Perfection - \$2,553.16 should be removed from the list as it is to be paid out of next fiscal year's budget. Council Member McEnaney requested an update on the following: Item #3 Baxmeyer Construction - \$25,596.90 – Construction of North 42<sup>nd</sup> Street from Victoria to Richview Road. Bechtel noted that work will recommence when the weather allows. Item #8 Community First Bank of the Heartland - \$50,000.00 – Downtown TIF reimbursement. This represents a portion of the \$250,000.00 project for façade improvement to be paid out in \$50,000.00 increments in each of the next five years. Item #16 JK Trotter & Sons - \$103,577.79 – Broadway and Main Street water main phase 1 construction. Construction is going smoothly. Council Member May inquired about Item #18 Krehbiel & Associates - \$17,915.00 – final billings on 2014/2015 audit expenses. Finance Director Merle Hollmann advised that the total cost of the audit was \$67,700.00. The City is in the midst of a three-year agreement with Krehbiel & Associates.

**Council Member May made a motion to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,138,301.68 (amended). Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.**

**BIDS & QUOTES**

No bids were submitted.

**CITY MANAGER**

No business was presented.

**CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Council's consideration the Second Reading of an Ordinance Annexing Real Estate to the City of Mt. Vernon located adjacent to the New Industrial Park. Bechtel stated this small parcel of land connects Sparrow Lane to the new Industrial Park and will contain the secondary entrance to the Industrial Park. The main entrance will be located at the stop light on Shiloh at Neon Sign Co.

**Council Member Piper made a motion to approve Ordinance 2016-1 Annexing Real Estate to the City of Mt. Vernon located adjacent to the New Industrial Park. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.**

City Attorney Leggans presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Authorizing Execute Documents Related to the Illinois Funds E-Pay Program and Illinois Fund Program. Finance Director Merle Hollmann explained that currently, water customers can go through the E-Pay link on the City's website to pay their water bill. This function is supported through Illinois Funds Program. Illinois is changing the service provider for this electronic payment system which requires a new Merchant Services Agreement between the State of Illinois, Forte Payment Systems, Inc. and the City. Only water and sewer bills are transacted through the E-Pay program. The Aquatic Zoo accepts credit cards but uses a different provider. Council Member May noted that the processing fees seem high as compared to other providers. He suggested the City look at other providers for electronic payment. Bechtel added that the Finance Department is researching other forms of online payment. The City's financial software provider, Tyler Technologies Inc., has a module for online payments.

**Council Member Piper made a motion to approve a Resolution Authorizing Execute Documents Related to the Illinois Funds E-Pay Program and Illinois Fund Program. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.**

**MAYOR**

Mayor Chesley announced that Panera Bread Restaurant is coming to the City to be located beside the Drury Inn. Fazoli's and Taco Bell are remodeling their restaurants. In addition, Kroger will start a \$5.8 remodeling project in a few months.

**CITY COUNCIL**

No information was shared by Council Members.

**VISITORS/CITIZEN REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Michael Bullard, of Bluford, IL, read a letter stating his reasons for not supporting the 1% School Facility Occupation Tax referendum.

James Rippy, of Mt. Vernon, again requested the City Council pass a Resolution encouraging the citizens of Mt. Vernon to vote. Mayor Chesley stated that the Council members did not agree with the language contained in Mr. Rippy's first suggested resolution. After consulting with the Mayor, City Attorney Leggans drafted a "proposed" resolution which Mayor Chesley read aloud at this meeting. She requested that other Council members consider the "proposed" resolution at a later meeting. Mr. Rippy also expressed his displeasure that he was not invited to a meeting between two City Council members and the District Manager of Rend Lake Conservancy District. Bechtel explained she requested the meeting on behalf of Council members in order to be more informed about RLCD business.

Jere Shaw, of Mt. Vernon, noted that RLCD should provide incentives to the City so that a water line can be constructed for Jefferson County residents who reside on Sparrow Lane and reside outside the City's corporate limits. He distributed a handout containing Register News newspaper articles written by Tesa Culli regarding water rate increases by RLCD. Shaw also stated that two RLCD Board members from Franklin County and one RLCD employee were recently "cited" for potential conflicts of interest.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Chesley requested an Executive Session in order to discuss personnel pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act.

**Council Member Piper made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 2(c)(1). Seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Council Member Moore 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 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins  
City Clerk