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City Clerk



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**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 3, 2012**

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Chesley opened a Public Hearing regarding Annexation. City Manager Ron Neibert stated that the City entered into an Agreement to Annex with Jon D. Thomas who is the owner of property at 10560 E. Richview Road, Mt. Vernon, Illinois. Mr. Thomas desires to connect the residence to the City's public water system, but his property is outside the corporate limits of the City. The City's existing policy requires the property desiring to be served by the City's public water system to be within the corporate limits of the City or be the subject of an Agreement to Annex. Mr. Thomas agrees to submit a Petition for voluntary annexation of the real estate. The Resolution approving this Agreement will be on the next City Council Meeting Agenda.

There were no public comments. Mayor Chesley closed the public hearing.

MINUTES

The Mt. Vernon City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building at Veterans Park, Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

Mayor Mary Jane Chesley called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Reverend David Eadie.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed present: Council Members Ron Lash, Todd Piper, David Wood and Mayor Mary Jane Chesley. Council Member Dennis McEnaney was absent.

JOURNAL

The Journal for the December 19, 2011 Regular City Council Meeting was presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections.

Motion by Council Member Wood to approve the Journal. Second by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, Piper, Wood, and Chesley. Council Member Dennis McEnaney was absent.

CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable were presented for Council's consideration.

Council Member Wood made a motion to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$632,681.69. Second by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, Piper, Wood and Chesley. Council Member Dennis McEnaney was absent.

BIDS & QUOTES

There were no bids and quotes.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Neibert had no business for Council's consideration.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Bill Howard had no business for Council's consideration.

MAYOR

Mayor Mary Jane Chesley stated that the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce will host the Mayor's State of the City address on Thursday, January 19, 2012 at noon at the Cedarhurst Center for the Arts. The address will highlight the City's accomplishments during 2011.

The Citizen's Police Academy will again be held and will commence on Tuesday, January 17, 2012. Police Chief Chris Mendenall noted that applications can be obtained by stopping by the City's Police Department and/or citizens may call his office at 242-2131 for more information. Mayor Chesley added this is a very good opportunity for the citizens of Mt. Vernon to familiarize themselves with the City's Police Officers and Department.

CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Piper inquired if the public is invited to attend the State of the City address. Mayor Chesley commented that the event is hosted by the Chamber of Commerce but there will be seating for non-members who attend the address and not the luncheon.

Council Member Piper asked City Manager Neibert for an update on the bike trails projects. The Cedarhurst bike trail is grant funded and begins roughly at 24th Street & Richview Road, travels through the United Methodist Children's Home property, around the reservoir, through Strothman Field, and stopping by Casey Middle School. On January 5, 2012 the final project report will be submitted to the Illinois Department of Transportation. Once the project report is submitted, the City is authorized to begin applying for permits such as the CSX Railroad crossing. The informational meetings and permits will be completed by June, 2012. The City anticipates getting design approval no later than September 28, 2012 from IDOT; completing the final print plan submittals and drawings by November 30, 2012; the final plan will be submitted by February 28, 2013; and bid letting will commence April 16, 2013.

The "Share the Road" trails are not being constructed by the City but rather the City is designating certain local streets as areas for bicycle traffic. There are ten or 11 bike trails that have been designated by the Bike Trail Committee on the recommendation of local bicycling enthusiasts. The City anticipates placing signs on these "Share the Road" trails early in the next fiscal year for the public's enjoyment this summer.

Council Member Piper inquired if these bike trails will have lane striping on the roads. City Manager Neibert commented at this point the lanes do not have lane markings, but merely dedicated areas for biking with signage. It is anticipated the Potomac & Wells Bypass leg and the Old Fairfield Road leg of the trails will be designated as joint use trails for bicycle and pedestrian travel.

VISITORS/CITIZEN REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were no visitors, citizen requests, or addresses from the audience.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion for adjournment was made by Council Member Piper. Second by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, Piper, Wood and Chesley. Council Member Dennis McEnaney was absent. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins
City Clerk