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**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 17, 2012**

MINUTES

The Mt. Vernon City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 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 Travis Perry.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

ROLL CALL

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

JOURNAL

The Journals for the January 3, 2012 City Council Public Hearing, the January 3, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting and the January 9, 2012 City Council Workshop Meeting were presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections.

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

CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable were presented for Council's consideration. Council Member McEnaney inquired about the following: Item #4, CB & I - \$144,306.00 — west elevated tank replacement. City Manager Ron Neibert commented that the tank project is still on track to be completed in May or June. Item #6, Destination Development - \$10,000.00 — Assessment study for the branding project. City Manager Neibert noted this is a partial payment with results due sometime this summer. Council Member McEnaney inquired about the members of the branding committee. Mayor Chesley advised that the committee will be finalized in February. Item #11, Henry,

Meisenheimer & Gende - \$36,106.06 — preliminary engineering on Veterans/Davidson sanitary sewer extensions (\$3,438.63), Veterans/Davidson extension (\$26,918.20), North Davidson (\$376.59), and west elevated tank (\$5,372.64). City Manager Neibert noted that the Veterans/Davidson sewer extension is going out for bids later this spring; the City is expecting their EPA permit for the Veterans/Davidson road extension by January 21 and anticipates asking the City Council to put it out for bid at the next meeting. Item #15, J K Trotter & Sons - \$225,128.65 — Veterans Memorial Drive and Wells Bypass sanitary sewer project is about 70% complete. Item #26, PGAV - \$8,101.32. City Manager Neibert stated that preliminary layouts are being completed and on target to be presented to City Council by the end of February. Item #31, Univar - \$6,781.50 — mosquito spray. City Manager Neibert indicated this is mosquito spray to be used this spring and summer in the City. Each neighborhood is being sprayed once a week throughout the spring and summer months. A special check was written to Zonola Company in the amount of \$12,250.00 as a partial payment for the housing study to be completed by mid-February. The City anticipates having results of the industrial park study and the housing study by the end of February.

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,196,330.45. Second by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Council Member David Wood was absent.

BIDS & QUOTES

There were no bids and quotes.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Ron Neibert presented for Council's consideration a Request for Authorization to Bypass Formal Bidding Procedures for Purchase of 15 In-car Video Systems for the Police Department. Chief Chris Mendenall noted these are "upgraded" video system so that once the Police car pulls on to the Police Station parking lot the video is automatically uploaded to the server saving time. He also noted that the Department received a \$30,000.00 trade-in for old equipment. Installation will begin soon and is expected to be completed in about a month. This upgrade is a budgeted item.

Council Member Piper made a motion to authorize to bypass the formal bidding procedures for purchase of 15 In-car Video Systems for the Police Department. Second by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Council Member David Wood was absent.

Mayor Chesley inquired of Chief Mendenall about the Citizens Police Academy. Chief stated that the Academy started today with 30 attendees.

City Manager Neibert presented for Council's consideration a Request for Authorization to Close Alley Way to the East of 220 S. 18th Street on January 28, 2012 from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for an Auction conducted by Dagg Auction Service. Dagg Auction Service made the request on behalf of the Estate of David Brussell.

Council Member Piper made a motion to authorize to Close Alley Way to the East of 220 S. 18th Street on January 28, 2012 from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for an Auction conducted by Dagg Auction Service.

Second by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Council Member Wood was absent.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Council's consideration a First Reading on Ordinance Amending Ordinance Article 21, Section 21-300 Revising Land Use District R-M2. City Manager Neibert noted there are actually two amendments to the R-M2 district: 1) removing mobile homes as a permitted or conditional use in that district and specifically prohibiting them. As a point of clarification, any existing mobile home within that district would be grandfathered in and allowed to remain so long as it is not removed from the property either by the landowner's choice or by fire or natural disaster. 2) The other amendment is to allow two family homes (duplexes) as a permitted use in that district. The City has a lot of interest in a duplex development in this zoning classification and believes it adds the ability to provide good homes in a neighborhood. Council Member McEnaney asked for a clarification of the difference in mobile and modular homes. City Manager Neibert noted that a mobile home has a title and a modular home does not. A mobile home typically sits on temporary pilings or supports, and a modular home sits on a foundation. A double-wide mobile home also has a title so it cannot be classified as a modular home. The City has existing mobile home park zoning classification. In the future the Council could, if an individual approached the City with a mobile home park plan, consider a new mobile home park development. City Manager Neibert suggested first read on this amendment.

Mayor Chesley noted that individuals were present in the audience who wished to address the Council regarding this issue. Ann Gaston addressed the Council. She and her husband live in a mobile home at 416 North 6th Street. She confirmed with City Manager Neibert that if her mobile home was destroyed she would not be able to replace it with another mobile home.

Larry Roberts addressed the Council. He questioned the difference in a mobile home, a double-wide mobile home and a modular home. City Manager Neibert reiterated his earlier explanation. Mr. Roberts noted that placing a \$90,000 mobile home on a \$4,000 empty lot would be silly. He believes the proposed amendment is discriminating against the poor people in town. He questioned how this amendment is going to alleviate spot zoning. He fears that more HUD housing will further devalue property prices.

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Council's consideration a First Reading on Ordinance Rezoning Property Located at 12188 E. Harlan Road from the Zoning Classification AG to R-M2. Petitioning Party is Danny Ramsey. Mr. Ramsey answered questions posed by City Manager Neibert and the Council. This rezoning was recommended for approval by the Zoning & Planning Commission by a 5-2 vote. Harlan Road is outside the City limits but within the mile and one-half zoning jurisdiction. Mr. Ramsey noted that the property in question has been in his family for over 70 years. Nine years ago his sister requested and was granted R-M2 zoning on her adjacent property. There are 16 mobile homes, two double-wide and one modular home in the general area. A member of Mr. Ramsey's family will live in a mobile home on the proposed property.

City Attorney Leggans presented for Council's consideration a First Reading on Ordinance Amending Ordinance Section 8.3 Fire Department. City Manager Neibert stated this is an Ordinance to amend the job description for the Fire Inspector in the Fire Inspection Department to make that position eligible for a fireman with the rank of Lieutenant or Captain. Council Member McEnaney inquired if

this would add another employee. City Manager Neibert noted the amendment does not obligate the City to permanently maintain a fourth Captain's position. City Manager Neibert requested a suspension of the Rules in order to address the issue at this meeting.

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to suspend the Rules and vote on the Ordinance at this meeting. Council Member Lash seconded the motion. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Council Member Wood was absent. Council Member McEnaney made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2012-1 Amending Ordinance Section 8.3 Fire Department. Council Member Piper seconded the motion. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Council Member Wood was absent.

City Attorney Leggans presented for Council's consideration a First Reading on Ordinance Authorizing Sale of Municipal Personal Property. City Manager Neibert noted that a list of surplus, abandoned and confiscated equipment/property from the Police Department will be sold at auction on February 11, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at the I64 Auction House with the Council's approval. City Manager Neibert requested that surplus pipe and brackets for playground equipment be added to the list. Also included in the sale will be watches, barbeque grills, bicycles, computer equipment, and something for everyone. City Manager requested a suspension of the Rules in order to address the issue at this meeting.

Council Member Piper made a motion to suspend the Rules and vote on the Ordinance at this meeting. Council Member Lash seconded the motion. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Council Member Wood was absent. Council Member Piper made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2012-2 Authorizing Sale of Municipal Personal Property. Council Member McEnaney seconded the motion. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Council Member Wood was absent.

City Attorney Leggans presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving Agreement to Annex for Property Having PIN: 06-23-200-035 and owned by Jon D. Thomas. City Manager Neibert stated this is a pre-annexation agreement that the Council conducted a public meeting for prior to the last City Council meeting. Ratification of this Resolution will allow Mr. Thomas to connect onto City water service. Once he becomes contiguous to the City limits Mr. Thomas will be required to annex into the City. Mr. Thomas was not at the meeting. Mr. Thomas will extend the water service at his cost. There will be no cost to the City.

Council Member Lash made a motion to adopt the Resolution Approving Agreement to Annex for Property Having PIN: 06-23-200-035 and owned by Jon D. Thomas. Council Member McEnaney seconded the motion. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Council Member Wood was absent.

City Attorney Leggans presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving an Agreement with FGM Architects and Engineers for an Aquatic Center. Mayor Chesley noted that the FGM Architects and Engineers are present at the meeting as well as George Bryant, Director of the City's Parks and Recreation Department. City Manager Neibert commented the Council previously reviewed three proposals for the Aquatic Center. The City's Aquatic Committee made a recommendation to the Council to build the outdoor facility as proposed by the FGM proposal. He noted that the recommended facility will accommodate a number of uses. It will include a traditional six-lane lap pool with diving area that can also be used for other recreational activities with locker rooms, concession and seating facilities. More features will include a splash area, a zero-entry pool with other water features, walking paths floating on top of the water, two water slides and a lazy river. The

estimated cost of the facility is not to exceed \$6 million. The Aquatic facility will be a wonderful enhancement for the quality of life in Mt. Vernon. This resolution is for the design component only. Once the plans are completed, the Council can take the project out for bid. It is anticipated the project will be ready to go out for bid in July.

Director of Parks and Recreation Department George Bryant stated that the present pool is around 40 years old. The repair costs of the old pool are expensive, and it is not known how long the pool will continue to operate in its deteriorating condition. Approximately 4,000 to 6,000 people use the current pool each summer. It is projected that 50,000 people will visit the new Aquatic facility. Council Member McEnaney expressed his excitement for the new Aquatic Center for children and families to enjoy. The project was identified as a need in the community and is in the City's Comprehensive Plan. Various community members and businesses discuss improving the quality of life in Mt. Vernon and this is one more positive step toward that end. Council Member Piper thanked Director George Bryant for suggesting the project be added to the Comprehensive Plan. Council Member Piper noted that the City received a Letter of Intent from the Lincoln Park Foundation stating its' intention to donate up to ten acres on which the Aquatic Center will be built. He thanked Michael Alexander and the Lincoln Park Foundation for the donation and stated the City intends to put the land to good use. Council Member Lash noted he was privileged to be a member of the Aquatic Center Steering Committee. It is very exciting to witness this project come to fruition. He believes it will be a boon to tourism in Mt. Vernon. Director Bryant commented this was a true "community" effort in that several community groups had input into the needs and the location of the facility. He stated that the plan is extremely great and will put Mt. Vernon even more on the map than it is today.

Council Member Piper made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving an Agreement with FGM Architects and Engineers for an Aquatic Center. Council Member McEnaney seconded the motion. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Mayor Chesley. Council Member Wood was absent.

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. This is a Chamber event but there will be a section available for the public, and the public is welcome. She commented that she has encountered a problem while compiling the PowerPoint presentation – she has too many slides - there are so many projects and so much growth in the City that it is difficult to limit the State of the City address to only 45 minutes. Mayor Chesley noted that the address will also include happenings at the airport, Downtown Development Corporation, Jefferson County Development Corporation and the Chamber. Everyone in the community is working together to make a stronger team and partnership.

The Red Cross will be sponsoring a Red Cross Live! program on January 26, 2012 at the Mr. Vernon Parks & Recreation Building from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Attendees will learn more about the lifesaving work of the Red Cross in our area.

CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Lash stated there is a Men Cooking for CASA event sponsored by CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), a group of volunteers who act as advocates for juveniles that are adjudicated in the Court System, at the Holiday Inn on Saturday evening, January 28, 2012. The fundraiser will include approximately 40 men who will be preparing and serving their own special dish to the attendees. Council Members Lash and Piper are participating as celebrity chefs.

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 McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Council Member Wood was absent. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins
City Clerk