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**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Monday, February 6, 2012**

MINUTES

The Mt. Vernon City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, February 6, 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 Travis Perry of the Bonnie/Ina United Methodist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

ROLL CALL

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

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Chesley read a Proclamation recognizing Black History Month and urged all citizens to join in celebrating the diversity and character of our community and highlight the importance of sharing our culture, customs and traditions with those around us. Roland Mays and Angela Moore were present to accept the Proclamation on behalf of the Minority Affairs and Human Relations Commission, the local NAACP Chapter, the Jefferson County African-American Heritage Committee and the local African-American Churches.

JOURNAL

The Journal for the January 17, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting was presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections. Council Member Wood stated that he was not present at the January 17, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting and because two of the Council Members are absent tonight, he suggested that the Journal be held until the next City Council Meeting.

CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable were presented for Council's consideration. Council Member McEnaney asked City Manager Ron Neibert for clarification on the following: Item #7 FGM

Architects - \$11,517.00 — 1st payments on Aquatic Facility master plan. City Manager Neibert noted this is the first payment on the design work for the Aquatic facility. The design work is expected to be completed in July. Item #18 Kohl's - \$40,257.71 — ½% sales tax revenue for the months of March 2011 through December 2011. City Manager Neibert noted this represents the first payment to Kohl's relative to the City's incentive agreement with Kohl's. This incentive will expire when they reach \$1 million. Item #19 Kuncce Computers - \$17,773.00 — Wiring new phone system and internet (\$16,985.00) and other computer repairs at various City offices (\$788.00) and Item #25 Phone Masters - \$30,176.89 — new phone system for City Hall. According to City Manager Neibert, there are still other departments to be added to the new phone system with more money to be paid out on this project.

Special checks were written to Fire Pension Fund in the amount of \$115,817.97 for final distribution of property taxes and to Police Pension Fund in the amount of \$97,521.60 for final distribution of property taxes. City Manager Neibert noted these are the property tax receipts received from tax bills from the county.

Special checks were written to National Railway in the amount of \$12,800.00, to Robin & Liz Hensley in the amount of \$31,850.00, and to Stan the Tire Man in the amount of \$9,725.00 for reimbursement of Downtown TIF projects that have been completed.

A special check was written to Treasurer, State of Illinois in the amount of \$4,429.13 for the long-awaited Illinois EPA permit fee for Veterans/Davidson Roadway extension.

Council Member Wood made a motion to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,052,877.38. Second by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: McEnaney, Wood and Chesley. Council Members Lash and Piper were absent.

BIDS & QUOTES

There were no bids and quotes.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Neibert presented a Request for Reallocation of Funds for the 2011/2012 Budget for Council's consideration including reclassification of painting and building repair expenditures budgeted in Capital that should have been budgeted in Maintenance & Repairs; increase budgeted expenditures by \$64,841 for radios for Police, Fire and Maintenance Building that were funded by a 50% grant and the City's 50% match funded by a \$12,793 contribution by the Foreign Fire Board and \$19,628 taken from the capital Fund; and reclassification of \$600 from Public Relations expenditures account to Operating Supplies account. These are internal adjustments and have no effect on the working fund balance.

Council Member Wood made a motion to approve the Request for Reallocation of Funds for the 2011/2012 Budget. Second by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: McEnaney, Wood and Chesley. Council Members Lash and Piper were absent.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration a Second Reading on Ordinance rezoning Property Located at 12188 E. Harlan Road from the Zoning Classification AG to R-M2. Petitioning Party: Danny Ramsey.

Council Member Wood suggested postponing any action on this item until the City Council's Workshop Meeting on Monday, February 13, 2012. He asked that the Workshop Meeting Notice be reissued as a Special Council Meeting so that action may be taken if Council so desires. In addition, Council Member Wood noted that two Council Members are absent from tonight's meeting. He also apologized to Mr. Ramsey for the delay in this rezoning request. Council Member Wood moved to table this item until the Special Council Meeting on Monday, February 13, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall. Council Member McEnaney seconded the motion. Yeas: McEnaney, Wood and Chesley. Council Members Lash and Piper were absent.

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving Three Year Audit Proposal from Krehbiel & Associates. City Manager Neibert noted this is an agreement with Krehbiel & Associates to conduct our annual audit for the years ended April 30, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The proposal contains a three (3) percent increase in last year's audit fee and a proposed increase in those costs over the next two (2) years. Justifications for the increased audit fees include the health insurance fund and the TIF funds. Krehbiel & Associates has been performing the City's annual audit since 1967. City Manager Neibert recommended approval of the proposal as submitted.

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving Three Year Audit Proposal from Krehbiel & Associates. Seconded by Council Member Wood. Yeas: McEnaney, Wood and Chesley. Council Members Lash and Piper were absent.

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving Dedicating Steve Harrison Field at Lincoln Park. Mayor Chesley read a Resolution honoring the memory of Steve Harrison and recognized his unselfish devotion to the youth of the City of Mt. Vernon. Jeff Harrison, son of Steve Harrison, thanked everyone for the Resolution.

George Bryant, Director of Parks and Recreation Department, advised that a dedication ceremony will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 which is the first home game for the Boys Soccer Team. Game time will be at 4:30 p.m. so the dedication will be just prior to the start of the game. Further details will be released at a later date. Director Bryant noted his Department has been working with the MVTHS Soccer Booster Club and other members of the community. He stated this will be a proper and fitting honor for Steve Harrison.

Council Member Wood made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving Dedicating Steve Harrison Field at Lincoln Park. Second by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: McEnaney, Wood and Chesley. Council Members Lash and Piper were absent.

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving Track Construction Grant Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation. This is a grant in the amount of \$1.129 million to be used to construct and connect a railroad spur from Continental Tire to the Union Pacific Track. The project is coordinated by the City and paid with grant funds. There are no City funds involved in this project. The City applied for the grant in 2009. Council Member McEnaney commented how much he appreciates Mary Ellen Bechtel's work in writing this grant and all the effort that went into the project.

Mayor Chesley commended City Manager Neibert, Mary Ellen Bechtel of Jefferson County Development Corporation, as well as the Fire Department, Police Department, and Convention and Tourism Department for their efforts in completing the grant. The City is taking advantage of outside sources of funds for the betterment of the City.

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving Track Construction Grant Agreement with Illinois Department of Transportation. Second by Council Member Wood. Yeas: McEnaney, Wood and Chesley. Council Members Lash and Piper were absent.

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Naming the Trail System within the City of Mt. Vernon "Mt. Vernon Parks and Schools Trailway System". Council Member Todd Piper planned to speak on this Resolution but unfortunately a family emergency occurred, and he is not in attendance at tonight's Council meeting. City Manager Neibert stated that the City has been working on the bike trail project for many years. He noted that Council Member Piper felt strongly about giving an identity to the project. Council Member Wood commented that he had spoken with Council Member Piper about this proposal and agrees it is a good idea – tying the parks and schools together and aptly renamed.

Council Member Wood made a motion to approve the Resolution Naming the Trail System within the City of Mt. Vernon "Mt. Vernon Parks and Schools Trailway System". Second by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: McEnaney, Wood and Chesley. Council Members Lash and Piper were absent.

MAYOR

Mayor Mary Jane Chesley stated that the 24th Annual Midwest Herb & Garden Show will be held on February 10, 11 & 12, 2012, at the Times Square Mall. She urged everyone to attend.

Parks and Recreation Director George Bryant informed the Council of a new program at the Park that includes children, ages 3 through 5 entitled the Start Smart Program, created by the National Alliance for Youth Sports, to help kids get ready for sports...and succeed in life. It is an innovative step-by-step approach that builds confidence and self-esteem in a fun and safe sports environment. Start Smart was developed by top motor skill development specialists in the field of youth sports. Parent-child groups perform motor skill tasks that gradually build confidence in children while they are having fun at the same time. Benefits of participating are:

- Builds confidence and self-esteem in children
- Fun and positive early experience in sports without the threat of competition or getting hurt
- Helps prepare kids for future sports participation
- Helps prepare kids and parents for specific sports
- Quality time together for parent and child
- Helps parents learn how to support and teach their child.

The first parent meeting will be on Monday, February 13, 2012 at the Rolland Lewis Building. The program will begin on February 15 and held on Wednesdays through March 21, 2012. The fee is \$30.00 per child. Registration is at the Parks and Recreation Department at Veterans Park.

Mayor Chesley noted during the past four years the City Council, Parks and Recreation Department and the Parks Board have worked hard to increase programs for young people. Some of these programs include Movies in the Park, Arbor Day Celebration, S'mores in the Park, Astronomy Night, IDNR Urban Fishing Clinic, King City Theater Company, and the Summer Music Festival. Director George Bryant stated that the focus has been on creating activities that involve the whole family, and that volunteers are the backbone of the Park's programming. Mayor Chesley thanked citizen volunteers and local businesses that invest money and support Park activities.

CITY COUNCIL

There were no comments from the City Council.

VISITORS/CITIZEN REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Sara Modert stated the last time she spoke before the City Council was at a meeting in September 2010. This is the first time she noticed the bike trail was to be discussed at a Council meeting. She stated that Mr. Piper's concern and idea to give the trail an identity is an excellent idea. She commented that the Council approved an agreement for preliminary engineering services with Hanagan & Associates for two legs of the bike trail. At that time she doesn't believe that the IDOT grant had been approved, but since that time an IDOT grant has been approved down 27th Street. She inquired at the meeting in September 2010 at what point will it come back before the Council for the residents have input that are impacted by the trail. She believes the answer at the time was 'wait for the engineering to see what the costs will be for each of the legs of the trail'. There was an informational session attended by Mr. Neibert, the City Engineer and residents along Lake Street, and she is still waiting for the final approval of the siting of the trail or for a discussion with the Council Members. At what point will the grant come before the Council for residents to have the opportunity for comment or have a chance to discuss this with Council?

City Manager Neibert advised that the project has been submitted to the State for the project review report which is a six to eight month process. After that is received the State will require the City to hold a public hearing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Manager Neibert requested an Executive Session in order to discuss Collective Bargaining and Personnel. Council Member Wood made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining and Personnel. Second by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: McEnaney, Wood and Chesney. Council Members Lash and Piper were absent.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion for adjournment was made by Council Member Wood. Second by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: McEnaney, Wood and Chesley. Council Members Lash and Piper were absent. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins
City Clerk