

Jerilee Hopkins
City Clerk



City of Mt. Vernon
1100 Main PO Box 1708
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
cityclerk@mvn.net

618-242-5000
FAX 618-242-6867
www.mtvernon.com

**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 19, 2013
MINUTES**

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 19, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building, Veterans Park, 800 South 27th Street, Mt. Vernon, IL.

Mayor Mary Jane Chesley called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Dan Henry of the Jefferson County Ministerial Association.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS

The Journal for the February 4, 2013 Regular City Council Meeting was presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections. **Council Member Piper made a motion to approve the Journal as presented. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.**

APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Approval of Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable was presented to Council for Approval. Council Member McEnaney asked City Manager Ron Neibert for an update on the following: Item #4 Bendetto Guido (Via Rail) - \$13,860.00 — Engineering on Continental Tire Rail Spur and Item #6 Continental Tire the Americas - \$187,671.46 — reimbursement for grant payment on the Rail Spur. Neibert noted that the project is well underway and expected to be completed in late March. Item #9 FGM Architects - \$9,415.86 — Professional service on Aquatics Facility. This represents a partial payment on the design supervision of the construction project. Council Member Piper noted that the Parks and Recreation Department is featured on Facebook where weekly updates are available. Item #11 Found Design - \$5,166.00 — work on Wayfinding Analysis. They are working on the wayfinding recommendations and should be ready by mid-April. Item #25 Shores Builders - \$243,059.43 — pay application #3 for new Aquatics Zoo. This is a payment for the Aquatic Facility. Item #27 Tick Tock Energy - \$15,887.50 — lighting upgrade at waste treatment plant. This is the grant payment for the lighting upgrade at the waste treatment plant.

Council Member Wood requested an update of all the capital projects from Neibert and Projects Manager Nathan McKenna.

Council Member Lash inquired about the special check written to Joseph Zanola in the amount of \$7,500.00 for the Housing Marketing Program. Neibert stated that Zanola will have marketing materials available in mid-April.

Council Member Wood made a motion to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,328,944.15. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

BIDS & QUOTES

City Manager Neibert reported that three (3) bids were submitted for the second phase of the 9th Street streetscape. Neibert recommended to the Council that the low bidder, Depew & Owen Builders, Inc. of Centralia, IL in the amount of \$389,598.00 be approved. Depew & Owen is also working on the safe routes sidewalk project and doing a very good job. The construction estimate was \$450,000.00. The other two bids were from George Jones of Marion in the amount of \$520,411.00 and Baxmeyer Construction of Waterloo in the amount of \$638,045.19. Neibert noted that the project will include new sidewalks, pavers, planting beds, ornamental fence, tree grates and lighting on 9th Street from Casey to just south of Harrison. The State eliminated the benches and trash cans from grant funding after completion of the first phase.

Council Member Wood commented that he has been disappointed in some of the maintenance performed by Downtown Development and the City. He intended to vote in opposition of this project unless a plan was written for maintaining the new lighting, trees and sidewalks and the problem remedied. Neibert stated there were a number of maintenance and cleanliness activities that need to be performed, some on a daily basis and others, weekly, monthly and annually. A good schedule was in place as to when these activities were to be accomplished. The problem with Downtown Development was their limited budget that allowed only a part-time worker. Because it is a part-time position it was very difficult to maintain a worker in that position. Given the limitations of their resources, the City transferred those responsibilities to the Public Works Department where they have a broad range of experience and a better skill set in terms of handling the maintenance. Neibert is confident after the streetscape is completed that it and all of Main Street will be maintained in a way that will make it worthy of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars in an effort to make downtown good-looking. Council Member Wood thanked Neibert for his efforts in this regard. The Parks and Recreation Department will also advise Public Works as to proper tree maintenance.

The project should begin in 30 days and will take 60-90 days to complete. Council Member Wood asked the public for their patience during the construction period on this project and others throughout the City during 2013 and 2014 and to watch for signs of progress in the future.

Council Member McEnaney inquired about the process to be used in notifying downtown businesses of the construction on their street. Neibert noted that once the construction schedule has been finalized with the Contractor then the City will notify residents with flyers mailed to affected residents.

Council Member Piper inquired as to how many more phases DMDC intends to complete downtown. Neibert advised there are at least two more phases and maybe three.

Council Member Wood made a motion to approve the low bid for the 9th Street streetscape project from Depew & Owen Builders, Inc. in the amount of \$389,598.00. Seconded by Council Member Piper. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Neibert presented to the council a request for permission to seek bids for the demolition of Horace Mann School building. This is a quality of life project that was discussed and approved by the Council at a retreat last summer. The City acquired the school building in 2002 for the sum of \$1.00 from District 80 when the Primary Center and Buford Middle School consolidated.

Council Member Wood expressed his concern about the City's spending hundreds of thousands of dollars for the demolition of the building. The building has been inspected. It is full of asbestos and black mold and no longer feasible to keep. Neibert reported that he is working on a proposal to prevent a repeat of this situation in the future. School districts must address the facilities they are vacating without making them a burden on the community as a whole. He will have a proposal to the Mayor and Council within 30 days. Mayor Chesley commented that District 80 participated in a walk-through of the building and will be removing certain architectural features from the building for historic value.

Council Member Lash inquired if separate contractors will be necessary – one for asbestos and mold removal and one for demolition. Neibert reported that the City is bidding the job as one contract combining removal and demolition.

Mayor Chesley noted that residents with ideas for what to do with the empty lot once the school is removed may forward them to the Mayor's Office. Council Member Lash suggested that the surrounding community be given the opportunity to share their input on how the property will be used thereby reclaiming ownership of the area.

Council Member Piper made a motion to grant the request for permission to seek bids for the demolition of Horace Mann School. Seconded by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Bill Howard presented no legislation for the Council's consideration.

MAYOR

Mayor Mary Jane Chesley had no information to share with the Council.

CITY COUNCIL

No information was shared by the Council

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Jodi Schoen, Worksite Wellness Contractor, of South Central Illinois Health Coalition (SCIHC), made a short presentation to the Council about an exciting new initiative "*We Choose Health*", a comprehensive, statewide initiative to transform communities and reduce the burden of chronic disease. *We Choose Health* is an Illinois Department of Public Health's Community Transformation Grant (CTG) and is

administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. IDPH was awarded \$4.8 million each year for five years to be used from September 2011 through 2016. Strategies to be implemented at the community level are:

- Smoke-Free Living,
- Smoke Free Outdoor Spaces,
- Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL),
- Baby Friendly Hospitals,
- Coordinated School Health (CSH), and
- Worksite Wellness.

For more information go to www.idph.state.il.us/wechoosehealth/. You may contact Jodi Schoen at 217-710-1165 or jodischoen@yahoo.com.

Chuck Wilson, a retired coal miner from DuQuoin, appeared and informed the Council and the public about Patriot Coal Company filing for bankruptcy seeking to gut the collective bargaining agreement covering 2,000 miners and terminate health care coverage for 22,000 retirees, spouses, widows and dependents. Patriot called these costs “substantial and unsustainable legacy costs.” Mr. Wilson requested that the City Council sign a statement of support on behalf of the UMWA. No action was taken by the Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Wood made a motion to Adjourn the Meeting. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins
City Clerk