

**CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, March 2, 2015  
7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, March 2, 2015 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 Rev. Ron Lash.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**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.

**PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS**

The Journal for the February 17, 2015 Regular City Council Meeting was presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections. **Council Member Piper made a motion to approve the Journals as presented. Seconded by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Absent: Wood.**

**APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

The Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable were presented to Council for approval. Council Member McEnaney asked City Manager Ron Neibert for clarification on the following item: Item #13 Planning Design Studio - \$2,440.63 — Lincoln Park East addition Phase 1. Neibert advised this is the last payment.

**Council Member McEnaney made a motion to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$750,354.87. Seconded by Council Member Piper. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Absent: Wood.**

**BIDS & QUOTES**

City Manager Neibert presented the Bid Results for the demolition of six residential properties. There were six bids submitted and recommended award of the base bid to the lowest responsive responsible bidder, Kenneth Hails Excavating, in the amount of \$54,700.00. The bid was slightly over the City's estimate of \$50,000.00.

BID TABULATION - Demolition of 6 Residential Structures  
Bid Opening: February 12, 2015 @10:00 a.m.



Addendum Acknowledge			Engineers Estimate	Kenneth A. Hails Excavating 21606 N. Hails Lane Texico, IL 62889	Shores Builders, Inc. 1154 Schwartz Road Centralia, IL 62801	Premier Demolition, Inc. 5710 Wise Ave. St. Louis, MO 63110	S. Shafer Excavating, Inc. 4212 Salem Rd. Pontoon, IL 62040	S & S Excavating 2122 E. Salisbury Rd. Scheller, IL 62883	
			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes		
1	300 N. 16th Street	1	Lump Sum	\$12,500.00	\$19,300.00	\$ 46,436.21	\$39,100.00	\$34,000.00	\$29,405.00
2	1011 Lamar Avenue	1	Lump Sum	\$7,500.00	\$7,800.00	\$ 23,674.08	\$18,900.00	\$16,000.00	\$7,512.00
3	1300 Jones Avenue	1	Lump Sum	\$7,500.00	\$8,800.00	\$ 23,693.63	\$13,100.00	\$16,200.00	\$10,802.00
4	1212 S. 20th Street	1	Lump Sum	\$7,500.00	\$6,200.00	\$ 16,809.21	\$8,200.00	\$6,800.00	\$3,200.00
5	801 S. 20th Street	1	Lump Sum	\$7,500.00	\$6,300.00	\$ 24,864.62	\$10,100.00	\$11,200.00	\$10,090.00
6	805 S. 20th Street	1	Lump Sum	\$7,500.00	\$6,300.00	\$ 24,902.40	\$16,800.00	\$13,100.00	\$11,296.00
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
Total Bid (As Read)				\$50,000.00	\$54,700.00	\$160,374.15	\$106,200.00	\$97,300.00	\$72,305.00
Total Bid (As Corrected)				\$50,000.00	\$54,700.00	\$160,374.15	\$106,200.00	\$97,300.00	\$72,305.00

Council Member Lash made a motion to approve the bid for demolition of six residential structures to the lowest bidder, Kenneth A. Hails Excavating, of Texico. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney and Chesley. Abstain: Piper. Absent: Wood.

Neibert presented the Bid Results for the Supply of Water Line Materials for Ambassador Road Water Main. There were five bids submitted and recommend award of the base bid to the lowest responsive responsible bidder, HD Supply, in the amount of \$39,949.13.

Bid Tabulation - Ambassador Road Water Line Materials Only  
Bid Opening: February 25, 2015 @10:00 a.m.



			HD Supply Waterworks 45 Northgate Ind Dr Granite City, IL 62040	St Jacob Winwater Works 10073 Ellis Rd St Jacob, IL 62281	Illinois Meter, Inc. 1500 W. Webster St. Benton, IL 62812	Utility Pipe Sales CO 11802 N.Green River Rd Evansville, IN 47725	SchuItte Supply 5998 Redbud Lane Edwardsville, IL 62025						
1	10" PVC. SDR21 CLASS 200 WATER	1960	LF	\$7.41	\$14,523.60	\$7.75	\$15,190.00	\$7.64	\$14,974.40	\$6.97	\$13,661.20	\$7.54	\$14,778.40
2	6" PVC SDR21 CLASS 200 WATER	40	LF	\$2.89	\$115.60	\$3.05	\$122.00	\$2.98	\$119.20	\$2.88	\$115.20	\$2.85	\$114.00
3	4" PVC SDR21 CLASS 200 WATER	40	LF	\$1.36	\$54.40	\$1.40	\$56.00	\$1.43	\$57.20	\$1.36	\$54.40	\$1.37	\$54.80
4	8" PVC SDR21 CLASS 200 WATER	40	LF	\$5.00	\$200.00	\$5.15	\$206.00	\$5.16	\$206.40	\$4.86	\$194.40	\$4.94	\$197.60
5	4"x4" STAINLESS STEEL TAPPING	1	EA	\$286.03	\$286.03	\$315.00	\$315.00	\$305.00	\$305.00	\$434.45	\$434.45	\$321.39	\$321.39
6	10" D. I. CAPS	1	EA	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$86.00	\$86.00	\$102.00	\$102.00	\$96.93	\$96.93	\$53.00	\$53.00
7	8" D.I. CAPS	2	EA	\$66.00	\$132.00	\$59.00	\$118.00	\$70.00	\$140.00	\$66.32	\$132.64	\$41.98	\$83.96
8	4" D.I. CAPS	2	EA	\$31.00	\$62.00	\$28.25	\$56.50	\$33.00	\$66.00	\$31.34	\$62.68	\$14.17	\$28.34
9	10" IN-LINE GATE VALVE	5	EA	\$1,195.00	\$5,975.00	\$1,370.00	\$6,850.00	\$1,280.00	\$6,400.00	\$1,156.00	\$5,780.00	\$983.97	\$4,919.85
10	8" IN-LINE GATE VALVE	2	EA	\$765.00	\$1,530.00	\$775.00	\$1,550.00	\$759.00	\$1,518.00	\$768.00	\$1,536.00	\$631.52	\$1,263.04
11	6" IN-LINE GATE VALVE	5	EA	\$480.00	\$2,400.00	\$505.00	\$2,525.00	\$464.00	\$2,320.00	\$454.00	\$2,270.00	\$397.00	\$1,985.00
12	4" IN-LINE GATE VALVE (M.J. TO M)	1	EA	\$377.00	\$377.00	\$455.00	\$455.00	\$359.00	\$359.00	\$346.00	\$346.00	\$311.40	\$311.40
13	4" GATE VALVE (M.J. TO F.L.)	1	EA	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$455.00	\$455.00	\$349.00	\$349.00	\$346.00	\$346.00	\$297.36	\$297.36
14	VALVE BOXES (TOP HATS)	14	EA	\$18.00	\$252.00	\$27.00	\$378.00	\$21.00	\$294.00	\$38.98	\$545.72	\$28.45	\$398.30
15	FIRE HYDRANTS, 6"	5	EA	\$1,735.00	\$8,675.00	\$1,725.00	\$8,625.00	\$2,525.00	\$12,625.00	\$1,952.14	\$9,760.70	\$1,906.26	\$9,531.30
16	HYDRANT TEES (10"x10"x6")	5	EA	\$340.00	\$1,700.00	\$304.00	\$1,520.00	\$352.00	\$1,760.00	\$346.15	\$1,730.75	\$170.11	\$850.55
17	D.I. 10"x10"x4" TEE	1	EA	\$240.00	\$240.00	\$218.00	\$218.00	\$258.00	\$258.00	\$247.77	\$247.77	\$153.68	\$153.68
18	D.I. 10"x10"x8" TEE	2	EA	\$340.00	\$680.00	\$308.00	\$616.00	\$370.00	\$740.00	\$351.24	\$702.48	\$174.35	\$348.70
19	FLANGE PACK 4" M. J. WITH CORE BLUE BOLTS	6	EA	\$21.60	\$129.60	\$22.50	\$135.00	\$36.25	\$217.50	\$48.05	\$288.30	\$44.14	\$264.84
20	FLANGE PACK 6" M. J. WITH CORE BLUE BOLTS	20	EA	\$27.00	\$540.00	\$27.95	\$559.00	\$46.80	\$936.00	\$66.00	\$1,320.00	\$55.01	\$1,100.20
21	FLANGE PACK 8" M. J. WITH CORE BLUE BOLTS	8	EA	\$30.40	\$243.20	\$32.25	\$258.00	\$60.85	\$486.80	\$71.87	\$574.96	\$67.48	\$539.84
22	FLANGE PACK 10" M. J. WITH CORE BLUE BOLTS	27	EA	\$38.10	\$1,028.70	\$44.95	\$1,213.65	\$102.33	\$2,762.91	\$82.21	\$2,219.67	\$110.87	\$2,993.49
23	TRACER WIRE, SOLID COPPER #12 INSULATED (600 FT REEL)	5	EA	\$70.00	\$350.00	\$58.00	\$290.00	\$70.00	\$350.00	\$60.86	\$304.30	\$64.50	\$322.50
4				\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	
5				\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	
Total Bid (As Read)				\$39,949.13	\$41,797.15	\$47,346.41	\$42,724.55	\$40,911.54					
Total Bid (As Corrected)				\$39,949.13	\$41,797.15	\$47,346.41	\$42,724.55	\$40,911.54					

**Council Member Piper made a motion to approve the Bid Results for the Water Line Materials for Ambassador Road Water Main. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Absent: Wood.**

**CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Neibert presented for Council's consideration a Request for Permission to Seek Bids for Electrical Aggregation. Jeff Haarmann of Affordable Gas & Electric, LLC (AGE) and NOVA, LLC. Appeared to answer questions.

**Council Member McEnaney made a motion to approve a Request for Permission to Seek Bids for Electrical Aggregation. Seconded by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Absent: Wood.**

**CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Council's consideration the Second Reading of an Ordinance Approving an Asset Purchase Agreement with Illinois American Water Corporation for the sale of the City of Mt. Vernon water and wastewater systems.

**Council Member Piper made a motion to table the vote on this Ordinance until further notice. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Absent: Wood.**

**PUBLIC QUESTION/DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED WATER SALE**

Members of Illinois American Water were present to address questions and concerns from the public. Those members included: Bruce Hauk; President; Barry Suits; Vice President of Operations, Ken Jones; Vice President of the Legal Department; Rich Kerckhove, Rates & Regulations; Grant Evitts, Operations Manager; Jeff Kaiser, Engineering; and Karen Cotton, Communications.

Council Member McEnaney shared the process he followed in the previous five months to become informed about the sale of the City's water and wastewater system to Illinois American Water. The city has 97 miles of case iron water mains and 82 miles of clay sewer mains that break and break often. On average the city loses \$255,000 worth of water due to breaks. Repairs cost another \$100,000. How does the city deal with an antiquated system? Sell it, keep it or patch it?

Mayor Chesley requested that the public speakers limit their time at the podium to three or four minutes. Speakers with written remarks were encouraged to give Council a copy of their remarks.

The following individuals addressed their concerns regarding the proposed sale of the city's water system.

Dan Black, #7 Sunset, represented the Concerned Citizens of Jefferson County organization. His remarks are as follows:

*Water Privatization*

*I AM DAN BLACK, MY ADDRESS IS #7 SUNSET*

*THANK YOU Mayor, Council, Citizens of Jefferson County and IL American Water for the opportunity to speak on this important subject for our community this evening.*

*AM HERE TO REPRESENT THE CONCERNED CITIZENS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY ORGANIZATION*

*First of all want to clarify the CCJC has not come out against this Ordinance to sell the water and sewer systems to IL American Water (IAW). The CCJC feels there has not been enough data provided at this time to evaluate the sale and take a position for or against it.*

Secondly, we want to go on record that the Mayor, City Manager and Council have made great progress in growing Mt. Vernon and we respect their leadership and for their personal time they have put into the positions while serving on the Council. However, on the sale of utility issue:

The CCJC is requesting the Council postpone action on this ordinance for 6 months such that the City can take the needed time to present a detailed analysis to the Community showing:

1) Reasonable Cost of repairing the system over the next 10 years and what the cost of the same \$30 million investment IL American Water (IAW) is going to inject will have on future water rates if Mt. Vernon does not sell the system.

2) A thorough review of the ramifications of privatization in other communities that have sold their systems and were blindsided by large rate increases, fees and surcharges and have since tried to buy back their systems from private for profit corporations. Specifically why Mt. Vernon will not incur the same problems a couple years down the road.

3) It is the CCJC's opinion this proposed sale of a large portion of Mt. Vernon's assets is much too large a decision to be rushed through Council without spending 6 months studying it properly and presenting the analysis of the sale to the community.

a. A two (2) to four (4) week extension is not enough time to properly analyze this deal or explain all the ramification to the citizens.

4) Since the Community is very interested in this Ordinance and the ramifications of future water rate increases on the residents and a possible deterrent to future economic development in our area the CCJC respectfully request action on this Ordinance be postponed for a minimum of 6 months. Lastly, I have two (2) questions for the Council that I would like an answer to tonight:

a) Have any of you called the cities that have had unsuccessful privatizations and have or currently are in the process of trying to buy back their systems from the private for profit corporations and asked them what went wrong?

b) If Mt. Vernon sells to IL American Water how will our city not encounter the same rate hikes, fees, and surcharges that other communities have encountered after the sale of their systems? Why will Mt. Vernon not be any different than previous sales gone badly? Thank you for your time and listening to our concerns.

Mayor Chesley noted that copies of several letters from Mayors in other communities endorsing Illinois American Water are available on the back table.

Karen Cotton, Illinois American Water, noted that IAW works to get feedback from their customers all the time, including surveys that have received a 91% satisfaction rate. They strive to be better and to receive 100% ratings. Peoria's water system has always been private, but pursuant to a 100 year old franchise agreement, the City reviews the contract every five years and thus far, the City has agreed to continue with Illinois American Water.

IAW Attorney Ken Jones stated that in 2007, prior to being included in Zone 1, the Champaign District experienced a 46% rate increase to help fund a more than \$70.8 million investment to improve the Champaign water system. Today, Champaign is included in Zone 1 and that same investment of over \$70 million would result in an approximate six percent increase in rates. This illustrates customer benefits with pricing across large customer groups like Zone 1.

Ray Botch, 1013 Birdie Drive, questioned why the hurry to sell the water system and requested the City wait six months.

John Scrivner spoke on behalf of Mike Bullard who was unable to attend the meeting. His remarks are as follows:

*Mike Bullard was not able to be at this meeting tonight and has asked me to address the Mt. Vernon City Council, the citizens of Mt. Vernon and the 43,000 citizens of Jefferson County. The following are his words. My name is Michael Bullard, I live at 106 Woodworth Drive, Bluford, Illinois. On February 17, as the spokesperson for Belle Rive, Bluford, Dix/Kell, Waltonville and Woodlawn I presented a letter to this City Council asking for a 12 month delay in any actions towards the sale of the utility system owned by the*

*Citizens of Mt. Vernon. In that letter, we asked for an answer in writing to each signer by Feb. 23. To date, this letter has been ignored. This council's plan was designed behind the backs of their citizens through over 6 months of secret meetings. Your goal is to sell the utility systems that your citizens have invested in for over 100 years, for a hand full of gold. Promising millions of dollars in city projects you are sacrificing the Cities largest asset literally selling it for pennies on the dollar claiming you cannot afford to restore the infrastructure you have failed to maintain. How on earth do you expect the citizens to believe you will preserve the infrastructure you intend to build with all that gold? This sale also threatens the financial security of 6 water districts throughout Jefferson County, nearly 43,000 residents and every local industry. It is our view, the utility system in Mt. Vernon has been grossly neglected for many years. And somehow the outlying districts have viable, healthy, up to date systems even though they pay YOU a very lucrative profit margin of a quarter million dollars annually. We are like those farmers looking over the fence at another farm that is failing. When all the other farms are successful, right in the middle there is one that cannot afford to stay in business and sells out. Now, you want to sell the farm! Whether you want to or not, you owe the owners of that farm the truth. You need to explain why they have leaky 100 year old water mains and streets that are constantly dug up. You need to explain why these systems need \$30 million in repairs and enhancements. You need to explain how much of your past "upgrades" has just been repairs. You need to explain what happens to the quarter million dollars in profit you make from the outlying districts. You need to explain why your low income users are facing significant rate increases when the well to do users are getting a rate reduction. You have a lot of explaining to do and your citizens expect that.... after all, they are your boss. Just like that failed farmer, his owners need to know why all the others are successful and theirs failed. Before you get mad at me, point fingers and put your spin on all this, just remember it was YOU that made the choice to hide your actions for over 6 months in secret, behind the backs of your citizens. These are the seeds you have sown in your garden and this is your crop.... not mine and not the citizens. The Team of Mayors previously asked for 12 months in writing, we are insisting on at least a 6 month delay. We are asking you to open the records of these secret meetings, open your books, your studies and requirements. Share these as public records to the citizens of your city and those who desire to find a win-win solution to keep these systems public and restore the viability that has been neglected for so long.*

Mayor Chesley responded to Mr. Bullard's letter. On February 20, 2015, the Mayor and other City officials met with the Team of Mayors to discuss the sale. She noted that the water lines in the City of Mt. Vernon are not suffering from neglect, but from age. Mt. Vernon's water lines are over 100 years old. Much older than water lines in the Village of Bluford.

Council Member Lash addressed the so called "secret meetings". Pursuant to The Open Meetings Act, closed meetings may be held to consider the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body. The Council felt it more advantageous to accumulate data/information regarding the sale of the water system in order to make a decision before presenting the sale to the people. To say that the Council held "secret meetings" is untrue. The Executive Session meetings were not to deceive or distract, but to gather information for the citizens.

Richard Acklin, 23 Country Club Road, requested that the Council table the sale of the water system for a minimum of 12 months. He referenced Food & Water Watch (F&WW) statistics claiming that water rates increased an average of 198% for four cities acquired by American Water. He stated that Shiloh's water rates increased 119%. He does not see the value of this situation for the City of Mt. Vernon.

IAW Attorney Jones stated there is no way Shiloh's rates increased 119%. There was actually a 3-3½% increase annually.

Mr. Acklin also stated that an individual from Elgin wished they had never signed an agreement to sell their water system to IAW.

IAW Attorney Jones stated that Illinois American Water does not serve Elgin. He urged citizens to go online to the Illinois Commerce Commission website for accurate water rate information.

James Rippy, #3 Bristol Court, came forward and expressed his concerns about why municipalities don't take funds from the general corporate fund and put into public works or public utilities for projects that need to be done and prioritize those projects.

Dennis Southerd, 2809 Lime Avenue, expressed his concern about the lack of public input into the decision to sell the water system. Why are you unwilling to place this on the ballot in the form of a public referendum?

Donald Breeze, 409 S. 24<sup>th</sup> St, retired City employee, stated that other special projects are getting the money instead of the utility department.

Ron Davis, 4214 Fox Creek, suggested that Illinois American Water is "well-connected" with the political powers in the state because of their involvement in the change in law regarding the evaluation of water systems. He expressed concern that the funds from the sale of the water system won't take the city very far down the road. He believes the Council had secret meetings.

Ron Moyer, 16850 Country Club Rd., stated that the city is trying to rush the sale. The public needs more input in these important decisions regarding the city.

Mayor Tommy Thompson, of Grafton, appeared to share his community's positive experience with Illinois American Water. Grafton was saved from bankruptcy by the sale of their water system to IAW and experienced no increase in water rates.

Tim Elliott, of Granite City, Distribution Superintendent and a recent IAW retiree, shared his positive experience working for IAW for over 30 years.

Council Member McEnaney explained the City is faced with aging water and sewer lines that will cost a lot of money to replace. How much will the water rates need to be raised? Illinois American Water is offering the City \$30 million worth of improvements over a ten year period of time. Without the sale, rates will have to be raised by six percent per year for ten years. The City Council wants to grow the City. We have road projects, curb replacements, sidewalks and trails in ill repair that the City needs funds to complete.

Kent Southers, 4340 Lilac Lane, questioned if there was a CMRP (Certified Maintenance Reliability Professional) on the committee that reviewed the infrastructure on the Comprehensive Plan. Why does it have to be an either/or situation?

Jamie Fradelos, 836 Apricot Avenue, stated that the City prioritized water in which to swim (Aquatic Zoo) over water that comes to our homes. The issue should be placed on the ballot for a vote of the people.

Shawn Kennedy, Finance Director at Waterloo, stated that Waterloo has a great working relationship with Illinois American Water and are always responsive to needs and requests. They have been involved in the community as well. She noted that water rates have increased three percent or less.

Chris Bunting, 1341 N. Ashland, Woodlawn, IL, appeared on behalf of the Jefferson County Farm Bureau and requested that the City delay the sale to Illinois American Water until the citizens can understand the urgency of the sale.

Ralph Nabors, 605 S. 18<sup>th</sup> St., noted the City should prioritize their funds and not spend on the Aquatic Zoo, bike trails or the new high school.

Kent Renshaw, 3405 Piccadilly Ave, asked the City Council to delay the decision to sell the water system.

Steven Casper, 2228 College St., stated that the Illinois Commerce Commission gives an endless line of approving rate increases and that the ICC will not protect the City from high rates. They're not looking out for the citizens of Mt. Vernon. That's not their job. They don't have authority to do that. All they do is verify information. He asked that the City not sell the water system.

Dennis McEnaney responded that from personal experience he knows that the Illinois Commerce Commission has the responsibility to balance the protection of customers as well as the profitability and sustainability of the utility.

Robert Riley, 1806 Briarwood Dr, questioned why the City doesn't realize the good return for the investment of spending \$3 million in order to save \$255,000 in lost water revenue.

Jerry Merritt, 2816 Cherry, noted that the City Council should not shoulder all the blame for the water system because for years the pipes have been patched and not repaired. He cited Attorney General Lisa Madigan's investigation of Illinois American Water. He thinks the sale is a mistake.

Bruce Hauk, President of Illinois American Water, admits that they have challenges in doing business, just like any other company or government. They do their best to serve the public to the best of their ability. He's proud of their Company. They are offering a solution to this community. They are answering the crowd's questions with honesty and integrity. The company has a 91% customer satisfaction rate. They have made mistakes and they own up to their mistakes. It's what you do about them that matters. They don't have an unblemished record; no different than anyone in this room.

Ken Jones, IAW Attorney, advised that the AG's investigation was an inherited issue out of Chicago from 2006-2007 and it has been resolved.

Paul Rainwater, 12630 N. Liebengood, believes the sale is wrong. He threatened to seek a restraining order to prevent the sale.

Crystal Hemby, 24 Country Club Rd, advised she is the owner of Crystal Clear Pools & Spas and her business is being hurt because of the anticipated rate increases.

Sherie Stevens, 901 Sycamore Ct, suggested more information should be collected and reviewed and the vote should be postponed for six months.

Jim Duncan, 901 Blueberry Hill, asked if there is a time and place when the proposed Ordinance will be voted on and questioned if the Council follows Roberts Rules of Order.

Rick McMahon, Opdyke, IL, requested each Council member to give a "con" regarding the sale of the City's water system. Council Member Piper noted that not getting enough information out to the community is a con. Council Member Lash stated the only con he sees is that the people don't want the sale. He understands this is a very passionate issue. Mayor Chesley stated that the City's aging water system is a con. What do we do? Continue to repair and watch the system deteriorate? Do we take money away from street programs? Council Member McEnaney noted that rates will have to be raised if the system is not sold. He noted it is obvious that communicating with the public regarding this sale was not done well. He apologized for the lack of better communication. Change is hard. That's the con.

Mayor Chesley thanked everyone for showing their concern and attending this meeting. She suggested that a workshop be scheduled on Monday, March 9, at 3:00 p.m. to further discuss the sale. No vote will be taken at the workshop. **Council Member McEnaney made a motion to have a workshop on Monday, March 9, at 3:00 p.m. at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Center. Seconded by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Absent: Wood.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was held.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Council Member Lash made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Absent: Wood.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins  
City Clerk