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City Clerk



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**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Monday, March 4, 2013
MINUTES**

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, March 4, 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 Gene Tucker 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 19, 2013 Regular City Council Meeting was presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections. **Council Member Lash made a motion to approve the Journal as presented. Seconded by Council Member Piper. 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 #1 Ameren Energy Marketing - \$22,073.89 — December electric charges. Council Member McEnaney asked how much savings the City realized the last year or the last three years. Neibert commented that he did not, but will get the information to the Council. Item #8 Henry, Meisenheimer & Gende - \$93,308.92 — lift station 14 force main replacement (\$1,531.96), is under design and will be ready to go out for bid in late spring. Veterans and Davidson roadway extension (\$769.82), the roadway is completed and waiting for good weather to finalize the sidewalks and clean up. Council Member Piper inquired as to why the Contractors stopped working on the projects over the winter. Neibert stated that the Contractors didn't feel the weather would allow the projects to be completed. The City chose not to pay additional money (\$150,000.00) to have the Contractors work through the winter months. Mayor Chesley suggested that the sign at Veterans and Davidson needs to be updated. Council Member McEnaney asked if the roadway could be opened early. Neibert noted that the striping is not complete and the project was bid

on a no-traffic basis. Neibert indicated that all of the other projects under Item #8 are in design and on schedule. Item #10 Horner & Shifrin – 410,425.00 — reconstruction of Perkins from 10th Street to 12th Street design. IDOT will be taking over the land acquisition portion of the project once the extent of the right-of-way has been determined. Item #15 Jeffrey D. Wielt - \$1,502.78 — City Hall boiler repair. Neibert reported that the City is awaiting the results of the first electrical evaluation. An additional company performed an evaluation and both reports will be considered. The City will receive recommendations for grants to eliminate and upgrade lighting and HVAC in City Hall. Item #17 Martin Tate - \$37,800.00 — Rehab to house funded by CDAP grant. This is a home rehab project administered by CrossWalk of West Frankfort.

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$627,514.07. Seconded by Council Member Wood. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

BIDS & QUOTES

There were no bids and quotes presented.

CITY MANAGER

Police Chief Chris Mendenall presented the 2012 Officer of the Year for the Mt. Vernon Police Department to Sgt. Roger Hayse. According to Mendenall, the annual award is chosen by a committee of their peers. Nominees must be sworn officers who show outstanding skill, professionalism in their duties and must contribute to their assignments and have exceptional knowledge, among other criteria.

Sgt. Hayse started his career as a dispatcher, working for six years in that capacity, and has spent 22 years as an officer. At this time, he is assigned to the detective unit and is the department's primary crime scene technician and investigator.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney David Leggans presented for the Council's consideration a Resolution Recognizing Senator John O. Jones for his years of service to the City of Mt. Vernon, as follows:

*WHEREAS, the City of Mt. Vernon wishes to express its deep appreciation for his rendering of personal commitment to the City of Mt. Vernon, its residents and to its constituents as a member of the Illinois General Assembly to **JOHN O. JONES**; and*

WHEREAS, John O. Jones has shown his true caring and concern for his District's residents by giving of his time during a period covering 8 years as a State Representative and 10 years as Mt. Vernon's State Senator; and

WHEREAS, John O. Jones has assisted in securing state funding for a percentage of monies necessary for the construction of a major interstate exit, an overlay for Shiloh Drive and the new road construction of Veteran's Davidson Drive extensions; and

WHEREAS, John O. Jones assisted in seeking State funding for a share of monies that created a \$224 million expansion of Continental Tire with the creation of 444 new JOBS; and

WHEREAS, John O. Jones has proven his sincere interest in economic development and JOB creation in the City of Mt. Vernon and the surrounding region, and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois does by this Resolution salute "JOHN O. JONES" for his countless hours of service and devotion as a member of the Illinois General Assembly and further, let one and all know that the City Council, representing the citizens of Mt. Vernon, does thank and honor him for his numerous contributions that makes Mt. Vernon a better place to live.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois this 4th day of March, 2013.

APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois this 4th day of March, 2013;

In witness whereof have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of this City to be affixed.

Signed by Mayor and City Council.

Council Member Wood made a motion to approve the Resolution recognizing Senator John O. Jones for his years of service to the City of Mt. Vernon. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

City Attorney David Leggans presented for the Council's consideration a Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Agreement with BHMG Service Corporation for a Water Tank Monitoring System in the amount of \$18,603.00. City Manager Neibert noted that the last upgrade of the City's water tank monitoring System was in the 1930's. The present system is outdated and no longer serves its' purpose. The alarm portion of the present system no longer works and replacement parts are not available. The new system will provide more efficiency in locating serious water leaks in the system, computer and cellular alarms, and is a much needed upgrade to the City's water distribution system. The system will pinpoint which tank is leaking, but each of the tanks has a large service area. A much more sophisticated and costly system would be required in order to pinpoint the leak within the service area.

Council Member Piper made a motion to approve the Resolution approving a Memorandum of Agreement with BHMG Service Corporation for a water tank monitoring system. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

MAYOR

Mayor Mary Jane Chesley noted that the ribbon cutting for Magnum Steel Works, Inc. was held earlier today. Mayor Chesley commended the owners, Jim and Angela Czerwinski, as well as the Jefferson County Development Corporation, and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Enterprise Zone funds were used on this project.

The Public Works Department is being forced to remove many large trees throughout the City that are infested with the emerald ash borer. There are approximately 70 ash trees located within the City's right-of-way.

Yard waste pickup begins the week of March 18, 2013 on the regular garbage pick-up day. If garbage pick-up is on Friday, yard waste pick-up is on Wednesdays.

Large waste items may be placed at the curb and residents should call Mid-West Waste for pickup. The telephone number is on the side of the blue garbage tote.

The River to River Runners Club and Southern Illinois Health Care, a major sponsor, are promoting the Children's Health Week, Kids Fun & Fitness Day on June 9, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the SIU Track & Field Complex. Free of charge.

CITY COUNCIL

Council Member McEnaney asked City Manager Neibert to give an update on the public hearing on electrical aggregation that was held prior to tonight's Council meeting. Jeff Haarmann of Affordable Gas and Electric provided information on the electrical aggregation process. No one from the public attended. Representatives from five different governmental units were present at the joint public hearing. Information is available on the City's website, the City's Facebook page, as well as Affordable Gas and Electric's website, affordableelectricrates.com.

Another public hearing will be held before the next City Council Meeting on Monday, March 18, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

James Harris asked why Menards was denied permission to build a store in Mt. Vernon. City Manager Neibert stated that no building plans from Menards have been submitted to the City. Neibert reminded that a few months ago during the country's fiscal cliff crisis that Menards announced nationally they were stopping all new projects until they evaluated the effects of the fiscal cliff crisis on the national level. Menards never made a formal application to the City nor did the City turn anything down from Menards. We would love to have Menards file a formal application to build in Mt. Vernon.

Mr. Harris asked if Mt. Vernon's building codes were too strict which is why Menards didn't build a store in Mt. Vernon, but went to Shiloh. Mayor Chesley responded that the building codes in Shiloh are similar to those used in Mt. Vernon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins
City Clerk