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**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois  
Regular City Council Meeting  
Monday, April 2, 2012**

**MINUTES**

The Mt. Vernon City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, April 2, 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 Pastor Don Bigham of the Jefferson County Ministerial Association.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**JOURNAL**

The Journals for the March 12, 2012 City Council Workshop Meeting Executive Session, the March 19, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting, and the March 26, 2012 City Council Special Meeting were presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections. Motion by Council Member Wood to approve the Journals. Second by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Wood and Chesley. Council Member Piper was absent.

**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 items: Item #2, Amalgamated Bank of Chicago – \$206,770.00 – Interest on 2010A and 2010B General Obligation Bonds. City Manager Neibert noted this is a semi-annual payment for the bonds that were issued in 2010. The total amount of bonds issued as a little over \$9 million with an interest rate that averages 4.1% or 4.2%. Item #5, CB & I, Inc. - \$52,231.95 — West elevated tank replacement. The water tank is on target to be completed by the end of May. Item #10, General Acrylics - \$4,200.00 — Resurfacing skate board park at Optimist Park. The project is complete and looks great. Item #12, Henry, Meisenheimer & Gende - \$25,065.03 — Engineering on West Elevated Tank (\$3,957.15), Veterans/Davidson Road Extension (\$21,107.88). The target bid opening date for the road extension is February 17, 2012. A general summary

of the status of capital improvement projects explains Item #14, J k Trotter & Sons - \$333,681.12 — Veterans/Wells Bypass Sanitary Sewer Project. Item #18, KFVS 12 - \$1,729.75 — Advertising for Herb & Garden Show; Item #20, KSDK - \$2,316.25 – Advertising for Herb & Garden Show; and Item #29 SMH Solutions - \$2,097.89 — Advertising consultant for Herb & Garden Show. City Manager Neibert noted that the event was well-attended and deemed a success.

Council Member Wood made a motion to Approve the Consolidated Vouchers as presented in the amount of \$1,284,019.45. Second by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Wood and Chesley. Council Member Piper was absent.

**BIDS & QUOTES**

Quotes were received for two black and white printers — One for the Finance Office and one for the Billing Department. The results were as follows:

	GFI Digital, Inc.	IKON Office Solutions
Purchase price of printer for Finance Office	\$2,023.28	\$ 0.00
Purchase price of Billing Services Office	\$2,518.30	\$4,721.00
	\$4,541.58	\$4,721.00
Maintenance cost per quarter for 30,000 b/w copies	No minimum	\$ 327.00
Black and white overage, per copy	\$ 0.0100	\$ 0.01088
	<b>Recommend acceptance of this quote</b>	

City Manager Neibert noted these printers are budgeted items, and the bids came in under budget. No service contract is included. Printers will be installed before the end of April.

Council Member Lash made a motion to accept the GFI Digital, Inc. quote for two new laser printers for the new accounting software in the amount of \$4,541.58. Second by Council Member Wood. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Wood and Chesley. Council Member Piper was absent.

**CITY MANAGER**

Rolland Mays, Chairman, presented the Annual Report of the Minority Affairs and Human Relations Commission. Also present was Commission Member Angie Moore. Mayor Chesley commended the Board as well as Chairman Mays for their work in the community.

**Overview of past year and suggestions for Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2012**

The Minority Affairs and Human Relations Commission have been involved in the following:

1. Working in conjunction with District 80, Mt. Vernon City Schools in the Black History Program. The Commission awarded six \$25.00 gift certificates to the winners of an essay contest. Essays have been presented in the past from District 201 and Mt. Vernon Twp. High School.
2. National Night Out with Police Chief Chris Mendenall was a great success.

3. The dissemination of employment opportunities information.
4. Committee meetings and reports---all committee worksheets were approved at the March 24, 2012 regular meeting.
5. Participated in Reclaiming Our Community — "A discussion of violence within Our Community."
6. Workshop on Hate Crimes.
7. The Commission added two ex-official members from the City and County Housing Authority. These are non-voting members.

The Minority Affairs and Human Relations Commission have the following suggestions:

1. The vacancies on the Commission be appointed
  - a. 4 Members: 2 year term
  - b. 4 Members: 3 year term
  - c. 5 Members: 4 year term

Original Commission Appointments 2/22/94 — Established by Resolution 4/24/06. 13 Member Commission: 13 Appointments.

2. The Chairman should be informed of different events that come to the City so a representative from the Commission can be in attendance.

#### CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney David Leggans presented First Reading on Ordinance Amending Ordinance Article 21, Section 21-300 Revising Land Use District R-M2.

City Manager Neibert noted that this Ordinance makes several revisions to the R-M2 district. One primarily relates to the R-M2 district and would no longer allow any new mobile homes to be placed in the R-M2 district. It will allow existing mobile homes to be replaced, if damaged or voluntarily by the owner. The second revision would allow the construction of duplexes or two-family structures in R-M2 zoned lots.

In addition, Neibert said the ordinance as drafted would lower the age of allowed mobile homes from 20 years to 10 years subject to the same inspection used currently. Mt. Vernon Mayor Mary Jane Chesley said after discussion and research, she would suggest changing that length to 15 years. Mayor Chesley did not realize, after doing a little more research, that in 1997 mobile home standards were raised for building mobile homes, so the materials with which these homes are being built has improved in quality, and as such, they should be lasting a lot longer.

Neibert said after holding several public meetings, he and the council ascertained that the biggest public concern was not the prohibition of new mobile homes, but not allowing replacement of current mobile homes. Council Member Wood agreed the majority of citizens' concerns were about the replacement of mobile homes. Council Members Wood, Lash and McEnaney agreed with Mayor Chesley's suggestion to allow mobile homes no older than 15 years.

The council provided an opportunity for the public to address the proposed changes to the R-M2 zoning.

Mobile home owner and seller Cort Jones said his main “bones of contention” with the changes were the allowable age of the mobile home, which he said was assuaged by the mayor’s suggestion, and the prospect of not allowing any more mobile homes to be placed. He said he has 12 lots that are zoned R-M2 that could bring him \$4,000 to \$5,000 in monthly revenue if he were able to place mobile homes on them. Mr. Jones suggested a yearlong or longer buffer period in which new mobile homes could still be placed on R-M2 zoned land.

Council Member Wood noted the only way he could see a buffer period was to make it short term with a definite end, and during that time, new mobile home placement would be decided by the Zoning and Planning Commission. Neibert said he would draft suggested revisions and make them available to the public.

### **MAYOR**

Mayor Chesley read a Proclamation Recognizing National Telecommunicator’s Week as April 8 through April 14, 2012 and presented the Proclamation to Assist Police Chief Chris Deichman. He noted there are nine full-time Telecommunicator’s employed by the City.

Reappointment of Rolland D. Mays, Ronald R. Neibert, Jim Brown, Chris Mendenall and Brandon Bullard to the Minority Affairs and Human Relations Commission. Mayor Chesley noted that a list of Commission members and their terms of office contained in the Annual Report does not match the Mayor’s information. According to the Annual Report, the reappointment of Ron Neibert, Jim Brown, Chris Mendenall and Brandon Bullard is not until 2013. Mayor Chesley removed their names from the list at this time and will research to determine the correct dates of reappointment.

Council Member Wood made a motion to reappoint Rolland D. Mayes to the Minority Affairs and Human Relations Commission. Second by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Wood and Chesley. Council Member Piper was absent.

Reappointment of Brad Henson to the City Housing Authority Commission. Council Member Lash made a motion to reappoint Brad Henson to the City Housing Authority Commission. Second by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Wood and Chesley. Council Member Piper was absent.

Reappointment of Gary Chesney to the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Commission. Council Member McEnaney made a motion to reappoint Gary Chesney to the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Commission. Second by Council Member Wood. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Wood and Chesley. Council Member Piper was absent.

Reappointment of Merle Hollmann to the Fire Pension Board. Council Member Wood made a motion to reappoint Merle Hollmann to the Fire Pension Board. Second by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Wood and Chesley. Council Member Piper was absent.

The Arbor Day Foundation honored Mt. Vernon with the Tree City USA Recognition Growth Award and was recognized by the non-profit Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA Community for its’ commitment to urban forestry. The City has received this award for 18 years and earned National recognition. Thank you to George Bryant and the Parks Department.

The A.P. Petties Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Dawson's Park on Sunday, April 8, with registration at 4:30 p.m. and the hunt will begin at 5:00 p.m. The Event is free of charge to all families and sponsored by Dante Moore.

Mayor Chesley reminded citizens that a prescription drug drop box is located inside City Hall. According to Officer Ray Gilbert, it has been an overwhelming success. Citizens are encouraged to bring their old prescription drugs, or prescription drugs not being taken anymore, to City Hall. This program is sponsored by the American Water Company and the Illinois Department of National Resources. When the drop box was first installed, Mt. Vernon was the first community south of Interstate 70 to have a drop box and one of 21 communities in the State of Illinois.

City Council and Mayor will be hosting a workshop on Monday, April 9, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Agenda items will include a presentation on electrical aggregation and the Housing Study findings.

The April, 2012 edition of the City projects update is available in the City Clerk's Office, at City Council meetings and online as well.

In addition, a JOBS brochure was developed containing education and training services, job seeker services, helpful links, and the announcement of a Job Search Party to be held on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon.

#### **CITY COUNCIL**

No comments from Council.

#### **VISITORS/CITIZEN REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE**

James Malone expressed his concern that spring is here, and that brings yard parties. He noted he has no problem with people socializing, but heard cursing on three occasions standing on the front porch of his home. Mr. Malone called the police to complain about a loud house party he thought might have been a few doors down from his home, later to discover that it was at least 10 blocks away. He recognizes that police can't do anything about loud music or noises in private residences but residents must call the police to complain when they are disturbed.

Council Member Lash noted that the public is not aware that by law, a Patrolman riding in his car cannot be disturbed by loud music and profanity so that the community needs to be educated about their part in eliminating disturbances and loud noise in their neighborhood. He acknowledged that a fear factor exists on the part of many residents when calling the police to complaint about a neighbor.

Council Member Wood asked the City Attorney and Police to give him a report stating the difference in the law for loud mufflers, for instance, or loud music in a home.

Council Member Wood made a motion directing City Manager Neibert to investigate this topic with the City Attorney and Police Department and to prepare options for the City to consider an ordinance at a future City Council meeting. Second by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Wood and Chesley. Council Member Piper was absent.

James Malone also stated that too many residents are dressing inappropriately showing body parts and underclothing in public. He inquired about the possibility of the police issuing public indecency citations.

Council Member Wood stated that the churches and the community must work with the Police Department and the Minority Affairs and Human Relations Commission to come up with a solution.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was requested.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins  
City Clerk