

JERILEE HOPKINS  
City Clerk



**CITY OF MT. VERNON**  
1100 Main PO Box 1708  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864  
618-242-5000  
FAX 618-242-6867

**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois  
Regular City Council Meeting  
Monday, April 16, 2012**

**MINUTES**

The Mt. Vernon City Council met for a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, April 16, 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 Rev. Ron Lash.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**JOURNAL**

The Journals for the April 2, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting and the April 9, 2012 City Council Workshop Meeting were presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections. Council Member McEnaney asked that the minutes from the April 9, 2012 City Council Workshop be amended to add comments made by Council Member Wood and himself regarding the Electrical Aggregation program as follows: *Council Member Wood requested more information on Southern Illinois Municipal Electric Company's structure and financial integrity including a prospectus before making any decision. In addition, Council Member McEnaney inquired about who would be responsible for electrical shortages in the grid and any subsequent penalties. Stephen Thayer, president of the company, agreed to research these issues and provide the information to City Council.* Motion by Council Member Wood to approve the Journals as amended. Second by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

**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 #13,

Henegan & Associates - \$26,116.15 — Engineering services for Continental Tire Truck Route (\$19,557.15) and South 34<sup>th</sup> Street Construction (\$6,559.00). This is their final billing on engineering services for the Continental Tire Truck Route and waiting for the final striping and landscaping. As soon as Continental Tire finishes their interior road on their property to connect from their shipping area, the road will be open. On the 34th Street project, the City has all the necessary easements needed to complete the project and hope to have the project out for bid in the next 60 days. There may be more follow-up bills from Henegan & Associates as the project progresses. Item #28, Tyler Technologies - \$7,912.07 — Financial software conversion prep work for upcoming software implementation. The financial (payroll and bill paying) portion of the new system will be live at the end of April. The water billing component will be active in the first week of June. There will be an entirely new bill for customers. For privacy purposes, the City is required to place the bill in an envelope rather than the cards used in the past. The bill will be an 8½ x 11 sheet of paper that will encompass much more information regarding online payment capabilities, direct debiting program and other important information. Item #29, White & Borgognoni Architects - \$4,262.41 — 9th Street Streetscape. This is phase two of the Streetscape project that will be going out for bid in the near future and completed this year.

Council Member Piper made a motion to Approve the Consolidated Vouchers as presented in the amount of \$831,477.95. Second by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

**BIDS & QUOTES**

According to City Manager Neibert on April 11, 2012 bids were received and opened at 10:00 a.m. for the Davidson and Veterans Water Main Extension Project. The following is a summary of the bids received:

<b>J.K. Trotter and Sons, Inc.</b>	<b>\$329,232.80</b>
Baxmeyer Construction, Inc.	\$360,768.23
Haier Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	\$369,830.80
Tri-S Excavating, LLC	\$371,646.10
Moniger Excavating Co., Inc.	\$411,577.15
Kieffer Bros. Construction Co., Inc.	\$414,636.50
Schaefer Contracting, Inc.	\$454,000.62

The City Engineer's (Round Table Design, Inc.) estimate was for \$399,697.10. Therefore, it is their recommendation that this contract be awarded to J. K. Trotter and Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$329,232.80. Council Member McEnaney asked if Round Table Design, Inc. determined what the difference is between the high bid and the low bid. City Manager Neibert responded that the Engineers reviewed the low bid to confirm that it complied with the specifications in the bid, and it did. As to why the high bid is so high, City Manager Neibert said there were obvious differences in the quantity amounts but the Engineers didn't identify anything unusual. Round Table Design, Inc. reviews the City's bids to make sure that the addendums are addressed and all issues pertinent to the bid are included. City Manager Neibert asked that the City Council accept the low bid from J.K. Trotter and Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$329,232.80. The Mayor requested that signage highlighting the project be placed at the construction site so that the public may see their tax dollars at work. City Manager Neibert acknowledged that signs will be placed at both ends of the project.

**Council Member McEnaney made a motion to Approve and Accept the low bid from J. K. Trotter and Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$329,232.80 for the Water Main Extension in the Davidson and Veteran’s project. Second by Council Member Wood. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.**

According to City Manager Neibert on April 11, 2012 bids were received and opened at 10:15 a.m. for the Shiloh Drive Sanitary Sewer Expansion Project which includes the construction of a lift station and a sewer main extension in support of the Magnum Steel project. The following is a summary of the bids received:

<b>J.K. Trotter and Sons, Inc.</b>	<b>\$ 94,015.68</b>
Haier Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	\$112,586.60
Schaefer Contracting, Inc.	\$132,283.76
Moniger Excavating Co., Inc.	\$141,472.30
Kieffer Bros. Construction Co., Inc.	\$151,270.00

The City Engineer’s (Round Table Design, Inc.) estimate was for \$101,178.00. Therefore, it is their recommendation that this contract be awarded to J. K. Trotter and Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$94,015.68. City Manager Neibert asked that the City Council accept the low bid from J.K. Trotter and Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$94,015.68.

**Council Member Wood made a motion to Approve and Accept the low bid from J. K. Trotter and Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$94,015.68 for the Shiloh Drive Sanitary Sewer Expansion Project. Second by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.**

**CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Ron Neibert presented no new business to the Council.

**CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council’s consideration the Second Reading on Ordinance Amending Ordinance Article 21, Section 21-300 Revising Land Use District R-M2.

City Manager Neibert noted this is an amended version of the ordinance as originally presented. Changes in the ordinance have taken place due to public comment up to this time. Under terms of the new ordinance, there is a provision which will allow current property owners to receive a conditional use for mobile homes in R-M2 zoned areas, as long as the person placing the mobile home owned the property before Jan. 1; the mobile home must be placed by Dec. 31; and is adjacent to a lot in which a mobile home is currently situated, not next to a stick built home unless written permission is presented by the owner of the stick built home.

Other changes from the original ordinance state the mobile home must have been manufactured not more than 15 years prior to the date of application for a building permit and is subject to inspection for compliance with Mobile Home Standards if it is older than five years.

City Manager Neibert said the changes to the zoning ordinance for R-M2 allowed uses also amends a portion that has nothing to do with mobile homes — it now allows duplexes to be built in the zoning district.

Council Member Wood reiterated the three amendments to the original Ordinance: 1) the grandfather clause for those who already own a mobile home and it is destroyed will allow their mobile home to be replaced; and 2) all mobile homes placed in R-M2 or R-MH zoned areas must have been manufactured not more than 15 years prior; and 3) the conditional use provision earlier discussed.

Council Member Piper inquired if the R-M2 zoning presently within the City will remain R-M2 zoning after adopting this Ordinance. According to City Manager Neibert, the zoning on the properties will remain the same, but the Ordinance changes the types of uses allowed under the R-M2 zoning specifically.

**Council Member Piper made a motion to Adopt Ordinance No. 2012-11 amending Ordinance Article 21, Section 21-300 Revising Land Use District R-M2. Second by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley**

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Granting Conditional Sign Permit for Property at 4201 Broadway. Petitioning Party is Anchor Sign Company on behalf of Panda Express. Joe Funderburke of Anchor Signs presented illustrations of the exterior signage for the new Panda Express at 4201 Broadway and answered several questions regarding entrances and exits. The signage will contain energy efficient LED lighting, but will not be flashing. He noted that the developer of the property plans to install a sign listing all three businesses at this location. Mr. Funderburke advised that the developer is fully aware of Panda Express' signage plan and will adhere to the City's restrictions. There were no objectors at the Zoning and Planning Commission meeting, and the Zoning and Planning Commission unanimously approved this request.

**Council Member Wood made a motion to approve a Resolution Granting a Conditional Sign Permit for Property at 4201 Broadway. Second by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.**

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving a Design Engineering Agreement with Rhutasel and Associates for the Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Project. According to City Manager Neibert, this is the Engineering Agreement for the newly awarded Safe Routes to School Sidewalk grant. The grant was submitted for the entire cost of the project – about \$420,000. The City received \$237,000 from the grant so the City will fund the remaining \$183,000. The sidewalks will run from Buford School down Peach Street to the City Park then where Peach Street meets Cherry Street, the sidewalks will run all the way down to 27<sup>th</sup> Street, and then on Jamison from Cherry Street to the City Park. The original grant has the sidewalk exiting out onto 27<sup>th</sup> Street at Cherry Street. Once the Cherry Street leg reaches the Jamison intersection, it will go one way or the other unless the City chooses to add additional cost to the project. If the City constructs the Cherry Street portion outside the realm of the grant, even if the Federal Highway Authority doesn't agree to that location, the City may still put in additional funds and complete the entire sidewalk project. The City is requesting that the engineering agreement also include the engineering to have the route exit on Jamison. The purpose is two-fold. 1) At some point the City wants to build sidewalks on Jamison; and 2) it is uncertain if the Federal Highway Authority will approve the exiting of the sidewalks at the Cherry Street and 27<sup>th</sup> Street location. They may request that it be relocated. In order to move the project along and to complete the project during this construction season, the agreement will contain both sidewalk configurations. If both are not used during this project, the other may be utilized in the future.

Council Member Piper thanked Bonnie Jerdon for applying for the grant and the use of outside sources of funding to complete this City project. He commented that this is the kind of 'quality of life' project that excites the Council and citizens of Mt. Vernon.

Council Member Wood clarified that the Council is approving the overall grant package subject to some later input as to which sidewalk routes will be chosen. There will be a second opportunity for the Council to discuss this topic during the capital projects discussions later in April.

**Council Member McEnaney made a motion to approve the Design Engineering Agreement with Rhutasel and Associates for the Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Project in the amount of \$43,200.00. Second by Council Member Piper. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.**

City Attorney Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving Agreement Between the City of Mt. Vernon and the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Laborer Council. City Manager Neibert stated this is a four year agreement that was successfully negotiated with the Patrol Officer Division of the Fraternal Order of Police. The main issues addressed in the contract are changing the 8-hour shift to a 12-hour shift. The Officers, while working 12-hour shifts, will still be working the same amount of hours during any calendar year. The Officers requested this change to give them a little more flexibility in requesting time off. In the 8-hour schedule, the Officers are locked in on what their off duty days are. The younger Officers tend to have their 'weekend' on Tuesday and Wednesday and the senior Officers get the true weekend. Under the 12-hour scenario, the shifts fluctuate when their 'weekend' will be taken.

The City negotiated a 2.25% wage increase for the first year of the contract and a 2.50% for each of the following three years. The deductible paid by Officers was increased from a \$200.00 annual deductible to a \$1,000.00 annual deductible. Also, the contract contains a 'reopener clause'. There are provisions of the National Health Care Act that will go into effect in 2014 that could have a significant impact on insurance costs. The City requested to be allowed to reopen the contract after the City examines insurance costs and changes mandated by that Act after 2014. The contract also includes the 1% per year step increase that was negotiated by Management many years ago. City Manager Neibert noted that the 1% annual step increase has been the topic of negotiations in the past, but given the state of negotiations and the arbitration process in the State of Illinois, it is very difficult to modify the step increase once it's in the contract. All City contracts in place at this time contain the 1% annual step increase.

Council Member McEnaney commended the City Manager, City Staff and the Fraternal Order of Police Council in negotiating this contract to keep costs down and also to provide a fair wage to City employees.

Council Member Piper noted that modifying to the 12-hour shift should boost the Officers' morale, and he commended the Officers for allowing the increase in the deductible on health insurance.

**Council Member McEnaney made a motion to Approve the Resolution Approving the Agreement Between the City of Mt. Vernon and the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Laborer Council. Second by Council Member Wood. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.**

**MAYOR**

Mayor Chesley read the following Proclamation Recognizing Arbor Day and Tree City USA:

*WHEREAS, In 1872 J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and*

*WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and*

*WHEREAS, 2012 is the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the holiday and Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and*

*WHEREAS, several small trees have been donated to be distributed to residents of Mt. Vernon; and*

*WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife; and*

*WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fire, and beautify our community; and*

*WHEREAS, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Mt. Vernon has been recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA since 1994 and has received a Growth Award since 1997 for its continued and increasing dedication to its tree care program;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mary Jane Chesley, Mayor of the City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 28, 2012 as ARBOR DAY in the City of Mt. Vernon, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and*

*FURTHER, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.*

---

*Mayor Mary Jane Chesley  
April 16, 2012*

The Arbor Day Foundation honored Mt. Vernon with the Tree City USA Recognition Growth Award and the City 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. City Parks and Recreation Director George Bryant presented the Mayor and City Council with the Tree City USA Flag and presented the Mayor with a Tree City USA mug. He advised that the Arbor Day celebration will be held at Veterans' Park on Saturday, April 28, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and is expected to attract 1,000-1,500 attendees. An urban forester from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale will be present to engage in educating the public on forestry. The Tree Board will again give away trees with help \$2,000.00 from Ameren and an additional \$1,000.00 from Ameren for education. Thanks to Council Member McEnaney for his assistance in starting the tree program many years ago, and to Director Bryant, the Park Board and the Tree Board. This year's tree species will be the Magnolia. Director Bryant commented that Mt. Vernon is being spotlighted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for its continued and aggressive tree program.

In addition, Director Bryant is working with the Illinois Arborist Association and the new urban forester from SIUC in bringing an educational program down to Southern Illinois to learn about emergency disaster preparedness as it relates to the urban forest and specifically trees – before, during and after a disaster — affecting utility lines and roadway blockages.

**Council Member McEnaney made a motion to reappoint Robert Whiteside to the Minority Affairs and Human Relations Commission. Second by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.**

**Council Member Wood made a motion to reappoint Barb Hengle and Laura Thacker to the Historic Preservation Commission. Second by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.**

**Council Member Lash made a motion to reappoint Phyllis Bruce, Joyce Secrest and Angela Schrum to the Mt. Vernon Tourism Advisory Board. Second by Council Member Piper. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.**

**Council Member Piper made a motion to reappoint William (Bill) Pittman to the Police Pension Board. Second by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.**

A Job Search Party will be held on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon. The event will provide information on education and training opportunities in the area and job seeker services. Attendees are reminded to dress appropriately as if being interviewed for a job and bring a current resume.

City Council will be holding a Workshop Meeting on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The proposed FY 2012-13 Capital Budget will be discussed.

City Manager Neibert noted that he hopes to schedule a Special City Council Meeting on Monday, April 23, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall. The primary function of the meeting will be the final review of the Capital budget. It is anticipated that the Council will consider and accept the bids for the Veterans and Davidson road project so work can begin.

City Manager Neibert stated that another Special City Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 30, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall to approve the final FY 2012-13 budget.

#### **CITY COUNCIL**

Council Member Piper commented that Mt. Vernon has issued almost \$20 million dollars in building permits as of the end of March.

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

There were no visitors, citizen requests, or addresses from the audience.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was requested.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins  
City Clerk