

*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

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**CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS**  
**CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**Thursday, June 11, 2015**

The Mt. Vernon City Council met in a Workshop Meeting on Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1100 Main Street, Council Chamber Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Mt. Vernon, IL.

Mayor Mary Jane Chesley called the meeting to order.

Roll call showed present: Council Members Jeff May, Dennis McEnaney, Donte Moore and Mayor Mary Jane Chesley. Absent: Council Member Todd Piper. Also present: Interim City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel, Finance Director Merle Hollmann, Assistant to the City Manager Nathan McKenna and City Clerk Secretary Lindsay Burris.

**AQUATIC ZOO ADA COMPLIANCE**

Interim City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel introduced Bryan Mason from FGM Architects and George Bryant, City Park and Recreation Director. A tour of the Aquatic Zoo by the Americans with Disabilities Act department of the Illinois Attorney General's office found compliance issues, which will be fixed by the architect and the construction company. There were 52 findings but none of the findings are significant. The visit took place several months ago, according to Bryan Mason of FGM Architects. "They went through with a 3-foot level and a measuring tape, with a fine tooth comb," Mason said. "We understand they are going all over Illinois facilities." There were no complaints from residents or anyone who has been a guest at the aquatic center. "The inspection wasn't because of a citizen, it was a plumbing inspector who complained," Mason told members of the City Council Thursday evening. "The problems are not major, they are the result in most cases of a different interpretation of ADA law." Bechtel advised that FGM is seeking Council authorization to go out for bid on each of the findings that FGM is responsible for. Shores Construction will also be responsible for correcting some of the findings. The City will not expend any money to fix the findings and the operation of the facility will not be interrupted. The work will be completed after the facility closes in the fall.

Council Member Todd Piper arrived at the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW**

Mayor Chesley stated since its adoption in 2009, the City of Mt. Vernon's Comprehensive Plan 2019 has been the chief tool to enable the management of growth and the delivery of public services in a timely and efficient manner. As the City continues to grow, the challenge is to direct growth appropriately to retain the qualities that residents have come to cherish. In order to improve the quality of living in Mt. Vernon, it is crucial that the City take all appropriate and necessary planning measures. During the past five years, this plan has proven to be an effective tool in the organization and development of the City in the core areas of economic development, infrastructure, land use and quality of life.

Recently, Dr. Nick Osborne guided the core area committees compiled of interested citizens through the five year review. The following is a list of the projects listed in the original plan in 2009:

**STATE OF THE CITY — JANUARY 15, 2015**

<b>CAPITAL PROJECTS</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>
<b>TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS</b>		
Interchange 94	COMPLETE	October 2009
10th Street Overlay (Broadway to Veterans)	COMPLETE	July 2013
10th Street Overlay (Broadway to Veterans)	COMPLETE	July 2013
Broadway Overlay (17th St. to 27th St.)	COMPLETE	July 2013
Shiloh Drive overlay	COMPLETE	December 2010
North Davidson Completion	COMPLETE	September 2010
Veterans/Davidson Extension	COMPLETE	June 2013
South 34th Street (Peach to Veterans)	COMPLETE	July 2013
CTNA Truck Access	COMPLETE	July 2012
42nd Street Reconstruction (Victoria to Richview)	IN PROGRESS	
North 27th Street/Old Union Rd. (Richview to Wilshire)	IN PROGRESS	
Perkins Ave. (10th to 12th)	IN PROGRESS	
South 34th Street (Veterans to Harlan)	IN PROGRESS	
Airport Road (Phase 2)	COMPLETE	May 2014
Ambassador Road (New High School)	DESIGN	
42nd and Veterans Traffic Signal	DESIGN	
New Industrial Park access roadway	DESIGN	
<b>SIDEWALKS/TRAILS PROJECTS</b>		
27th Street Sidewalk	COMPLETE	October 2014
Richview Road Sidewalk (24th St. to 27th St.)	IN PROGRESS	
Potomac Blvd. Sidewalk (Holiday Inn)	COMPLETE	May 2013
Bike Trail - Cedarhurst to Casey Middle School	COMPLETE	May 2014
Safe Routes to School Sidewalk	COMPLETE	August 2013
Misc. Sidewalk Replacement	COMPLETE	July 2013
South 42nd Street Sidewalk (Broadway to Veterans)	IN PROGRESS	
Wilshire and Richview Sidewalk (Highland to 24th St.)	IN PROGRESS	
<b>WATER PROJECTS</b>		
Times Square Mall Water Tower Replacement	COMPLETE	March 2013
Veterans and Davidson Water Main Extension	COMPLETE	June 2012
Conger Street Water Main Replacement	COMPLETE	April 2013
Broadway Water Main Replacement	IN PROGRESS	
Main Water 1- Main Replacement	IN PROGRESS	
Ambassador Road Water Main Extension	DESIGN	
34th and Veterans	COMPLETE	June 2014
New Industrial Park/water Main	DESIGN	

<b>SEWER PROJECTS</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>
Wells Bypass 24" Gravity Sewer	COMPLETE	March 2013
Veterans and Davidson Sewer and lift Station	COMPLETE	April 2013
Shiloh/Magnum Steel Lift Station	COMPLETE	March 2013
South 34th Street Sewer Extension	COMPLETE	May 2013
Lift Station 14 Forcemain Replacement	DESIGN	
Ambassador Road Sewer Extension	DESIGN	
New Industrial Park Sewer	DESIGN	
<b>PROGRAMMATIC PROJECTS</b>		
Aquatic Zoo	COMPLETE	August 2013
Wayfinding System (Phase I)	COMPLETE	September 2014
Branding Study	COMPLETE	July 2012
Housing Study	COMPLETE	July 2012
9th Street Streetscape	COMPLETE	September 2013
Continental Tire Rail Spur	COMPLETE	July 2013
Park Plaza	IN PROGRESS	
Horace Mann Demolition	COMPLETE	June 2013
Armory Asbestos Abatement	COMPLETE	October 2013
Armory Roof Replacement	COMPLETE	November 2013
Armory Window Replacement	COMPLETE	February 2014
Renovation of Armory	DESIGN	
City Facility Energy Audit/Upgrades	COMPLETE	May 2014
Water Tower Painting	COMPLETE	September 2013
Zoning and Building Permit Applications Online	COMPLETE	September 2013
Sale of Surplus Property	ONGOING	
Dangerous/Dilapidated Housing Demolition	ONGOING	
City Hall Parking lot	COMPLETE	October 2013
City Hall Bathrooms Remodel	COMPLETE	October 2014
Water System Analysis	COMPLETE	September 2013
Comprehensive Plan 5 Year Review	COMPLETE	December 2014
City Hall West Entry Addition	IN PROGRESS	
Lincoln Park Addition	IN PROGRESS	
Curbside Recycling Program	ONGOING	

Bechtel suggested that the Council study the road, water and sewer infrastructure portions of the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan is on the City's website. Bechtel noted that the City's infrastructure will be a topic of discussion at the Council's all-day retreat to be scheduled on August 7, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Airport.

Nathan McKenna, Assistant to the Interim City Manager, advised that the City presently has 67 lots that have been declared surplus and are available for sale. In addition to the 67 surplus lots, there are 34 lots that the City intends to keep for purposes such as correcting drainage issues, relocating utilities, and possible park expansion. Monday, June 15, 2015 at the Regular City Council Meeting, McKenna will present 19 additional lots for surplus. McKenna distributed a typed list of surplus lots along with a color-coded map. All department heads participated in the creation of the color-coded map and are in agreement. Bechtel noted that since 2008 the City has spent \$1.289 million on demolition of dilapidated properties which is an average of \$161,000 per year. This year's budget includes \$175 million for demolitions. Out of these surplus lots only five lots and/or houses have been sold. The lots are small and some locations aren't desirable. It may be necessary to reduce the \$750 single lot price. Mayor suggested that McKenna review the zoning categories for the City-owned lots and take this opportunity to zone them appropriately.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No executive session.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Council Member Piper made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.**

The Workshop Meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins  
City Clerk