

**CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, August 17, 2015
7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, August 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building, Veterans Park, 800 South 27th Street, Mt. Vernon, IL.

The invocation was given by Council Member Donte Moore.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed present: Council Members Jeff May, Dennis McEnaney, Donte Moore, Todd Piper and Mayor Mary Jane Chesley.

PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS

The Journal for the August 3, 2015 Regular City Council Meeting was presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections. **Council Member Moore made a motion to approve the Journal as presented. Seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.**

APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable were presented to Council for approval. Council Member McEnaney asked Interim City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel for updates on the following items: #5 Community Link - \$1995.00 – maps advertisement for Tourism Department. The City purchases as advertisement in the annual City/County map produced by the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce. #8 Greater Egypt Regional Planning - \$3,819.25 – appropriation 10/1/15 thru 9/30/16. The regional planning commission provides needed economic information to the City. They write and administer the City's \$4 million grant for the new industrial park. #9 Guinzy Construction - \$273,438.73 – South 34th Street road construction including the East and West road. This represents the last payment on the \$2 million South 34th Street project, including the east/west road. #14 Jefferson County Development Corporation - \$50,000.00 – 2nd distribution of funding per 2015/2016 budget year. This is the second installment for the City's annual contribution to the JCDC. #21 Pepsi Cola - \$2,031.56 – Soda for resale at Aquatics Zoo. The Aquatic Zoo is open on an adjusted schedule until Labor Day because school has started for the year. #23 Premier Demolition - \$19,999.35 – final payment for demolition of Mt. Vernon Townhomes. The property has been graded, seeded and landscaped and the project is complete. The three acre tract of property is for sale. #27 Round Table Design - \$15,975.00 – Broadway and Main Streets water main replacement. This represents a progress payment on the project. #29 Sherwin Williams – Pavement marking - \$4,480.00 – striping material for Public Works Department. One-half of the City streets are striped each year. Bechtel noted that this includes only local streets and does not include Main,

Broadway and 10th Streets as they are State Highways. A special check was written to US Bancorp in the amount of \$107,100.38 for a loan payment on the fire truck. This represents the next to the last payment for the ladder truck.

Council Member May made a motion to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,310,795.58. Seconded by Council Member Piper. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

BIDS & QUOTES

Bechtel presented for Council's consideration the bid results for the Demolition of 12 City Structures. Two bids were submitted: 1) Heck's Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$84,725.00; and 2) Kenneth Hails Excavating in the amount of \$86,813.00. City Engineer Brad Ruble reviewed the bids and recommended the award of the base bid to the lowest responsive responsible bidder, Heck's Excavating, Inc., in the amount of \$84,725.00.

Council Member Piper made a motion to approve the bid submitted by Heck's Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$84,725.00. Seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

Bechtel presented for Council's consideration the bid results for the Downtown Parking Lot Landscaping Project which includes six parking lot locations and is budgeted in the Special Service Area #1 budget (\$25,000.00). Two bids were submitted: 1) McMahan Nursery, of Mt. Vernon, in the amount of \$42,870.40; and 2) Southern Illinois Landscaping, of Okawville, IL, in the amount of \$15,998.42. Public Works Director Matt Fauss reviewed the bids and recommended the award go to the lowest responsive bidder, Southern Illinois Landscaping, in the amount of \$15,998.42.

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to approve the bid submitted by Southern Illinois Landscaping, of Okawville, IL, in the amount of \$15,998.42. Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

CITY MANAGER

Bechtel presented an update on the sewer project for the new Mt. Vernon Township High School. Previously, the City committed to perform three different projects in support of the new high school located on Wells ByPass and Ambassador Roads, as follows: 1) install an upgraded water line which is complete; 2) improvement of Ambassador Road; and 3) a 6,090 linear foot sewer line. The City has been negotiating with the Dare property owners for an easement on their property so the new sewer line can be installed along the edge of their property. The Dares are requesting \$10,000.00 for the 800 foot utility easement. The City's policy is to not pay for an easement. The balance of the property used for the sewer line (owned by Hodge Enterprises) is located to the south of the Dare's property, and Hodge has not received money for their easement. Bechtel sent correspondence to the high school and requested that they pay the \$10,000.00 easement since it is their structure in order for the project to move forward. In addition, the right-of-way along the Dare's property is owned by Jefferson County. Bechtel sent a letter to Jefferson County Chairman Robert White requesting a utility permit so the City may install the sewer line on Jefferson County property. There was discussion about attending the upcoming County Highway Committee meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Council's consideration of an Ordinance Rezoning Property Located at 1309 Harrison, 1307 Harrison and 123 N. 13th Street from R-3 High Density Residential to B-1 Primary Business District. Carmen Hughey Deichman, of Hughey Funeral Home, appeared to inform the Council that they plan to expand their business to include a crematory. The location of the real estate and the character of the property in the general vicinity of said real estate makes it suitable for the uses permitted in Class B-1 Primary Business. The Zoning and Planning Commission unanimously approved the proposed rezoning. No

objectors attended the Zoning and Planning Commission meeting. Mrs. Deichman noted that they are working with Matthews Cremation, of Apopka, Florida, and intend to follow all local, state and federal construction and environmental guidelines.

Derrick and Rebecca Bennett, of 1300 North Street, appeared to oppose the rezoning of the Hughey Funeral Home property. They noted that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not regulate the cremation of human bodies and that the EPA does not monitor the mercury levels released during cremation. They ask the Council to take more time and gather other information regarding the impact of a crematory on a community.

Council Member Piper made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-30 Rezoning Property Located at 1309 Harrison, 1307 Harrison and 123 N. 13th Street from R-3 High Density Residential to B-1 Primary Business District. Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

Council Member May made a motion to table agenda item No. 9-B, an Ordinance for a Conditional Use for Property Located at 1309 Harrison for Crematory in Conjunction with a Funeral Home. Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley. Item No. 9-B was tabled for collection of more information and research on the subject.

City Attorney Leggans presented for Council's consideration an Ordinance Rezoning Property Located 1500 Feet North of Veterans Memorial Dr. on Wells Bypass, having a PIN 06-35-451-006, from B-2 Secondary Business to IPCA-PUD Industrial Park Conservation – Planned Unit Development. The Zoning and Planning Commission unanimously approved this rezoning for a project yet to be announced.

Council Member Piper made a motion to Adopt Ordinance No. 2015-31 Rezoning Property Located 1500 Feet North of Veterans memorial Dr. on Wells Bypass, having a PIN 06-35-451-006, from B-2 Secondary Business to IPCA-PUD Industrial Park Conservation – Planned Unit Development. Seconded by Council Member May. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

MAYOR

Mayor Chesley introduced Doug McFarland, general manager of Republic Services for Southern Illinois and Southeast Missouri. McFarland presented a check to the Vet Your Pet organization who was chosen by the community to receive the first Republic Rewards Community \$5,000.00 Grant. Mt. Vernon was one of four pilot spots for the Republic Rewards grant program. The program was presented to residents when Republic rolled out its curbside recycling program for the city. Those who participate in recycling are provided with "reward points." During the grant period, residents may use the points by going online and voting for up to five local organizations to receive the \$5,000 grant. In its inaugural year, eight local organizations were nominated to receive the funds, and the city hosted Facebook voting to eliminate down to the five allowed by Republic Services for its program. Vet Your Pet was the organization chosen through the voting to receive the funds this year. Vet Your Pet will use the funding to subsidize low cost spay and neuter procedures, as well as immunizations for local pets. The program sells spay or neuter vouchers for \$35 and Vet Your Pet subsidizes the remainder of the fee through donations. The check was presented to Heather Cooper and Dr. Dwight Thomas.

CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Moore thanked Interim City Manager Bechtel, Nathan McKenna, Assistant to the City Manager and Shores Construction for clean-up of the old hospital property.

VISITORS/CITIZEN REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

No visitors, citizen requests and/or addresses from the audience were heard.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Piper made a motion to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: May, McEnaney, Moore, Piper and Chesley.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins
City Clerk