

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

**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 4, 2012
MINUTES**

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 4, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building, Veterans Park, Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

Mayor Mary Jane Chesley called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Rev. Brad Henson 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 and Mayor Mary Jane Chesley. Council Member David Wood was absent.

JOURNAL

The Journals for the August 6, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting and the August 13, 2012 City Council Workshop/Retreat Meeting were presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections. **Motion by Council Member Piper to approve the Journals as presented. Second by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Council Member Wood 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 Neibert for a briefing on the following: Item #3 Baxmeyer Construction - \$364,754.80 — South Davidson and Veterans sewer extension. Neibert noted that this project is progressing on schedule. Item #7 Flint Trading - \$2,935.06 — Thermoplastic street symbols for Public Works Department. Neibert stated these are raised symbols on streets indicating where a car should stop, cross walk, etc. Item #8 Giacom Construction - \$15,260.00 — Housing rehab funded by CDAP grant. This program is administered by Crosswalk. The twelve owner-occupied targeted homes are located on 17th and 18th Streets. Item #9 Henry, Meisenheimer & Gende - \$3,863.27 — West elevated tank. This represents final engineering work that was performed. Item #16 Martin Tate (MT Construction) - \$35,050.00 — Housing rehab funded by CDAP grant. This is another contractor working on home rehab being administered by Crosswalk. Item #17 Moniger Excavating - \$215,856.14 — Construction on South 34th Street project.

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to approve the Consolidated Vouchers as presented in the amount of \$779,536.90. Second by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Council Member Wood was absent.

BIDS & QUOTES

Three sealed bid proposals for the Public Works Skidsteer (Track Loader) were received as follows:

Erb Equipment 11322 IL Hwy 148 Mt. Vernon, IL 62864 Phone 618-244-68	\$52,150.00 Model 323D - Specifications met
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Bobcat of St. Louis 9801 West State Route 161 Fairview Heights, It 62208 Phone 618-397-1847	\$44,335.35 Model T650 - Specifications not met \$42,380.79 Model T630 - Specifications not met
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City Manager Neibert advised that two of the bids from Bobcat of St. Louis do not meet bid specifications as outlined. Neibert recommended and requested that the City accept the qualifying bid of Erb Equipment, Mt. Vernon, IL, in the amount of \$52,150.00. There were several categories in which Bobcat of St. Louis did not meet specifications such as reversing fan drive, tipping load, maximum length, minimum dump height, minimum ground clearance, air suspension cloth seat, and the most important difference was point of sale. Fleet Director Mike Shannon requested that the purchase be made in Jefferson County. This is a budgeted item and the bid is under the budgeted amount. Director Shannon added that a similar machine owned by the City is 15 years old.

Council Member Lash made a motion to accept the bid from Erb Equipment of Mt. Vernon in the amount of \$52,150.00. Second by Council Member Piper. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Council Member Wood was absent.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Neibert requested authorization to seek bids for the Continental Tire Rail Spur. With assistance from Mary Ellen Bechtel, of Jefferson County Development Corporation, the City was awarded a \$1 million State grant (100% - no matching funds necessary). The City will own the rail spur and Continental Tire will maintain and operate the rail spur for a period of five years at which time the grant program allows the City to sign over the track and property to Continental Tire.

Council Member Piper made a motion to approve the request for permission to seek bids for the Continental Tire Rail Spur. Second by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Council Member Wood was absent.

City Manager Neibert presented for Council's consideration a request for permission to close 9th Street from 9th Street Grill to Jordan, Jordan from 8th Street to 10th Street and Casey from 8th Street to 10th Street on October 19, 2012, 12:00 p.m. to October 21, 2012, 12:00 a.m. for the Fall Fest.

Council Member Piper noted that the Fall Fest website is now online at www.mtvernonfallfest.com for a list of activities, performers, parade maps, registration forms, etc. Five (5) area marching bands are scheduled to perform in the parade Saturday afternoon, October 20, 2012, and more marching bands are expected. The festival will provide lots of good, clean family fun. Anyone interested in volunteering in any way may contact Bonnie Jerdon at 242-3151 at the Tourism Department.

Council Member Lash expressed concern about changing/shortening the parade route. Council Member Piper noted that in order to attract the marching bands, it was necessary to design the parade to be marching band friendly.

The Main Stage schedule is as follows:

Friday, October 19

5:00-7:30 p.m. - Pumphouse Monster
7:30-8 p.m. - Costume Contest Winners
8 p.m. - 12 a.m. - The Brat Pack

Saturday, October 20

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Mike's Good Time Country & Rock n' Roll
1-2 p.m. - Polly Launay
2-3 p.m. - Parade
3-5 p.m. - Jordan Carter
5-5:20 p.m. - Beauty Pageant Winners
5:30 - 6:45 p.m. - RBR Trio + 1
7:30 - 9:30 p.m. - 26 or 5 to 4 Chicago Tribute Band
10:00 - 11:30 p.m. - South of 70

Sunday, October 21

12 p.m. - Opening Prayer, Minister Anthony Moore
12:05 p.m. - Tommy Adair w/ Celestine
1 p.m. - Hannah Elisha Grace
1:30 p.m. - Central Worship w/ Jon Henninger (will include Passion Painter)
2 p.m. - Passion Painter Andy Raines testimony
2:30 p.m. - Perry Case Band
3 p.m. - The Reason
3:30 p.m. - Matt Stephens (will include Passion Painter)
6:30 p.m. - Evening Tour - Britt Nicole, Group 1 Crew, Royal Tailor

Council Member Piper made a motion to grant permission to close 9th Street from 9th Street Grill to Jordan, Jordan from 8th Street to 10th Street and Casey from 8th Street to 10th Street on October 19, 2012, 12:00 p.m. to October 21, 2012, and 12:00 a.m. for the Fall Fest. Second by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Council Member Wood was absent.

City Manager Neibert presented for Council's consideration a request for permission to close North Old Union Lane from Highland to Old Centralia Road at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, September 15, 2012 to 12:00 a.m. Sunday, September 16, 2012 for the 5th Annual Wolfstock Music Festival. There have been no issues in the past over the road closure for this festival. Go to Wolfstock@mvn.net for information about the entertainment.

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to grant permission to close North Old Union Lane from Highland to Old Centralia Road at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, September 15, 2012 to 12:00 a.m. Sunday, September 16, 2012 for the 5th Annual Wolfstock Music Festival. Second by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Council Member Wood was absent.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration First Reading on Ordinance Revising Article 8 Section 8.3 Regarding Fire Department. City Manager Neibert advised the present Ordinance states that in order to prevent a stoppage of public business, to meet extraordinary exigencies or to prevent material impairment of the Fire Department, the City Manager may authorize and request the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners to make temporary appointments not to exceed six months in length. A member of the City's Fire Department has been deployed to Afghanistan for 12 months. Consequently, it is necessary to amend the Ordinance so that an individual may be temporarily appointed for the 12 month period. Neibert also requested suspension of the rules so the Council may act immediately on this request.

Council Member Piper made a motion to suspend the rules and act on this Ordinance. Second by Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Council Member Wood was absent.

Council Member Piper made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2012-32 Revising Article 8 Section 8.3 Regarding the Fire Department. Second by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Council Member Wood was absent.

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Kings Financial Consulting, Inc. City Manager Neibert commented this is an Agreement to coordinate the activities on the issuance of Revenue Bonds for the City to implement the Public Utilities, General Corporate, and Quality of Life/Economic Development capital plan as recommended for approval by the Council at various Retreats held this summer. The Ordinance authorizing the issuance of the bonds will be presented at the next Council meeting in the amount of \$36 million.

Deliberations regarding the issuance of bonds began in November or December, 2011 while discussing how to implement other portions of the Comprehensive Plan. During December, 2011, January and February 2012 the Council worked on the range of scope and projects that the Council wanted to complete with a new source of revenue. In March 2012 it was decided to implement what Council determined to be Quality of Life/Economic Development programs and enact the one-half (½) percent sales tax increase under home rule authority. An ordinance was adopted creating that tax and restricting the use of funds collected solely for projects that fall under quality of life/economic development including infrastructure, the housing development programs, an industrial park, park improvements, and bike trails, etc., and geared toward improving the quality of life for our residents and creating job opportunities. The sum of \$1.5 million has been ear-marked to assist in economic development programs and projects that may arise in the near future. The City allocated \$2.4 million to assist in the infrastructure and in support of the new high school.

Neibert added that in March of 2012 the City laid out the time frame for the new revenues, planning the projects and the issuance of the bonds, and the City is on target for a September bond issuance. The revenues from the new tax will be received beginning in October, 2012.

He added that a portion of the bonds will go to pay for replacement of the Continental Tire force main, replacing water mains on both Main Street and Broadway, and seven different road improvement projects.

Neibert reported the city was in contact with Standard & Poor's last week to discuss an A++ rating for the bonds. If the City receives that rating it won't be necessary to purchase bond insurance, and the City will get the bonds at a much better interest rate. Council Member Piper questioned if the state's bond rating would affect the local bond issue. According to Neibert the City will suffer on the interest rate with what is being called the Illinois Factor. All municipalities in the state are facing it. Mt. Vernon is in excellent financial condition, but unfortunately we have to pay the price of the state's financial condition.

Kings Financial Consulting, Inc. was also used by the City to issue bonds in 2010, and their performance was exemplary.

Council Member Piper clarified that the quality of life and economic development are chapters contained in the Comprehensive Plan.

Council Member McEnaney expressed his excitement at the culmination of months of planning a variety of projects.

Council Member Lash also expressed the enthusiasm he is witnessing throughout the City, and the positive impact these projects have on the residents and our community.

Council Member Lash made a motion adopting a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Kings Financial Consulting, Inc. Second by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Council Member Wood was absent.

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Requesting IDOT Approval for Temporary Closure of portions of Main Street and Broadway from 4th Street to 12th Street and from Harrison to Casey on 10th Street for the purpose of the Fall Fest on October 20, 2012.

Council Member McEnaney made a motion adopting a Resolution Requesting IDOT Approval for Temporary Closure of portions of Main Street and Broadway from 4th Street to 12th Street and from Harrison to Casey on 10th Street for the purpose of the Fall Fest on October 20, 2012. Second by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper and Chesley. Council Member Wood was absent.

MAYOR

No information to report.

CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Piper advised that the United Way of South Central Illinois will again host the Great Wing & Chili Festival (annual United Way campaign kickoff event) on Saturday, September 15, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the US Bank parking lot. Council Member Piper challenged other elected officials, Firemen and Police Officers to attend the Great Wing & Chili Fest and participate in the wing eating contest. There will be live entertainment and so much more to enjoy!

Council Member McEnaney stated that the Cedarhurst Craft Fair will be held this Saturday and Sunday, September 8 & 9, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., \$5/adults, free/children 10 and under. As usual there will be a Friday Night Preview at \$10.00 per person admission; Cedarhurst Member \$8 in advance to

enjoy early shopping (5 to dusk), Smokin' T's BBQ concessions, Beer Tent, and music by Bob Kuban Band 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Bob Farris asked when the Aquatic Center will be rebid. City Manager Neibert stated within the next ten days. Mr. Farris is concerned about the amount of traffic that will be generated because of the Cedarhurst Craft Fair. Neibert commented that in this case too much traffic is a good thing because out of town visitors equal more revenue. Mr. Farris inquired about construction of the bike trail. Neibert commented that residents are using the new striped bike lanes. Construction of the Cedarhurst Trail will begin in the next ten days or so.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Clerk's Note: Council Member David Wood arrived at the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

At 7:45 p.m. Council Member Piper made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation. Second by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Wood to adjourn. Second by Council Member Piper. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins
City Clerk