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**CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, September 21, 2015  
7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, September 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building, Veterans Park, 800 South 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Mt. Vernon, IL.

The invocation was given by Ms. Linola Spann.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS**

No journals were presented.

**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: #4 Belleville News Democrat – \$1,563.59 – July and August Market Days and Friday's advertising. Bechtel advised that the Market Days are fairly popular with the last one of the season on Saturday, October 3 at the Broadway Market. Friday's at the Broadway Market events are struggling to increase attendance. The last Friday's event for the year will be on October 9. The Tourism Department plans to resume the activities next spring. #11 Midwest Environmental Consulting Services - \$7,200.00 – Phase 1 environmental site assessment for four properties were performed. Only one of the properties has no issues. Decisions will need to be made on the remaining three properties. A special check was written to Las Mattress, Inc., in the amount of \$135,000.00 for revolving loan disbursement. Mr. and Mrs. Alan Stockman plan to locate a Sears Home Store on West Broadway.

**Council Member McEnaney made a motion to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$964,331.42. Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: McEnaney, Moore and Chesley. Absent: May and Piper.**

**BIDS & QUOTES**

No bids and quotes were present.

**CITY MANAGER**

No business was presented by the Interim City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel.

**CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Council's consideration the Second Reading of an Ordinance Amending Article 18, Section 18.20 "Street Parking". Cyndy Mitchell, Director of Downtown Mt. Vernon Development Corporation, requested that the Council table this topic, once again, because of concerns addressed by a downtown business owner.

**Council Member McEnaney made a motion to table the Second Reading of an Ordinance Amending Article 18, Section 18.20 "Street Parking". Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: McEnaney, Moore and Chesley. Absent: May and Piper.**

**MAYOR**

Mayor Chesley presented for Council's consideration the Appointment of Charlonda Haywood to the Parks Board in place of Sandy Williams who resigned.

**Council Member McEnaney made a motion to approve the Appointment of Charlonda Haywood to the Parks Board. Seconded by Council Member Moore. Yeas: McEnaney, Moore and Chesley. Absent: May and Piper.**

Mayor Chesley presented for Council's consideration the Reappointment of Angie Moore to the Minority Affairs and Human Relations Commission. Council Member Donte Moore noted that he would abstain from this vote because Angie Moore is his wife. City Attorney Leggans suggested that this reappointment be held over to be placed on the next regular City Council Meeting agenda because of the absence of Council Members May and Piper.

**CITY COUNCIL**

Council Member Moore invited everyone to attend a community-wide Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, September 29, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building.

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

Jim Rippy, of Mt. Vernon, advised that he was requested by the Concerned Citizens of Jefferson County to inquire if the sale of the City's water system is being discussed again and has the City been in contact with American Water. Mr. Rippy urged the Council to monitor social media for the local citizens' negative reaction to the mention of the water sale. He suggested that the public should be informed if the Council is meeting with American Water about the water system sale. He also noted that handling the water sale in the same manner as was done previously will be a mistake.

Mayor Chesley noted that Council Member Piper, at the City Council's Retreat held last Friday, September 11, 2015 at the Municipal West Building, brought up the fact that six months had passed since the water system sale had been tabled. At that time, Council stated they would take another look at the subject after six months. Mayor Chesley advised that she has not spoken with American Water.

Council Member McEnaney stated that he recently met with American Water while attending a session at the Illinois Municipal League conference and had lunch with American Water personnel in Chicago.

He reminded that the last Council decided to delay any decision about the water system sale until the new council members were sworn in. In the meantime, he stated that the Council is continuing to inform themselves and looking at various options. There is discussion of creating a team or committee or whatever to go back to the very start and investigate the problems with the existing water and sanitary sewer systems. When asked, McEnaney stated that another Council Member attended the IML session.

Council Member Moore noted that he was not at the IML conference in Chicago. In addition, Moore repeated that Council Member Piper mentioned the sale of the water system at the Council's retreat last Friday where members of the public were present.

Linola Spann thanked the Council for the new sidewalks and demolition of old structures. She urged the City to promote and encourage businesses to locate in the south side of the City.

Horton Petties expressed his discouragement that a few disorderly individuals in his neighborhood are causing all the disturbances. Council Member Moore encouraged him to attend the upcoming Town Hall Meeting set on September 29. Mr. Petties also inquired about United Rental. Bechtel advised that the City encouraged United Rental to submit a formal proposal for their project, but no proposal has been received by the City.

Mr. Rippy noted that a meeting is scheduled at the airport on September 29 to discuss the county-wide tax issue. Council Member Moore stated that the Town Hall Meeting was already scheduled when they learned of the tax meeting on the same night.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was held.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins  
City Clerk