

**CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
Wednesday, September 23, 2015**

The Mt. Vernon City Council met in a Workshop Meeting on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1100 Main Street, Council Chamber Room, 2nd Floor, Mt. Vernon, IL.

CALL TO ORDER

City Clerk Jerilee Hopkins called the meeting to order. The first order of business was to appoint a Mayor Pro Tem. **Council Member Todd Piper made a motion to appoint Dennis McEnaney as Mayor Pro Tem. All were in favor.**

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

VISITORS/CITIZEN REQUEST/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

No business to discuss.

REVIEW AND UPDATE OF FIRE DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES

Fire Chief Jim Brown stepped forward to discuss the handouts and answer any questions from Council. Chief Brown would be researching the ISO ratings of other neighboring cities and getting back to Council with that information. He would also provide Council with a breakdown on how the City is graded. Council Member Piper would like to see the comparison between staying in the EMS and transporting or getting out.

The following items are submitted for consideration of increase in budgetary items for the Fire Department.

1. Two firefighters (this will bring us back to a full staffing level of 31). = \$199162.54
2. Purchase of 75' Ladder to replace 5141. = \$750,000.00
3. Purchase of 2 Administration vehicles to replace 5102 & 5103. = \$75,000.00
4. New Fire Station/EMA building. = \$7, 000,000.00 – 10,000,000.00

federal grant

The following is the information you requested on the total cost of hiring a new Firefighter:

New Hire Firefighter Salary Calculation

Base Salary	43,818.00
Holiday Pay	3,034.08
FLSA	1,434.60
Incentive Pay*	840.00
Paramedic Pay*	1,753.00
Unemployment	470.85
Work Comp 18.45%	7,887.19
Health/ Life Insurance	8,262.20
Pension City 43.82%	19,201.05
New Employee Physical	250.00
Clothing Allowance	600.00
Equipment/ Training	
Turnout Gear	2,730.30
FF II Training*	5,000.00
Paramedic Training*	3,800.00
Uniforms	500.00
Total Cost	99,581.27

* Note expenses only if they do not have training or meet the requirements for pay increases.

Fire Department	April	May	June	July	August	Total
Medical Emergencies	248	276	241	292	256	1313
Lifting Assistance	11	5	11	10	15	52
Automatic Fire Alarms	22	12	29	15	15	93
Structure Fires	8	3	5	8	9	33
Vehicle Fires	4	2	0	1	4	11
Trash/Rubbish Fires	2	1	2	2	4	11
Power Line Down		4	1	1		6
Grass/Field Fires	1	2	0	0		3
Fuel Spills	2	3	0	0		5
Carbon Monoxide	5	3	1	4		13
Hazardou Materials	0	0	2	2	3	7
Smoke Removal	0	0	0	1		1
Field Fire					1	1
Buliding Collapsed					1	1
Assist Police Department					1	1
Other	1	1	0	0		2

REVIEW AND PLANNING OF MISCELLANEOUS CAPITAL ISSUES

Interim City Manager Bechtel provided information on the asbestos abatement for the basement at City Hall. The Council would like an estimate of all of the expenses including, but not limited to, replacement of the boiler and installation of a new HVAC unit in the areas of City Hall that do not currently have it.

CITY HALL BASEMENT		
<u>Asbestos Abatement</u>		
Asbestos Survey	\$	2,210.00
Asbestos Abatement	\$	32,000.00
Project Oversight	\$	22,190.00
Re-insulation of Pipe	\$	7,500.00
TOTAL	\$	63,900.00
<u>Mold Remediation</u>		
Remediation	\$	7,475.26
Anti-Microbial Sealing	\$	4,866.21
TOTAL	\$	12,341.47
<u>Water Infiltration</u>		
City Hall Basement	\$	33,692.00
Fire Station Basement	\$	14,564.00
TOTAL	\$	48,256.00
TOTAL PROJECT ESTIMATE	\$	124,497.47

Environmental Consultant
 High estimate from Environmental Consultant
 Includes project bidding and air monitoring
 Estimate based of asbestos insulation removal

Some pro

- Wood Water Systems

Bechtel provided information to Council regarding other Capital Projects and their estimated costs:

- The Park Plaza Demolition in the amount of \$500,000.00. Bechtel will share photos of the location with the two newest Council members; Jeff May and Donte Moore.
- Oakland/State Route 37 intersection street lights in the amount of \$10,000.00. When Oakland was redesigned the street lights were removed and never replaced.
- Old Fairfield Road FAU in the amount of \$201,000.00 which would be taken out of taken out of the General Corporate Fund.
- Parking at Lincoln Park-South Parking lot and Parking at Aquatic Zoo; no dollar amount decided at this time.
- Panic Buttons for Emergencies at City Hall in the amount of \$975.00/\$31.00 monthly for officer response.
- Email Archiving in the amount of \$12,000.00 annually.
- Code of Ordinances Web based in the amount of \$3,000.00 annually. The City is looking at a web based platform that many other municipalities use which would be much more efficient and user friendly.

Council Member Moore stated for the record that not a single person at the table was remotely thinking of selling the City's water system. It was just an option. There were other options; a gas tax, a usage tax, etc. He had worked on some numbers, asked people some questions and had Nathan McKenna run some numbers on placing a

surcharge on water as other communities do. It would take years to fix the problem, and the City needed to examine every opportunity possible.

Council Member Piper stated that there were no negotiations, no deal on the table, nothing. They would remove the Council and an independent committee would be set up to look at all the revenues and put a number on the entire system, to go through this conversation with the community in the future, with all of the facts, and to make recommendations to the Council.

Council Member May suggested coming up with a strategy, prioritizing, figuring out a timeline and determining the resources available to fix the water system.

Council Member McEnaney would like to see a plan put together by category of departments, know the priorities in each category, have a master priority list that integrates those and then have a sense of the total needs and dollar figure, then start talking about ways of raising revenues to meet that.

PRIORITIZATION OF ALL CAPITAL PROJECTS

This topic will be discussed at a future workshop.

REVIEW OF ORDINANCES

The Council reviewed the Gravel Surface vs Hard Surface agenda item. The City Ordinance stated that parking lots should have a hard surface either concrete or asphalt. Some of the issues discussed included wear and tear on the street sweeper due to rocks being picked up along the roadways, safety and aesthetics.

GRAVEL PARKING LOTS	STREET LOCATION
Autoplex of Mt. Vernon	Broadway St.
Wes Rogers Tire	South 10th Street
Life's Little Perks	Broadway St.
The Mine Supply Co.	
Aquatic Zoo Employee Parking	S. 34th Street
Lincoln Park Parking Lot	S. 34th Street
Broadway Auto Body (Portion)	Broadway St.
Bradshaw Auto Sales (Portion)	Broadway St.
R & S Auto	Main St.
Randy's Family Center	South 10th Street
The Crossing	9th and Jordan
South Side Baptist Church	Veterans Memorial Dr.
AllStar Flooring	Veterans Memorial Dr.
EBN Construction and Industrial	Veterans Memorial Dr.
Mistery Building South of NAPA Distr.	Wells Bypass
Effingham Truck Sales (Portion)	Broadway St.
Duncan Auction and Real Estate	Broadway St.
Morning Sentinel	Broadway St.
KAS Rental (Portion)	North 10th Street
Optimist Park	
Dawson Park	
Kline Field	
Kirby Risk	Broadway St.
Former S & W Motors	Veterans Memorial Dr.
Snow Cone Place on Veterans	Veterans Memorial Dr.
Drury Inn (Semi Parking)	
Genkota Winery	

The Council discussed the Burning Ban. It was mentioned that if the public had any issues with Republic picking up their yard waste to contact Assistant to the City Manager, Nathan McKenna. Council Member Piper would like to bring volunteer groups in to do chainsaw cleanups to help out the elderly. Bechtel suggested seeing what other communities have done, making volunteer connections and better public relations. Bechtel would be checking on the number of illegal burns reported at the Police Department. Council agreed to revisit and discuss the issue again at a later date.

The discussion on the Housing Code Non-Owner Occupied Dwelling would be set for a later date to include the City Inspectors. Council Member Piper would like to have the Police and Fire Department present as well to answer questions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

Fire Chief Brown added that there was a grant for the two firefighters discussed earlier in the meeting and they were waiting on the results of that grant. Bechtel would provide that information to Council once received from Chief Brown.

A Budget Meeting Workshop was set for Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. An additional Workshop will be held on Monday, October 26, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. and every fourth Monday thereafter.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The Workshop Meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins
City Clerk