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**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Monday, November 17, 2014
7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, November 17, 2014 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 Rev. Ron Lash.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed present: Council Members Ron Lash, Dennis McEnaney, Todd Piper, David Wood and Mary Jane Chesley.

PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS

The Journal for the November 3, 2014 Regular City Council Meeting was presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections. **Council Member Piper made a motion to approve the Journals as presented. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood 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 City Manager Ron Neibert for clarification on the following items: Item #2 Ameren IP - \$22,324.80 – monthly street lights for October 2014. McEnaney advised that a street light is not working at the corner of Route 37 and Oakland. Ameren removed the street light when the highway was repaved and it was never replaced. Neibert has contacted Ameren asking the light be replaced. McEnaney requested that Ameren use the same type of lights city-wide. Item #15 McMahan's Nursery - \$5,262.00 – trees and materials for 27th street sidewalk. Neibert stated he has received one positive comment. Item #21 PGAV, Inc. - \$6,100.00 – Enterprise Zone application consulting. PGAV, Inc. is preparing the City's Enterprise Zone recertification application to be submitted to the State of Illinois by December 31, 2014. Item #26 UMB Bank - \$1,954,121.88 – principal and interest on 2012 bonds. These bonds were issued for infrastructure, economic development and quality of life projects, i.e. 34th Street reconstruction, wayfinding, Aquatic Zoo, new industrial park, sidewalks, bike trails and water line projects. A special check was written to Barnard Farms in the amount of \$12,441.76 for purchase of Industrial Park Land. That closing has occurred and the City now owns almost 100 acres for industrial park. A special check was written to IML Risk Management in the amount of \$1,366,457.99 for 2015 annual insurance premium. This premium is a reduction of almost \$100,000.00 from the previous year and \$150,000.00 below the budgeted amount due to the a successful

CITY MANAGER

Neibert presented for Council's consideration a request for Permission to Seek Bids for the Demolition of the Mt. Vernon Townhomes. The Townhomes have deteriorated and the owners have made no attempt to bring them into compliance with the City's occupancy regulations. Consequently, the City has brought legal action against the owners and received an Order of Demolition. There are ten buildings on the property. Council requested that Neibert review the zoning of the property.

Council Member Wood made a motion to approve the request for Permission to Seek Bids for the Demolition of the Mt. Vernon Townhomes. Seconded by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

Neibert presented for Council's consideration a request for Permission to Seek Bids for Reconstruction of North 42nd Street from Victoria to Richview Road.

Council Member Piper made a motion to approve the request for Permission to Seek Bids for Reconstruction of North 42nd Street from Victoria to Richview Road. Seconded by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration an Ordinance Rezoning Property located on East Bethel Road from the Zoning Classification F-P to R-1. Petitioning Party is Melvin Dalton. The petitioner requested a portion of the land rezoned to R-1 to build a small vacation residence on the property. The Zoning and Planning Commission unanimously approved the rezoning with no opposition.

Council Member Wood made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-35 Rezoning Property located on East Bethel Road from the Zoning Classification F-P to R-1. Seconded by Council Member Piper. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration an Ordinance Rezoning Property located at 2947 S. 13th Street from Zoning Classification R-2 to RM-2. The Petitioning Party is Allen and Danielle Stewart and they appeared. The Stewart's wish to replace an old mobile home with a new mobile home which requires that the property be zoned RM-2. The Zoning and Planning Commission unanimously approved the rezoning with no opposition.

Council Member Piper made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-36 Rezoning Property Located at 2947 S. 13th Street from the Zoning Classification R-2 to RM-2. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration an Ordinance Rezoning Property located at 1130 – 1132 S. 10th Street from the Zoning Classification B-2 to I1. The Petitioning Party is Mt. Vernon Facilities, LLC. Matt Stout appeared to discuss that Lay's Mining Service purchased the old Steppin' Out Disco which is across the street from their facility. They intend to use the building for storage and clean up the outside. Council reminded Mr. Stout that the property is in the TIF district. In addition, there are certain outside storage restrictions in the I1 zoning classification. The Zoning and Planning Commission unanimously approved the rezoning with no opposition.

Council Member Wood made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-37 Rezoning Property located at 1130-1132 S. 10th Street from the Zoning Classification B-2 to I1. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration an Ordinance Rezoning Property located at 10622 N. Spring Garden Lane from the Zoning Classification AG to R2. The Petitioning Party is Johnathan Dalton. Mr. Dalton appeared to discuss his plans to construct a duplex with hopes for more construction in the future.

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-38 Rezoning Property located at 10622 N. Spring Garden Lane from the Zoning Classification AG to R2. Seconded by Council Member Piper. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration a Consent to Assignment of Lake Miller Lease from Robert and Diane Potter to Robert L. Potter, Diane Potter, John F. Lietz and Karol Lahrman. John Lietz appeared.

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to approve a Consent to Assignment of Lake Miller Lease from Robert and Diane Potter to Robert L. Potter, John F. Lietz and Karol Lahrman. Seconded by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving Agreement for Grant Consultation and Other Professional Services with Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission. Neibert noted this is an agreement between the City and the Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission for professional consultation services in connection with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant award to the City for a Public Works and Economic Development Facilities grant in the amount of \$3.25 million for the City's new industrial park.

Council Member Lash made a motion to approve a Resolution Approving Agreement for Grant Consultation and Other Professional Services with Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution to Adopt Early Retirement Incentive. Neibert stated that the Illinois Pension Code provides that a participating employer may elect to adopt an early retirement incentive (ERI) program offered by the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF). The goal of the ERI program is to realize a substantial savings in personnel costs. IMRF prepared an actuarial estimate of the cost of an early retirement incentive program for the City and the additional liability created by the early retirement incentive is estimated to be \$1.8; and the 10-year amortization cost is estimated to be \$2.6. The ERI shall take effect on January 1, 2015 to be open for one year. To be eligible for this voluntary program the employee must have attained age 50 and have at least 20 years of creditable service by his or her retirement date. Neibert stated there are 12 employees who qualify for the early retirement incentive program. The City's net savings will be from \$30,000 to \$70,000 per year depending on how many employees retire.

Vickie York appeared with a list of questions regarding the early retirement incentive program. Neibert advised a net savings of \$30,000-\$70,000 per year.

James Rippy asked the Council to give more consideration before approving the ERI.

Bob Shaw questioned the amount of time for City employees to sign up for the ERI. He requested that Neibert make his calculations public.

Steven Casper inquired how many positions would be replaced.

Lester Tupper asked why not lay off employees.

Anthony Dersh asked that the roads be repaired.

Council Member Wood made a motion to approve a Resolution to Adopt the Early Retirement Incentive Program. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

MAYOR

Mayor Chesley announced that the City has been awarded another Safe Routes to Schools grant for Marteeny Street and Airport Road in the amount of \$158,175. This project will include sidewalk from Summersville School south on Marteeny to Airport Road and then on Airport Road to Liebengood Rd. Thank you to Brad Ruble and Bonnie Jerdon for their work on the grant application.

CITY COUNCIL

City Council made no comments.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Lester Tupper inquired about the cost of the new wayfinding signs from inception, design, manufacturing and installation. Neibert informed him \$358,000.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Neibert requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition. **Council Member Wood made a motion for Executive Session in order to discuss land acquisition. Seconded by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.**

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Piper made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins
City Clerk