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**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Monday, November 19, 2012
MINUTES**

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, November 19, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building, Veterans Park, 800 South 27th Street, Mt. Vernon, IL.

Mayor Mary Jane Chesley called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by a Dan Henry 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, David Wood and Mayor Mary Jane Chesley.

PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS

The Journals for the October 15, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting and the November 5, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting were presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections. **Council Member McEnaney made a motion to approve the Journal as presented. Seconded by Council Member Wood. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.**

APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Approval of Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable were presented to Council for Approval. Council Member McEnaney asked for an update on Item #5 Baxmeyer Construction, Inc. - \$341,806.95 – South Davidson and Veterans West roadway extension. This represents a partial payment on project. Item #12 FGM Architects, Inc. - \$29,426.37 – professional services for Aquatic facility. Item #16 IML Risk Management Association - \$1,432,663.78 – 2013 annual commercial insurance contribution covering all liability, buildings, equipment, Workman's Compensation premiums. The premium reflects a decrease from last year. IML is very happy with the City's loss ratio and with the many safety programs implemented in the last couple of years to properly train and inform City employees. Item #23 MidAmerican Energy Co. - \$34,163.72 – September monthly electric. The City's contract with MidAmerican runs through December, 2012. The Chamber of Commerce aggregation program in which the City entered will begin January 1, 2013. The City expects to save about \$40,000.00 a year. The

present contract realized about \$32,000.00 in savings from the prior year giving the City a combined annual savings of over \$70,000.00 from three years ago. Council Member McEnaney commended the City Manager and staff for researching the electric contracts and accomplishing this savings. Council Member Wood inquired about Item #29 SMV Mt. Vernon LLC - \$3,500.00 – 34th Street easement acquisition. This is payment for the attorney representing Mt. Vernon Memory Care to review their easement document. Council Member Lash inquired about Item #31 Traffic Control Corporation - \$2,017.74 – traffic camera. The traffic camera is no longer operational and was replaced. Council Member Lash asked if Chief Mendenall has plans to purchase a second traffic camera. The Chief responded in the negative but if the City Council wishes to purchase the additional camera he would be glad to do that. Mayor Chesley noted that Item #21 L & R Sewer Drain, LLC - \$4,815.00 – sewer manhole relining is an ongoing program that began three years ago in which an average of 15 old manhole linings are replaced annually. This also brings about a savings to the City.

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$2,789,433.25. Seconded by Council Member Wood. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

BIDS & QUOTES

City Manager Neibert noted that four bids were received for Janitorial Services encompassing City Hall, Municipal West Building and Police Department. The low bid was received from James Superior Cleaning, Mt. Vernon, IL in the amount of \$2,650.00. This company’s references include Peoples National Bank and Community First Bank of the Heartland. They will begin working on December 1. The bids were as follows:

<u>Name & Address of Company Submitting Quote</u>	<u>Quote Per Month (for 2 year period)</u>
Crossroads Cleaning Co. , Inc. Mt. Vernon, IL	\$ 3,750.00
Servpro of the Rend Lake Region Mt. Vernon, IL	\$ 4,500.00
James Superior Cleaning Mt. Vernon, IL	\$ 2,650.00
Johnson Family Cleaning Service	\$ 3,650.00

Council Member Piper made a motion to approve the low bid from James Superior Cleaning, Mt. Vernon, IL in the amount of \$2,650.00. Seconded by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Neibert presented for Council’s consideration a Request for Permission to Seek Bids to Paint the Interior of Municipal Building West. This is part of a multi-year program to update the facility built in 1991. It is a budgeted item. Council Member Piper noted that the inside archways are in need of paint as well.

Council Member Wood made a motion to approve the Request for Permission to Seek Bids to Paint Interior of Municipal Building West. Seconded by Council Member Piper. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Bill Howard presented for Council's consideration the First Reading on Ordinance approving Mutual Settlement Agreement and Full and Final Release with Tri-County Electric Cooperative. City Manager Neibert explained this agreement between the City and Tri-County Electric is the result of a conflict over the use of a sewer easement south of the Good Samaritan Regional Health Center. Neibert requested and recommended a suspension of the rules in order to address this matter at tonight's meeting.

Council Member Wood stated he knows of no reason to delay this action and made a motion to suspend the rules. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

Council Member Wood made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2012-39 approving the Mutual Settlement Agreement and Full and Final Release with Tri-County Electric Cooperative. Seconded by Council Member Piper. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

City Attorney Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Found Design, LLC (d.b.a. MERJE) Regarding City of Mt. Vernon Wayfinding System. Tourism Director Bonnie Jerdon informed the Council that the Branding Leadership Team (BLT) worked on this project which was a recommendation from Destination Development Inc., the consulting company used by the City last summer to help the City increase tourism spending. Proposals were received from three companies ranging from \$74,350.00 to \$95,880.00. The BLT recommended that the lowest bidder, MERJE Environments, be awarded the work based on their qualifications and their process. MERJE will do the following: gather pertinent information about the City and analyze that information; recommend locations and messages for the new signs; identify types of signage needed; coordinate with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT); prepare the design for each sign type; estimate costs; prepare specifications and complete documents for each sign type; and prepare a style guide for future growth.

The State of Illinois calculates that visitors to Mt. Vernon spend \$91.6 million annually and there are 300,000 overnight visitors every year. Last year overnight stays increased by six percent from the previous year which translates to about 70% occupancy which is extraordinary. The hospitality industry is an important part of the City's economy. City Manager Neibert stated there is an accepted industry standard that for every tourist dollar spent in a community it recycles itself between six and seven times. The City's goal is to attract more tourists and keep tourists longer so they spend more money in the community. The City's consultant, Destination Development Inc., estimates with the addition of the wayfinding signage that retail sales tax will increase by 10 to 18 percent.

The signage will be modular units that can be changed when needed as more attractions and destinations are added in the City.

Council Member Piper stated that this wayfinding signage project is not appropriate for the Public Works Department to handle because of the science that goes into wayfinding. With State highways running through Mt. Vernon there are State specifications to be followed in the placement of signage.

Council Member Wood expressed concern about the actual service to be provided by MERJE as Exhibit A is somewhat brief. He requested that Director Jerdon explain how the BLT arrived at their decision to contract with MERJE and confirmed that the City will not be locked in to a design contract with MERJE so that the City may tweak the designs or even have a different company tweak the designs. According to Director Jerdon, part of the MERJE process is working with local stakeholders to get input about the design and what information is to be contained in the signs. MERJE provided the BLT with examples of their work in several communities throughout the United States including Asheville, North Carolina. This weighed very heavily in the BLT's selection of MERJE. Because the BLT chose the phrase, *Creativity Redefined*, it is very important to work with a company that has produced creative signage. Director Jerdon expects MERJE to begin the signage project after the first of the year, and it should take four to six months to complete.

City Manager Neibert stated that the Agreement being considered is similar to that in a design engineering project. This company will create a design for a series of types of wayfinding signs. They will configure the number of types of signs needed, locations of signs, the information contained on the signs and the formal bidding process specifications to request bids from contractors who will construct the signs.

Council Member McEnaney asked for an example of what a sign might say and where it might be placed. According to Destination Development Inc. a sign at Potomac and Broadway directing visitors in the downtown direction is very important.

Council Member Wood acknowledged that the signage will be consistent with the branding logo that the City Council has already adopted. He thanked the BLT for their hard work. Members of the BLT are as follows: Randy Olson, owner of WVYN Radio, Casey Cunningham with Continental Tire, Cortez Hodges with Cedarhurst, Nick Loafman, MVTHS band director, Rex Cusumano, local business person, Mark Hassakis with DMDC, Sharon Bradham with Cedarhurst, Debbie Greene with the Drury Hotel, Bonnie Jerdon, Mary Ellen Bechtel with JCDC, Todd Piper, Cyndy Mitchell with DMDC, Laura Thacker, owner of 9th Street Grill, Russell Brown, Mike Beard, downtown business person, Casey Cooper with 9th Street Grill, Kevin Settle with Cedarhurst, Nathan McKenna, City's Project Manager, and Bonnie Jerdon.

Mayor Chesley allowed Nathan Pigg, a concerned citizen, to address the Council. He inquired where the funding will come from to pay for the wayfinding system. City Manager Neibert stated the funds will come from the newly created Economic Development/Quality of Life fund which is funded by the one-half percent sales tax increase that was created in March, 2012. Mr. Pigg asked how the City can justify spending \$74,000.00 on signs when there are still sidewalks, alleys and roads that you can't pass through, that you can't walk on and that tear up your car. There are over 269 properties in town that contain trash, junk and debris and nothing is being done about that. Mayor Chesley informed Mr. Pigg that the City is addressing that issue by gathering information back in 2008 on all areas including roads, water/sewer lines, industrial and economic development growth and part of what is being done now deals with \$91 million in economic development as Bonnie Jerdon alluded to earlier. It is considered an industry in this community. Work is being done on 34th Street, Veterans Memorial Drive, Davidson Road, storm sewer on Liebengood Road, and design work on Airport Road. Mr. Pigg noted that entrances to the city should be improved and that he has complained twice to the City about the condition of Shorty's on 10th Street. Mr. Pigg asked who will benefit from the wayfinding system. Mayor Chesley remarked that the entire city of Mt. Vernon will benefit by increasing tourism dollars. Director Jerdon noted that as the sales taxes increase that are collected by the city the more infrastructure projects the city will be able to fund. The reason for the Tourism Department is to maximize visitors' spending and the City wants to take it to the next level.

Council Member McEnaney made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving an Agreement with Found Design, LLC (d.b.a. MERJE) Regarding the City of Mt. Vernon Wayfinding System. Seconded by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

City Attorney Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving A Right of Way Agreement with Windstream Regarding Fiber Optics. Attorney Howard noted that the proper title of the document is "License" Agreement. This right of way Agreement will allow Windstream to use the City's right of way to install new fiber optic lines for the new Good Samaritan Regional Health Center.

Council Member Piper made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving a Right of Way Agreement with Windstream Regarding Fiber Optics. Seconded by Council Member Wood. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

City Attorney Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving the Ratified Agreement between Local 738 International Association of Firefighters and the City of Mt. Vernon. This is the last of the bargaining unit contracts to be ratified. It was necessary to participate in arbitration to accomplish the ratification. One of the issues was the City's request for an increase in the health insurance deductible and the Firefighters had a request for a change in the Paramedic pay ratios. The arbitrator awarded the City the increased deductible saving taxpayer dollars and the Firefighters the Paramedic pay increase. Contract negotiations began in September, 2011 and their contract expired in April, 2012. All the other bargaining unit contracts reached agreement with the City in April and May, 2012. The cost to the City for the arbitration was \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00. Council Member Piper thanked City Manager Neibert for the time-consuming effort he demonstrated in negotiating all the contracts. Most cities have to pay outside labor attorneys to accomplish these negotiations but because Neibert handles the negotiations the City has saved a lot of money.

Council Member Lash made a motion to approve a Resolution Approving the Ratified Agreement between Local 738 International Association of Firefighters and the City of Mt. Vernon. Seconded by Council Member Wood. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

City Attorney Howard presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving a Trail Easement Agreement with Good Samaritan Regional Health Center. This is a permanent easement for the Casey School Bicycle Trail which connects to the Cedarhurst Trail.

Council Member Wood made a motion to approve a Resolution Approving a Trail Easement Agreement with Good Samaritan Regional Health Center. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

MAYOR

Mayor Mary Jane Chesley welcomed Betty Barker to share the results of the Jefferson County Care Network efforts. Some 30 community members spent a year putting together a resource guide for the city of Mt. Vernon, which is available now at City Hall and online at www.mtvernon.com. The directory covers everything from adoption and childcare to pet resources and substance abuse. The guide also contains helpful toll-free numbers and guidance on how to get help with financial aid or food, including prepared meals and food pantries. Barker said people from several different agencies got together to help produce the resource guide, meeting monthly for a year. Local hospitals Crossroads Community Hospital and Good Samaritan Regional Health Center also had input into the guide's content.

Mayor Chesley recommended that offices, churches, organizations, and the courthouse should have the 35-page guide.

City workers have started decorating the City with Christmas lights.

The Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting the following events at the Rolland W. Lewis Building at Veterans Park: December 1 — Craft Show, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; December 7 — S'mores Stories with Santa, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; December 8 — toy box tag sale, 9:00 a.m. to noon; and December 14 & 15 — Christmas in the Park.

Mayor Chesley reminded citizens to dispose properly of their old pharmaceuticals by depositing them in the Drop Box at City Hall. This service is brought to you by the American Water Co. and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Mayor Chesley wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday.

CITY COUNCIL

Council Member McEnaney asked City Engineer Scot Prindiville to give a report on all the ongoing capital projects. As of December 1st Scot is taking the City Engineer's position in Waukegan, Illinois and the Council wishes him the best of luck.

TRANSPORTATION

Project	Work Phase	% complete	Cost	Est. Timeframe	Notes
Veterans / Davidson Extension	Design Construction	100 80	\$4,500,000	Summer 2012 / Summer 2013	All road pavement should be complete by end of November. Sidewalk construction may continue through winter.
South 34th Street (Peach to Veterans)	Design Construction	100 40	\$1,700,000	Fall 2012/ Spring 2013	Construction complete north of Watertower Place. Contractor will return to finish project after winter weather breaks.
CTNA Truck Access	Design Construction	100 100	\$705,000	Spring 2012	Project complete and paid for. Final paperwork needs sign off.
42nd Street Reconstruction (Victoria to Richview)	Design Construction	25 0	\$4,500,000	2012/2013 2014	Horizontal and vertical alignment being finalized. HMG awaiting direction from City for alignment at Richview Road.
South 27th Street (Jamison to Veterans)	Design Construction	0 0	\$1,400,000	2012/2013 2014	Engineering Contract with Rhutasel waiting on award.
North 27th Street/Old Union Rd. (Richview to Route 37)	Design Construction	0 0	\$2,750,000	Fall 2012/ Spring 2013 Summer / Fall 2013	Engineering Contract awarded to HMG. Survey work to begin after 34 th Street survey is complete.
Perkins Avenue (10th to 12th)	Design Construction	5 0	\$470,000	Fall 2012 / Spring 2014 Summer / Fall 2014	Survey data being obtained and will be complete by the end of the month.
South 34th Street (Veterans to Harlan)	Design Construction	5 0	\$1,400,000	Fall 2012/ Spring 2013 Summer / Fall 2013	Survey data being obtained and will be complete by the end of the month.
Airport Road	Design Construction	45 0	\$400,000	Fall 2012/ Spring 2013 Summer / Fall 2013	Survey work complete. Road layout and determination of land/easement requirements ongoing.
North 34th / Central (Broadway to N. 32nd)	Design Construction	10 0	\$1,150,000	Fall 2012 / Spring 2013 Summer / Fall 2013	Survey work complete. Right-of-way issues to be worked out before starting engineering layout.

Transportation total

\$18,975,000

SIDEWALK/TRAILS

Project	Work Phase	% complete	Cost	Est. Timeframe	Notes
27th Street Sidewalk	Design Construction	75 0	\$215,000	On Hold On Hold	Round Table to deliver a few easements to the City by the end of the month.
Richview Road Sidewalk	Design Construction	65 0	\$170,000	Winter 2012 Spring / Summer 2012	Henneghan Working on engineering plans.
Holiday Inn Sidewalk	Design Construction	80 0	\$45,000	Winter 2012 Spring 2013	Right-of-way obtained from Holiday Inn. Comments on plans to be provided to Round Table before the end of the month.
ITEP Shared Use Trail- Veterans	Design Construction	0 0	\$550,000	2012/2013 2014	Scope change request submitted June 12 to IDOT. IDOT has requested additional information which will be sent in before the end of the month.
Bike Trail- Cedarhurst to Casey Middle School	Design Construction	100 15	\$550,000	Summer 2012 Fall 2012	Gleeson has installed sidewalk along 18th Street and is working on installing all storm pipes.
Safe Routes to School Sidewalk	Design Construction	100 60	\$315,000	Spring 2012 / Summer 2012 Fall 2012	Sidewalk complete along Jamison. Sidewalk mostly complete along Cherry and Peach. Driveways and cleanup work still needed.
ITEP Shared Use Trail- Davidson	Design Construction	0 0	\$1,800,000	2012/2013 2014	ITEP application submitted. Award announcement expected around January 1.
Misc. Sidewalk Replacement	Design Construction	40 0	\$300,000	Winter 2012 Spring / Summer 2013	Plans and Specifications being done by City to be bid over winter.

Sidewalk/Trails total: \$3,945,000

WATER

Project	Work Phase	% complete	Cost	Est. Timeframe	Notes
Times Square Water Tower Replacement	Design Construction	100 100	\$1,050,000	- Summer 2012	Construction complete. Final paperwork and payment needs to be processed.
Veterans and Davidson Water	Design Construction	100 100	\$330,000	Winter 2012 Spring 2012/ Summer 2012	Construction complete. Valve adjustment may be needed after roadway construction.
Conger Street Water Main Replacement	Design Construction	100 0	\$175,000	Summer 2012 Fall / Winter 2012	Haier Construction to begin by the end of the month.
Broadway Water Main Replacement (4th to 14th Street)	Design Construction	0 0	\$1,250,000	Summer 2012 Fall / Winter 2012	Working with RoundTable on scope of work and obtaining an engineering contract.
Main Street Water Main Replacement (2nd Street to Appellate Courthouse)	Design Construction	0 0	\$1,650,000	Summer 2012 Fall / Winter 2012	Working with RoundTable on scope of work and obtaining an engineering contract.

Water total: \$4,455,000

SEWER

Project	Work Phase	% complete	Cost	Est. Timeframe	Notes
Wells Bypass 24" Gravity Sewer	Design Construction	100 99	\$2,700,000	Spring 2012 / Summer 2012	Sewer installation complete. Final restoration to occur in fall.
Veterans and Davidson Sewer and Lift Station	Design Construction	100 75	\$1,150,000	Winter 2011 Summer 2012 / Spring 2013	Sewer and force main construction complete. Lift Station construction ongoing.
Shiloh / Magnum Steel Lift Station	Design Construction	100 100	\$105,000	Winter 2012 Spring 2012 / Summer 2012	Construction complete. Final pay estimate processed.

Sewer total: \$3,955,000

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

No comments from visitors.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins
City Clerk