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**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Monday, December 2, 2013
7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Monday, December 2, 2013, 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 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 Mayor Mary Jane Chesley.

PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS

The Journal for the November 18, 2013 Regular City Council meeting was presented to Council for any additions, deletions or corrections. **Council Member Wood made a motion to approve the Journal as presented. Seconded by Council Member Lash. 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 Dennis McEnaney asked for an update on the following items. Item #6 Continental Tire - \$44,629.54 — reimbursement of grant payment on new railroad siding. This represents the retainage and is the final payment. Item #7 Downtown Development - \$57,500.00 — 2nd distribution of funds per 2013/14 budget. Originally the Downtown Mt. Vernon Development Corporation was funded through the Special Service Area property tax. Because of this, DMDC has to limit their service area. In order to allow JMDC to expand into other activities the Special Service Area funds will be replaced with General Corporate funds. This represents one-half of their yearly allowance. Item #14 IC Enterprises - \$124,104.00 — roof replacement at the Armory. This is the second and final payment on the project. Item #24 Rooters American Maintenance - \$76,473.00 — Veterans park parking lot resurfacing.

Council Member Wood made a motion to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$888,227.49. Seconded by Council Member Piper. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

BIDS & QUOTES

Three bids were received for the removal and installation of carpet at City Hall. The quotes included pricing and labor for the Chamber Room, Mayor and City Manager offices as well as the Conference Room and Copy Room. It was recommended that Council accept the lowest bid in the amount of \$11,991.82 from One Stop Flooring America. Installation will be completed between December 26 and 31. The bid tabulations are as follows:

- One Stop Flooring America- \$11,991.82
- All Star Flooring- \$13,158.79
- Southern Illinois Tile- Carpet Supply \$14,250.00

Council Member Piper made a motion to accept the low bid from One Stop Flooring America in the amount of \$11,991.82. Seconded by Council Member Lash. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

City Manager Neibert added that the restrooms will be upgraded as well as a new west entrance is under design. Consideration is being given to new HVAC and heating systems.

CITY MANAGER

Nathan McKenna, Capital Projects Manager, presented the following report:

CITY PROGRAMMATIC REPORT					
GENERAL SUMMARY OF PROJECT STATUS –November 2013					
Project	Work Phase	Act. / Est. Cost	% Complete	Est. Compl. Date	Notes
Wayfinding System	Design Implementation	74.4 K 435 K	98% 0%	November 2013 1 st Q 2014	Waiting on IDOT approval. Bid Spec. documentation and programming 75% complete.
Housing Program	Planning Implementation	61.1 K 85 K	100% 50%	Ongoing	Review of additional website content, first builder email in December. Meeting with mortgage company mid Dec.
9 th Street Streetscape Added Segments	Design Construction	175K	100% 0%	December 2013	Finishing work on section by register news. Starting on section from Main – Harrison.
Armory / Market	Design Construction	N/A 700 K	50% 15%	N/A N/A	Roof replacement complete. Windows install mid December. Architect renderings December
Water Tower	Design Construction	N/A 54 K	100% 100%	Completed	Tnemec to present trophy for Tank of the Year in January
Surplus Property	Review	N/A	N/A	Ongoing	Still accepting offers for lots – minimum \$750
Housing Demolition	Demolition		0%	October 2013	Previous round of demolitions complete. Preparing bids specs for 8 more structures. Will complete budget amount.
Sanitary Infiltration	Area ID Cost Est.	TBD	100%	December 2013	Cost estimates for remediation being developed by Public Utilities.
City Hall Improvements	Planning Construction	175 K	50% 0%	1 st Q 2014	Painting and Carpet installation to precede end of Dec. Reviewing architect proposal for west entry.
City Hall parking lot	Design Construction	25 K	100% 100%	4 th Q 2013	Project complete. Public Works finished stripping and parking block placement.
City Facility Energy Audit	Audit Implementation	FREE % reimbursable	100%	Completed 4 th Q 2013	Obtaining cost estimates for boiler replacement. Boiler specialist tested lines, waiting on results.

Council Member Wood requested that next month McKenna also present the first City Programmatic Report along with the current month’s report for comparison.

Brad Ruble, City Engineer, presented the following report:

CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT					
GENERAL SUMMARY OF PROJECT STATUS –December 2013					
TRANSPORTATION					
Project	Cost	Work Phase	% Complete	Est. Compl. Date	Notes
42 nd St. Reconst. (Victoria to Richview)	5.0 M	Design Construction	95% 0%	4 th Q 2013 4 th Q 2015	Permits have been applied for, waiting on offices for reply. Final design is ongoing. Bidding expected in Winter.
South 27 th Street (Jamison to Veterans)	1.5 M	Design Construction	0% 0%	2 nd Q 2014 2 nd Q 2015	Engineering contract with Rhutasel waiting on award. Negotiating on major ROW parcel. Considering alternates.
N. 27 th / Old Union Rd. (Richview to Wilshire)	3.3 M	Design Construction	25% 0%	4 th Q 2014 4 th Q 2015	Survey work complete. Design underway. Cedarhurst on bike trail/sidewalk details complete. <i>AMG</i>
Perkins Avenue (10 th to 12 th)	0.5 M	Design Construction	90% 0%	4 th Q 2013 3 rd Q 2014	Phase I environmental study has been submitted to IDOT. <i>ROW-IDOT</i>
S. 34 th Street (Veterans to Harlan)	2.3 M	Design Construction	98% 0%	Dec. 2013 4 th Q 2014	Final touches on plans will be done soon. ROW negotiations to start in the fall with a winter bid opening. Utility relocations to begin soon.
Airport Road	400 T	Design Construction	100% 60%	Sept 2013 2 nd Q 2014	Asphalt and curb work is complete. Driveways and sidewalk remains.
42 nd at Veterans Signals	250 T	Design Construction	10% 0%	Unknown 3 rd Q 2015	IDS study will be submitted soon. We are moving forward with the design of signals.
Ambassador Roadway near new High School	Unknown	Design Construction	0% 0%	4 th Q 2013 4 th Q 2014	Awaiting approval of design contract. <i>Proceed ASHP</i>
SEWER					
Project	Cost	Work Phase	% Complete	Est. Compl. Date	Notes
Lift Station 14 Force main Replace	Unknown	Design Construction	90% 0%	Dec. 2013 2 nd Q 2014	Design is underway. Easement documents are coming in. Winter bid opening. Permitting is ongoing.
Ambassador Road near new High School	Unknown	Design Construction	0% 0%	4 th Q 2013 4 th Q 2014	Awaiting approval of engineering agreement.
SIDEWALKS / TRAILS					
Project	Cost	Work Phase	% Complete	Est. Compl. Date	Notes
27 th St. Sidewalk	215 T	Design Construction	95% 0%	Complete 4 th Q 2013	City in process of getting requested easements signed. Bidding will come soon. <i>next week.</i>
Richview Rd. Sidewalk	170 T	Design Construction	85% 0%	3 rd Q 2013 4 th Q 2013	Henneghan working on engineering plans. Negotiating with major property owner.
ITEP Shared Use Trail – Veterans	550 T	Design Construction	0% 0%	4 th Q 2013 3 rd Q 2014	Project relocation approved by IDOT. Need to complete design engineering. Awaiting design contract approval.
Bike Trail – Cedarhurst to Casey School	550 T	Design Construction	100% 99%	Complete Oct. 2013	Crossing of the Railroad Tracks is all that remains. Railroad has done some work on the site.
Wilshire and Richview Sidewalk	TBD	Design Construction	0% 0%	TBD	Sidewalk on Richview from Cedarhurst to Wilshire and on Wilshire from Richview to Old Union Rd. (Rhutasel and Associates)
S. 42 nd Sidewalk	TBD	Design Construction	0% 0%	TBD	Sidewalk along S. 42 nd from Broadway to Veteran's Memorial Drive. (Round Table Design).
WATER					
Project	Cost	Work Phase	% Complete	Est. Compl. Date	Notes
Broadway Water Main Replacement 4 th – 14 th	1.25 M	Design Construction	0% 0%	1 st Q 2014 4 th Q 2014	Surveying has been ongoing.
Main St. Water Main Replace. 2 nd – 14 th	1.65 M	Design Construction	0% 0%	1 st Q 2014 4 th Q 2014	Surveying has been ongoing.
Ambassador Road near new High School	Unknown	Design Construction	0% 0%	1 st Q 2014 4 th Q 2014	Awaiting approval on engineering contract for project begin
34 th and Veterans	75 T	Design Construction	0% 0%	4 th Q 2013 2 nd Q 2014	This will relocate water mains before larger roadway project is started. <i>Small section cast iron.</i>

City Manager Neibert suggested that Ruble move forward in obtaining the design contract on the Richview Road sidewalk.

Municipal Residential Electricity Aggregation Update
Jeff Haarmann

Jeff Haarmann, Managing Partner of Affordable Gas and Electric, provided the Council with an update of the City's electricity aggregation program. Affordable Gas & Electric (AGE) has finalized consulting service agreements to represent the residents of over 50 Illinois communities for municipal electricity aggregation in the upcoming March, 2014, primary election. In April, AGE successfully guided 28 communities to approval of electricity aggregation referendums. The addition of the March 2014 group brings AGE to over 75 communities under representation. Haarmann disseminated handouts to the Council.

The City of Mt. Vernon had 5,396 initial residents that were eligible for the aggregation rate. During the initial 30-day opt-out period, 1017 opted out of the program. AGE identified a class of rate customers that didn't benefit by the aggregation so they were removed by AGE. The City of Mt. Vernon received one of the best opt-out rates. Consequently, 4,379 residents enrolled which is about 81% of the total eligible. Since that time 205 residents have opted out of the program.

It was suggested that Haarmann inform local realtors of the electricity aggregation program for new residents moving to Mt. Vernon. He reiterated that no door-to-door solicitation will be conducted by Affordable Gas & Electric nor will they contact potential customers by telephone. All correspondence will be delivered by U.S. mail.

The average savings for AGE customers this past quarter is about 14% compared with Ameren rates. Customers wanting to enroll in the program may call 1.866.694.1262. Neibert suggested that Haarmann contact him regarding marketing ideas for new residents.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Council's consideration the First Reading on an Ordinance Authorizing the Tax Levy and Collection of taxes for the City for FY 2013-2014. Proposed amounts are listed as follows:

General Corporate Fund	None
Parks and Recreation	\$180,373.00
Emergency Management Agency	\$8,468.00
Firefighters' Pension	\$37,864.00
Police Pension	\$684,659.00
IMRF and FICA	\$739,721.00
Special Service Area #1	<u>\$85,836.00</u>
TOTAL	\$2,536,921.00

A proposed increase of \$119,785.00 is a 4.69% increase over last year's levy.

Council Member Wood recognized that the City's unfunded liability for police and firemen is better than many other municipalities of our size in the State of Illinois and probably better than most. The Legislatures recent legislation does nothing to address the police and fire pensions. How does the City fix this problem? The City does not have the authority to increase the amount of contributions that our police and firemen pay. Only the State can do that. We cannot reduce the benefits that are paid out of the funds. Only the State can do that. There are also restrictions on how to invest and in what to invest the police and fire pension funds. If the State of Illinois does not address these two pensions then all the municipalities that find themselves in a significantly unfunded liability will eventually have to raise property and/or sales taxes significantly to get out of the hole. He urged all residents to be informed about the unfunded pensions.

Mayor Chesley, a member of the Illinois Municipal League (IML) Board, noted that the IML is studying the impact of the unfunded pensions on all municipalities. **FIRST READING**

City Attorney David Leggans presented for Council's consideration a Resolution Approving Professional Services Proposal of Round Table Design, Inc. relating to the Water Main Relocation at South 34th and Veterans Memorial Drive.

Council Member Piper made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving Professional Services Proposal of Round Table Design, Inc. relating to the Water Main Relocation at South 34th and Veterans Memorial Drive. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.

MAYOR

Mayor Chesley presented for Council's consideration the Re-appointment of Chris Mendenall to the 911 Board. **Council Member Lash made a motion to approve the Re-appointment of Chris Mendenall to the 911 Board. Seconded by Council Member McEnaney. Yeas: Lash, McEnaney, Piper, Wood and Chesley.**

The Mayor reminded everyone of the Christmas Craft Fair on December 7, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Rolland W. Lewis Building. How The Grinch Stole Christmas at the Granada Theater at 3:00 p.m. and the downtown parade at 5:00 p.m. The parade theme will be a Star Spangled Christmas. The Historical Village Children's Christmas Party will be held at 1:30 p.m. S'mores Stories with Santa will be presented at the park on December 13. Residents may call the park for more information on letters to Santa and phone calls from Santa.

CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Piper noted that the Aquatic Zoo admission rates are available by called the Park Office, 242-6890.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Dennis Bocoock, II, appeared to express his concern for a stop light at the intersection of South 10th Street and Casey Avenue. He requested parking spaces for parents waiting to pick up high school students on Casey Avenue. Mr. Bocoock was reminded that South 10th Street is a state highway and controlled by the Illinois Department of Transportation. Mayor Chesley requested the Police Department to report on the number of automobile accidents in this area.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins
City Clerk