

**CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS
CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION
Monday, April 13, 2015**

The Mt. Vernon City Council met in Executive Session on Monday, April 13, 2015 at 3:20 p.m. at City Hall, 1100 Main Street, Old Council Chambers, Mt. Vernon, IL.

Mayor Mary Jane Chesley called the Executive Session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition, personnel, sale land, and litigation.

Roll call showed present: Council Members Ron Lash, Dennis McEnaney, Todd Piper, David Wood and Mayor Mary Jane Chesley. Also present were City Manager Ron Neibert and City Clerk Jerilee Hopkins.

LITIGATION

Neibert informed Council of a former City Police Officer, now a County Deputy, who filed a worker compensation case while working for the City. The City's insurance carrier and the Police Officer have been litigating the case for quite some time. The insurance carrier is offering the employee \$7,500 for his injury. The Officer is entitled to full pay and benefits while off work on worker's compensation. A part of the negotiation with the Officer is that he pays back to the City the amount of pay and benefits he earned while off work (\$7,000) because he lost his claim at the Commission. The Officer is asking the City to forgive the repayment of the Officer's pay and benefits of \$7,000. After discussion the consensus was to not forgive the \$7,000 and not authorize the insurance carrier to give the Officer more than \$7,500 for his injury.

PERSONNEL

There was discussion regarding employment of Mary Ellen Bechtel with the City. Should she be appointed as an Assistant City Manager, Interim City Manager or as the permanent City Manager? Neibert recommended she be appointed as Interim City Manager for a specified period of time (9 or 12 months) which gives the new council time to become acquainted with her. If she is not chosen as the permanent City Manager then she has the right to revert back to her previous position as Assistant City Manager. Neibert suggested beginning the search for a City Manager by the end of the year with their appointment date on May 1, 2016. Mayor Chesley agreed to inform the new Council Members of Council's discussion.

LAND ACQUISITION

The City approached the CSX Railroad about acquiring some property on the south side of the lake (about 15 acres including the lake) around the old reservoir for purposes of running the bike trail through the property. The standing offer is \$75,000. Neibert suggested Engineer Brad Ruble approach Ameren again about donating the right-of-way property to the City or agreeing to a permanent right-of-way/easement for the bike trail. The cemetery will not agree to an easement either.

There is a bankruptcy court hearing on May 23 regarding the Jones' property and approval of the proposed sale.

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

Executive Session was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilee Hopkins
City Clerk