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**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.**

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber at City Hall, 1100 Main Street, Mt. Vernon, Illinois. Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/MtVernonIL>.

Mayor John Lewis opened the meeting.

Mr. Roland Mays led the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

The roll call showed present: Council Member Joe Gliosci, Council Member Donte Moore, Council Member Jay Tate, and Mayor John Lewis. Absent: Council Member Mike Young

PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS

The Journals for the January 29, 2026 Budget Workshop, the February 2, 2026 TIF Public Hearing, and the February 2, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting were presented for approval.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve the Journals as presented. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, and Lewis. Absent: Young.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Terry Milt was present representing the YMCA. He is asking for the City to consider partnering together with the YMCA. He spoke about the programs that the YMCA is currently running and the lack of facilities it needs to run their programs. They depend on the schools to let them use their gymnasiums to host games, etc. They are hoping to expand their programs. He would like for the City to consider working with YMCA going forward as the new rec center is being built. He stated the City has one shot to get this right and he feels there is a need for three basketball courts and to have pools the depth that are needed.

Mayor Lewis stated that he and City Manager Nathan McKenna have met with Mr. Milt, and they have told him they will work with the YMCA any way that they can to benefit the community, the City, and his organization. This Council stands ready to assist in any way that is beneficial to everyone in the community.

J. Nelson Wood was next to speak. He wanted to address the issue of the rec center. He commends the Council on where they are today in the process of building a rec center and added it needs to be done right. He has been to several facilities where the pools are multipurpose. He feels the City needs to consider a six lane, multipurpose pool. He had brought Jake Jangahel who manages the Centralia Rec Center to speak with the Council.

Mr. Jangahel was next to speak. He stated he had been part of the building of projects, managing pools, and is currently the operations manager for the Centralia Foundation which operates the Rec Complex. Mr. Jangahel spoke about the cost of running a pool comparing size of pool and cost to run pumps, utilities, etc. He stated a 6-lane pool is not double the cost of a 3-lane pool. Staffing would increase only at the same time as programs are added and revenue sources increase. Centralia has revenue sources from swim teams, pool parties, silver sneakers classes, swim lessons, aqua aerobics, and pool parties etc.

Mayor Lewis stated that the City has a certain amount of bond money and they are trying to work within that. They may need to do some fundraising but are getting estimates now and aren't there yet.

Council Member Moore asked if the City has a real number if the number of lanes went from 3 to 6. City Manager McKenna stated that the current estimates on the entire facility are a broad number based on what they do know, which is square footage of the facility and some of the finishings that are going to be in it. As it stands right now, the pool element is a leisure pool. That would be separating out a 6-lane competition pool from a leisure pool that is a zero-entry pool with a kids splash play structure and a waterslide.

Mr. Wood stated he would like to see a complete analysis of cost. City Manager McKenna stated that the total project cost is \$26M which includes architect fees, engineering, and interior finishes of the building. The cost of construction was set at \$21M. Mayor Lewis said that with prices going up, the City thought it was best to get bonds for \$30M. Currently, the City is trying to get done the initial plans that were shown to the public. City Council Member Donte Moore stated that everyone has always wanted a rec center, and the City is trying to get the numbers together, there are just variables about which we don't know. After numbers together, we will see where we are.

Mr. Jangahel gave additional information regarding swim meets and potential for income. Council Member Tate asked about daily swimmers, etc. Mr. Jangahel stated they have about 200 swimmers daily and also parties that are scheduled on the weekends. He also commented on residual operating costs – maintenance, chemicals, wages, etc.

Mr. Wood stated years ago that when a rec center was being contemplated, there were commitments from Continental, Good Samaritan Hospital and Crossroads. Mayor Lewis stated they have been spoken to, and they are all for this. Council Member Moore stated we need to get the numbers before additional monies are asked for.

Mayor Lewis stated that we want basics – trying to get costs for all. The City is not close to those numbers yet. The City will know more when we get a complete plan if more money needs to be raised. Council Member Gliosci added we all want the nicest facility we can build within budget.

Roland Mays spoke next and was reminded about when the new high school was being built, there were no funds for theater and auditorium. That project would not have happened without the persistence from him, Mary Beth Mezo, and several others. He said we need to do this right, use every possible means, and find the money, do not look back in ten years and say what should have been done.

Troy and Trinda Heitmeyer spoke next. They spoke about the rec center as swim parents involved in swim team for over twenty years. They have been to swim meets all across the state and beyond. They said a competitive pool brings opportunity for the high school to have a swim team again. Their daughter went to college with scholarship to swim. They also added that there is a lot of revenue generated from swim meets. They added they would like to see the City do everything they can to get 6 lanes vs. 3 lanes.

George Neal was next to speak and stated that he is speaking in favor of the rec center and believes the City should plan big. He also stated that he is in favor of the City partnering with the YMCA. He would like to see multiple pickleball courts. It is a fast-growing sport for all ages. He stated he is looking forward to seeing the City getting this done and he is here to show his support.

APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable were presented to the Council for approval.

Council Member Joe Gliosci motioned to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,895,842.58. Seconded by Council Member Jay Tate. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, and Lewis. Absent: Young.

BIDS/QUOTES

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented Bid Results for a Backhoe for Public Utilities. The City received 3 bids for a new backhoe, however only one met the specifications. The bid that met the specs came from Diamond Equipment, Inc. in the amount of \$152,300. Staff recommendation is to award the bid to Diamond Equipment, Inc.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve the Bid Results for a Backhoe for Public Utilities from Diamond Equipment, Inc. in the amount of \$152,300. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, and Lewis. Absent: Young.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented a Street Closure Request for 9th Street between Main Street and Jordan Street on March 28, May 9, June 13, and August 8, 2026, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. for Market Days.

Council Member Jay Tate made the motion to approve the Closure Request for 9th Street between Main Street and Jordan Street on March 28, May 9, June 13, and August 8, 2026, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. for Market Days. Seconded by Council Member Donte Moore. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, and Lewis. Absent: Young.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented an Ordinance Rezoning Property at 1402 Veterans Memorial Drive, PIN 07-31-481-025, from R-2; Medium Density Residential to B-2; Secondary Business. Petitioning Party: Nathan McCoy. This was approved by Planning and Zoning 5-0.

Council Member Joe Gliosci motioned to approve Ordinance #2026-05, an Ordinance Rezoning Property at 1402 Veterans Memorial Drive, PIN 07-31-481-025, from R-2; Medium Density Residential to B-2; Secondary Business. Petitioning Party: Nathan McCoy. Seconded by Council Member Jay Tate. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, and Lewis. Absent: Young.

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented an Ordinance Rezoning Property at 1700 Warren Avenue and 1301-1303 Salem Road from B-2; Secondary Business to R-1; Low Density Residential. Petitioning Party: Marc and Allison Harris. The property is currently zoned commercial. They have a home on 1700 Warren, but also own the adjoining vacant lots on Salem Road. It was approved 5-0 by Planning and Zoning.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve Ordinance #2026-06, an Ordinance Rezoning Property at 1700 Warren Avenue and 1301-1303 Salem Road from B-2; Secondary Business to R-1; Low Density Residential. Petitioning Party: Marc and Allison Harris. Seconded by Council Member Jay Tate. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, and Lewis. Absent: Young.

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented for First Reading of an Ordinance Approving Intergovernmental Agreements Between the City of Mt. Vernon and Mt. Vernon City Schools District 80 and Mt. Vernon Township High School District 201. This is the culmination of negotiations on supporting the extension of the Rt. 15/I-57 TIF District. With this agreement the schools will support the extension, and the City will declare a surplus in three TIF Districts.

Council Member Donte Moore made the motion to suspend the rules and take action on the Ordinance, an Ordinance Approving Intergovernmental Agreements Between the City of Mt. Vernon and Mt. Vernon City Schools District 80 and Mt. Vernon Township High School District 201. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, and Lewis. Absent: Young.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve Ordinance #2026-07, an Ordinance Approving Intergovernmental Agreements Between the City of Mt. Vernon and Mt. Vernon City Schools District 80 and Mt. Vernon Township High School District 201. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, and Lewis. Absent: Young.

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented for First Reading of an Ordinance Approving the Tax Increment Redevelopment Plan and Project for the N. 42nd Street TIF District. This is the final steps to take in establishing the residential TIF District. This Ordinance approves the proposed use and development of the property. There will be a redevelopment agreement with the developer at a later date.

FIRST READING ONLY.

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented for First Reading of an Ordinance Designating the N. 42nd Street TIF District. This Ordinance officially designates the area of the district.

FIRST READING ONLY.

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented for First Reading of an Ordinance Adopting Tax Increment Financing for the N. 42nd Street TIF District. This Ordinance finalizes the process of the establishment of the TIF.

FIRST READING ONLY.

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented for First Reading of an Ordinance Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Providing for Membership in the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network Agreement. This is a renewal of the existing mutual aid agreement which allows for cooperation between communities in an emergency and can assist each other with labor and equipment.

Council Member Donte Moore made the motion to suspend the rules and take action on the Ordinance, an Ordinance Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Providing for Membership in the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network Agreement. Seconded by Council Member Jay Tate. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, and Lewis. Absent: Young.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve Ordinance #2026-08, an Ordinance Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Providing for Membership in the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network Agreement. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, and Lewis. Absent: Young.

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented a Resolution Authorizing Participation as a Member in the Illinois Emergency Management Mutual Aid System Response Pursuant to an Intergovernmental Agreement for the Establishment of a Mutual Aid Intergovernmental Service Agreement. This is also a renewal of the Mutual Aid Agreement for the Emergency Management Services.

Council Member Joe Gliosci made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Participation as a Member in the Illinois Emergency Management Mutual Aid System Response Pursuant to an Intergovernmental Agreement for the Establishment of a Mutual Aid Intergovernmental Service Agreement. Seconded by Council Member Jay Tate. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, and Lewis. Absent: Young. Resolution #2026-07.

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented a Resolution Approving a Redevelopment Agreement with SK Vernon, LLC. With the extension of the Rt. 15/I-57 TIF District the City can finalize the agreement for the hotel development on South 44th Street. The developer agrees to build a Hilton Home2Suite Hotel with an estimated project cost of \$16,500,000. The City agrees to provide TIF assistance for the project. The assistance is capped at 15% of the project cost but not to exceed \$1,980,000, whichever is the lesser amount. In order to meet the obligation, the City will reimburse 70% of the increment generated on an annual basis. The developer will commence work within 6 months of this agreement with 18 months for completion. The developer must submit proof of eligible reimbursable expenses to the City to verify. As part of the agreement with the school districts, 10% of the increment generated will be declared surplus and distributed to all taxing bodies within the district based on the percentage of the tax bill each is associated.

Council Member Joe Gliosci made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving a Redevelopment Agreement with SK Vernon, LLC. Seconded by Council Member Donte Moore. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, and Lewis. Absent: Young. Resolution #2026-08.

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented a Resolution Requesting Permission from IDOT for the Temporary Closure of State Route 15 on July 4, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. for the Salute to Freedom Celebration.

Council Member Joe Gliosci made a motion to approve the Resolution Requesting Permission from IDOT for the Temporary Closure of State Route 15 on July 4, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. for the Salute to Freedom Celebration. Seconded by Council Member Jay Tate. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, and Lewis. Absent: Young. Resolution #2026-09.

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented a Resolution Approving Designated Employees' Authority to Purchase Through State Contracts. With changing in staff over the last year, we need to update those that are authorized to make purchases utilizing the state contract pricing.

Council Member Joe Gliosci made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving Designated Employees' Authority to Purchase Through State Contracts. Seconded by Council Member Donte Moore. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, and Lewis. Absent: Young. Resolution #2026-10.

MAYOR

None.

CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Donte Moore wanted to congratulate Summersville Grade School on their boys' and girls' basketball teams both winning State championships.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:25 p.m., Mayor John Lewis requested an Executive Session under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) – The Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees

Council Member Jay Tate motioned to go into Executive Session under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) – The Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, and Lewis. Absent: Young.

At 8:53 p.m., Mayor John Lewis reconvened the Regular City Council Meeting. Roll call showed present: Council Member Joe Gliosci, Council Member Donte Moore, Council Member Jay Tate, and Mayor John Lewis. Absent: Council Member Mike Young.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, and Lewis. Absent: Young.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Barbour, City Clerk