Rebecca Barbour
City Clerk

City of Mt. Vernon
1100 Main PO Box 1708
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
cityclerk@mtvernon.com

618-242-6815
FAX 618-242-6867
www.mtvernon.com

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CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS
CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION
Tuesday, January 20, 2026

The Mt. Vernon City Council met in Executive Session on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 7:31 p.m. in the City Council Chamber at City Hall, 1100 Main Street, Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

Mayor John Lewis requested an Executive Session under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6) – The Setting of a Price for Sale or Lease of Property Owned by the City.

Mayor John Lewis opened the Executive Session.

The roll call showed present: Council Member Joe Gliosci, Council Member Donte Moore, Council Member Jay Tate, Council Member Mike Young, and Mayor John Lewis. Also present were City Manager Nathan McKenna, City Clerk Becky Barbour, Attorney Courtney Cox, and Fire Chief Chris Yenne.

City Manager Nathan McKenna stated that the Jefferson County Fire District has received a grant of $253,000.00 to go toward building a fire training tower. Mt. Vernon Fire Department is also interested in building a fire training tower and the City, along with Jefferson County, are trying to figure out a way that they could work together to accomplish this. The City has the idea to partition and divide off 3 acres of a 9-acre parcel in the Rolland Lewis Industrial Park to donate and use as a match in the participation of building the fire training tower.

Fire Chief Chris Yenne added that there would be a security fence around it and the police and fire departments could use it and it could also be rented out to other agencies for use. There is no place to train here and currently our firefighters go to other places and pay $1000.00 a day just to train. He stated the life expectancy of a fire tower is about 50 years.

City Manager McKenna stated that the cost of this training tower is $1 million to $1.1 million dollars. The reason for the donation is that in order to fulfil the grant requirements, the County has to own the property. The City would still need an agreement regarding shared use and liability insurance.

Fire Chief Yenne added that the donation of the property, the fencing, water line for a hydrant, the engineering, and approximately $200,000 to $250,000 would be a wonderful contribution by the City toward the training tower.

The Council was in agreement that City Manager should move forward on dividing up the property and working out an agreement with Jefferson County Fire District.

Council Member Jay Tate made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, Young, and Lewis.

The Executive Session adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Barbour

Becky Barbour, City Clerk