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City Clerk



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**City of Mt. Vernon, Illinois
Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.**

The Mt. Vernon City Council held a Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 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 called the meeting to order.

Pastor Brian Fuller with the First Baptist Church of Woodlawn 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, Council Member Mike Young, and Mayor John Lewis.

PRESENTATION OF JOURNALS

The Journals for the August 13, 2026 Budget Workshop Meeting, the August 17, 2026 Regular Council Meeting, and the August 17, 2026 CDBG Public Infrastructure Application Public Hearing were presented for approval.

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

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

Burt Hathaway was present to discuss several items of concern. His first item of concern was with State Route 37 on the entrance into the roadway onto Lyons Court. The State left several inches of asphalt undone on the edge and it needs to be filled in. Mayor Lewis and City Manager Nathan McKenna stated that they will have Public Works take a look at the entrance to the roadway onto Lyons Court. Mr. Hathaway also spoke about the traffic and speeding on Route 37 through town and the loud mufflers. He asked if the police would monitor that and give tickets for those issues. He stated he still has a problem that hasn't been addressed with the loud music from Central Christian Church. The last issue he discussed was with trash pick-up and people

sitting stuff out by the road, and it never gets picked up. Mayor Lewis thanked Mr. Hathaway for his comments.

APPROVAL OF CONSOLIDATED VOUCHERS FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve the Consolidated Vouchers for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$2,170,460.25. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, Young, and Lewis.

BIDS/QUOTES

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented Bid Results for a Water Main Extension from Woodland Drive to the East Side of Continental Tire. This project will add approximately 3000 linear feet of 10" watermain on Woodland Drive to the front side of Continental Tire for support of the new warehouse addition. The City received 5 bids for the water line installation with J.K. Trotter & Sons, Inc. being the lowest bidder with a bid of \$262,823. This is higher than what was budgeted for this project (\$216,000). The difference would be paid out of the working fund balance in the Water Fund. Staff recommendation is to accept the bid.

J.K. Trotters & Sons, Inc.	\$262,823.00
Haier Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	\$592,889.00
Mideastern Plumbing & Heating	\$294,836.00
Kieffer Bros. Construction Co.	\$369,937.09
Wiggs Excavating	\$348,720.00

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve the Bid Results for a Water Main Extension from Woodland Drive to the East Side of Continental Tire from J.K. Trotter & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$262,823. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, Young, and Lewis.

CITY MANAGER

None.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented for First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Title XI Chapter 111, Section 111.02 of the Revised Code of Ordinances Regarding Resident Manager Residence Pertaining to Liquor Licenses. The change to this Ordinance was a request by Pirate Pete's, a new business in Mt. Vernon. Currently, the City's Ordinance requires a resident

manager to reside in Jefferson County for any liquor license holder. The proposed change would mirror recent changes to the personnel policy to allow residency in adjacent counties.

Council Member Donte Moore made the motion to suspend the rules and take action on the Ordinance, an Ordinance Amending Title XI Chapter 111, Section 111.02 of the Revised Code of Ordinances Regarding Resident Manager Residence Pertaining to Liquor Licenses. Seconded by Council Member Joe Gliosci. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, Young, and Lewis.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve Ordinance #2026-29, an Ordinance Amending Title XI Chapter 111, Section 111.02 of the Revised Code of Ordinances Regarding Resident Manager Residence Pertaining to Liquor Licenses. Seconded by Council Member Jay Tate. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, Young, and Lewis.

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented for First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Title XV, Chapter 150 and Title XV, Chapter 156 of the Revised Code of Ordinances Regarding Written Notice Requirements Prior to Filing a Lawsuit for Demolition. This change is necessitated to follow state statute. Currently, the City provides a 10-day notice this ordinance will amend the notice period to 15 days before applying to the Circuit Court for an order authorizing the City to take corrective action, such as condemnation proceedings.

Council Member Joe Gliosci made the motion to suspend the rules and take action on the Ordinance, an Ordinance Amending Title XV, Chapter 150 and Title XV, Chapter 156 of the Revised Code of Ordinances Regarding Written Notice Requirements Prior to Filing a Lawsuit for Demolition. Seconded by Council Member Jay Tate. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, Young, and Lewis.

Council Member Joe Gliosci motioned to approve Ordinance #2026-30, an Ordinance Amending Title XV, Chapter 150 and Title XV, Chapter 156 of the Revised Code of Ordinances Regarding Written Notice Requirements Prior to Filing a Lawsuit for Demolition. Seconded by Council Member Jay Tate. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, Young, and Lewis.

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented a Resolution to Support the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant. The City had applied for this grant in 2024 for Streetscape improvements on Broadway, 11th Street, Main Street, and State Route 37. The total project was approximately 3 million dollars. We intend to revise the scope of work to bring the project cost amount down to better our chances of receiving funding. The City will be required to contribute matching funds between 20% and 50% of the total project cost. If awarded, this would be in next year's budget.

Council Member Joe Gliosci motioned to approve a Resolution to Support the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant. Seconded by Council Member Jay Tate. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, Young, and Lewis. Resolution #2026-39.

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented a Resolution to Accept the Proposal from Round Table Design for a New Public Works & Utilities Building. The City has \$3 million budgeted to construct a new outbuilding at Public Works. Round Table will provide architect and engineering services on the project. The building will be similar to the park storage building at Veterans Park and will be located south of the existing parking lot. Fencing will be expanded to enclose the property, and the current outbuildings will also receive some updating.

Mayor Lewis added that there is some misinformation on social media regarding this new building. The Council has been discussing this matter for about eight years. The City has a lot of brand-new equipment that is sitting out in the weather. The City has been saving diligently over the last few years to make this happen without a tax increase.

Council Member Mike Young motioned to approve a Resolution to Accept the Proposal from Round Table Design for a New Public Works & Utilities Building. Seconded by Council Member Jay Tate. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, Young, and Lewis. Resolution #2026-40.

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Hutchison Recreation and Design for the Acquisition and Installation of Certain Playground Equipment at Jamison Park. As part of the effort to continue to upgrade the parks, Jamison Park is the last neighborhood park needing improved playground equipment. This Resolution would allow the City to purchase the equipment through the Sourcewell Purchasing Contract as we did with the last three playgrounds. This includes a new play structure, swing set, and also will make the playground ADA accessible. City crews will do most of the prep work on the site and Hutchison Recreation will install the equipment. The equipment quote is for \$94,000. The site work will cost an additional \$10,000. We had budgeted \$150,000 in the Quality-of-Life Fund for improvements at the park.

Council Member Moore asked if this will include a parking lot. City Manager McKenna stated that they are discussing adding a few parking spots there but that is not included in this cost.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Hutchison Recreation and Design for the Acquisition and Installation of Certain Playground Equipment at Jamison Park. Seconded by Council Member Jay Tate. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, Young, and Lewis. Resolution #2026-41.

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented a Resolution to Enter into an Amendment to the Water Service Agreement with the Village of Belle Rive. The Village is applying for grant funding from IEPA. In order to secure the funding, they needed to show an additional 40-year commitment of water supply purchasing from the City. This will extend the existing Agreement to December 2066. There are no other changes to the terms of the Water Purchase Agreement.

Council Member Joe Gliosci motioned to approve a Resolution to Enter into an Amendment to the Water Service Agreement with the Village of Belle Rive. Seconded by Council Member Jay Tate. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Tate, Young, and Lewis. Resolution #2026-42.

City Manager Nathan McKenna presented a Resolution Approving an Agreement with The Fource Group, LLC to Develop and Implement a Comprehensive Branding, Marketing, Communications, Sponsorship, and Membership Strategy for the Recreation Center. As the design of the indoor recreation center is concluding and getting close to project bidding, planning for opening of the facility has begun. Parks Director McKenzie May has been working on programming of the facility, which is yet to have an official name. The Agreement is a multi-year Agreement through December of 2028 and consists of many components and phases including brand development and project launch, groundbreaking and community launch, sponsorship development, environmental branding concepts, membership strategy, and a pre-opening campaign. The purpose of this agreement is to build membership and facility awareness to be successful from opening day. The cost per the Agreement is \$309,000 which would be paid over the next two years.

Tom Faulkner and Maureen Woodrome with The Fource Group were present to give a presentation and answer any questions or concerns from the Council. Ms. Woodrome handed out information regarding their services to the Council. Mr. Faulkner explained that they specialize in branding, marketing, website development, membership and recruitment. He stated that they were introduced to the City of Mt. Vernon by the City of Fairview Heights, which has been a client of theirs since 2017. Mr. Faulkner explained how The Fource Group approaches the marketing and branding of the new rec center. He further stated that they offer many services including coming up with a name, logo, and a promotional campaign. They also provide strategies to recruit members, sponsorships, and partnerships for the facility. They also operate the facility's website and social media presence which provides year-round advertising and communications services. He explained that their website keeps track of online registration and revenue tracking. They take the approach of running this as a business. They start with a name, and they have a proven process to do that. After that, he stated that they build a website which gives the public access to what is being built, what is going on during the building process, and how to become a member. This helps have members when the doors are open to the new facility and helps keep people engaged in the process. They will work with the design team and the architects. They have videographers and photographers that help create content and media. They will work with Parks Director McKenzie May and her team to identify what type of memberships that will be offered so that can be set up ahead of opening so that people will know how to join and what the cost will be.

In speaking as an example, Mr. Faulkner described how they got some of the larger companies to be in a partnership with the Fairview Heights facility, rather than a one-time donation. The partnerships are ongoing as donations are normally one-time. This brings in more revenue.

Council Member Donte Moore asked if they go out and get the sponsorships and partnerships. Mr. Faulkner explained it is more of a joint effort with the City. The Fource Group would come up with a strategy, the materials, and training to help our people go into the community to seek those sponsors and partners.

Mayor Lewis added that when speaking with the Mayor of Fairview Heights, he stated that if you were to hire two good marketing people, for that price you get these people which is a team of 20 plus that you can call upon. He said the sponsorships and partnerships plus the memberships have brought in much more than what they paid to the Fource Group.

Mr. Faulkner also talked about event planning, for example, the groundbreaking, and how to make that different and more memorable. Also, planning events, even when the facility is still under construction, is important because people will talk about it and share on social media.

Council Member Donte Moore asked about the breakdown of the fees. Mr. Faulkner explained the different fees and possible third-party expenses. He explained that their fees are set at and not to exceed \$309,600 through December, 2028, however, there can be some third-party expenses.

Council Member Jay Tate asked what happens after December, 2028 at the end of the agreement. Mr. Faulkner stated that they would meet with the City and they would revise an Agreement based on the scope of work needed at that time. He also stated that the website, photography, and videos that they have created during the contract are owned by the City.

Council Member Donte Moore stated that if the City is wanting this new rec center to be a success, he feels that we need a component like this to really get this going. We want this to be successful for 30 to 40 years.

Council Member Donte Moore motioned to approve a Resolution Approving an Agreement with The Fource Group, LLC to Develop and Implement a Comprehensive Branding, Marketing, Communications, Sponsorship, and Membership Strategy for the Recreation Center. Seconded by Council Member Mike Young. Yeas: Gliosci, Moore, Young, and Lewis. Nay: Tate. Motion carried. Resolution #2026-43.

MAYOR

None.

CITY COUNCIL

None.

VISITORS/CITIZENS REQUESTS/ADDRESSES FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Barbour".

Becky Barbour, City Clerk