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**CITY OF MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS
CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION
Monday, May 20, 2024**

The Mt. Vernon City Council met in Executive Session on Monday May 20, 2024 at 7:25 p.m. in the City Council Chamber at City Hall, 1100 Main Street, Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

Mayor John Lewis opened the Executive Session.

Roll call showed present: Council Member Ray Botch, Council Member Joe Gliosci, Council Member Donte Moore, Council Member Mike Young, and Mayor John Lewis. Also present were City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel, City Attorney Courtney Cox, Assistant City Manager Nathan McKenna, and Deputy City Clerk Becky Barbour.

Mayor John Lewis requested an Executive Session under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6) – Sale and Lease of Real Property; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) Appointment, Employment of Personnel; and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) Purchase of Real Property.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel stated the first item to discuss is the property at 805 Main Street. Al Cross was at our last meeting inquiring about this property and stated he had two people interested in this property. There was discussion regarding the property and who actually would be purchasing the property, as there was also confusion as to the entity the City would be dealing with on the possible sale of the building. City Manager Bechtel will check further to obtain additional information from Mr. Cross.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel stated the next item is regarding property on South 27th Street. In 2015, there was a project to purchase this land, which is a trailer park. There was an agreement to purchase plus additional terms regarding the mobile homes being moved to another location. That project did not materialize at that time. The property went into bankruptcy, and this delayed the project. When it came out of bankruptcy, the owner wanted more money and the council said no at that time. If the City is interested in purchasing this property, there would need to be a new appraisal of the property and would need permission from the owner to have an appraisal done. Bechtel will contact the owner if Council is interested in moving forward. The Council agreed that Bechtel should contact the owner and move forward with an appraisal if the owner agrees to that.

The next item concerns 18.97 acres adjacent to Chesley Industrial Park across from GreenTree at Mt. Vernon. This property has gone back to the bank and the bank has it for sale. There was

discussion regarding the property and the Council agreed it would be worth purchasing and that City Manager Bechtel should make an offer of the full price to the bank.

Assistant City Manager Nathan McKenna left the meeting.

City Manager Mary Ellen Bechtel stated the next item is regarding employment of personnel. She stated that her retirement is planned for June, 2025, the City needs to have an Agreement and offer in place for her replacement. If Assistant City Manager Nathan McKenna is considered for City Manager as City Manager Bechtel retires, the Council needs to put that in place. There was a discussion regarding Assistant City Manager McKenna and his future with the City and going forward when hiring a new City Manager. If the intent is to hire Assistant City Manager McKenna, Attorney Leggans had stated the City should do an Agreement stating that as City Manager Bechtel retires, the City has the intention to hire Assistant City Manager McKenna as City Manager, however if the City would change their mind, he would be entitled to compensation. An Agreement would have to be approved in open session. The Council agreed that our City Attorney should draft an Agreement for the Council to review and approve.

Assistant City Manager Nathan McKenna rejoined the meeting.

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

The Executive Session adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Barbour, Deputy City Clerk