

Due to the number of Covid 19 cases in Linn County, the City Council is reinstating Zoom only Council meetings as a precautionary measure. Residents were allowed to use the chat feature to present questions and/or make comments during the various stages of the Council meeting. The following information was needed for those who attended via Zoom: Telephone: 1-312-626-6799, Meeting ID: 841 8434 3140, Password: 600832. If assistance was needed before the meeting they could contact City Administrator Chris Nosbisch at 319-359-8613. The following Council members present via Zoom were: West, Wieseler, Herrmann, Roudabush and Rose.

**Call to Order.** At 6:30 p.m. Mayor Jamie Hampton called the meeting to order.

**Agenda Additions/Agenda Approval.** Motion made by West, seconded by Wieseler to approve agenda. Carried all.

**Consent Agenda.** Motion made by Wieseler, seconded by Herrmann to approve Consent Agenda. Carried all.

Approval of City Council Minutes – March 15, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Approval of Liquor License – Mt. Vernon Creates

Approval of Liquor License – Casey's General Store #1599

Appoint Michelle Omar, LMVAS Board

Extend the Term for the Following HPC Members by One Year: Donald Moore, 2021 to 2022; Guy Booth, 2021 to 2022; Current vacancy, 2021 to 2022

### **Public Hearing**

Public Hearing for Consideration of the City of Mt. Vernon Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Mayor Hampton declared the Public Hearing open. Close public hearing – proceed to G-1. Hearing no comments from the public Mayor Hampton closed the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing for an Ordinance Vacating and Selling a Portion of a Sixteen Foot Alley Located Adjacent to 212 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW, 200 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW, and 407 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW, Within the City Limits of Mt. Vernon, Linn County, Iowa. Mayor Hampton declared the Public Hearing open. Close public hearing – proceed to F-2. Hearing no comments from the public Mayor Hampton closed the Public Hearing.

### **Ordinance Approval/Amendment**

Ordinance #3-15-2021A: Amending the Comprehensive Plan and Official Zoning Map to Rezone Certain Property from AG Agricultural District to SR Suburban Residential District. Staff has not received any additional written or verbal communication regarding the rezoning request since the first reading of the ordinance. Motion made by Wieseler, seconded by Rose to approve second reading of Ordinance #3-15-2021A amending the Comprehensive Plan and Official Zoning Map to Rezone Certain Property from AG Agricultural District to SR Suburban Residential District. Roll call all yes.

Ordinance #4-5-2021A: Vacating and Selling a Portion of a Sixteen Foot Alley Located Adjacent to 212 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW, 200 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW, and 407 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW, Within the City Limits of Mt. Vernon, Linn County, Iowa. The east/west alley within this block is being used solely for utility lines. The north/south alley (not being vacated) is utilized by the residents for access to their properties. Their access is not contingent on use of the alley that is being proposed for vacation and sale. The City would maintain an easement on the

entire section of vacated alley as there are utility lines present. Motion to approve first reading of Ordinance #4-5-2-2021A made by Rose, seconded by West. Roll call all yes.

### Resolutions for Approval

Resolution #4-5-2021A: Approving the City of Mt. Vernon Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The majority of the amendment is made up of Covid, derecho and combining services expenses. Motion made by West, seconded by Wieseler to approve Resolution #4-5-2021A approving the City of Mount Vernon Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Roll call all yes.

### Mayoral Proclamation

Proclamation Recognizing April 2021 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the City of Mt. Vernon, Iowa.

### Motions for Approval

Consideration of Claims List – Motion to Approve. Motion made by Rose, seconded by West to approve claims list. Carried all.

AAA PEST CONTROL	PEST CONTROL-PD	55.00
AAA PEST CONTROL	PEST CONTROL-P&A	30.00
ABBEY JOHNSON	DEPOSIT REFUND-WAT	27.15
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-LBC	3,574.77
ALLIANT IES UTILITIES	ENERGY USAGE-SEW	5,431.89
ALLIANT IES UTILITIES	ENERGY USAGE-WAT	1,696.92
ALLIANT IES UTILITIES	ENERGY USAGE-PD	1,092.03
ALLIANT IES UTILITIES	ENERGY USAGE-SEW	312.71
ALLIANT IES UTILITIES	ENERGY USAGE-P&REC	72.32
ALLIANT IES UTILITIES	ENERGY USAGE-EMA	22.77
ALLIANT IES UTILITIES	ENERGY USAGE-CEM	19.07
AMY BUTZ	REFUND-P&REC	35.00
AQUAFIX	LAB TESTING-SEW	2,942.20
B4 VENTURES LLC	ATERRA-ALL DEPTS	149.90
BARNYARD SCREENPRINTING	T-SHIRTS-P&REC	1,623.50
BEN BRANNAMAN	REFUND-LBC	90.00
BOCKENSTEDT EXCAVATING INC	GRINDING-S/W	35,517.50
BROWN PLUMBING COMPANY	TOILET REPAIRS-LBC	325.28
BROWN SUPPLY COMPANY	COUPLING-WAT	434.00
CANINE TACTICAL LLC	TRAINING-K9	350.00
CENTRAL IOWA DISTRIBUTING	SUPPLIES-LBC	296.50
CENTRAL IOWA DISTRIBUTING	SUPPLIES-LBC	206.10
CHRIS NOSBISCH	MILEAGE-P&A	129.36
CITY LAUNDERING	SERVICES-LBC	213.40
CITY LAUNDERING CO	SERVICES-LBC	213.40
CITY LAUNDERING CO	SERVICES-LBC	204.64
COGRAN SYSTEMS	ONLINE REGISTRATION FEES-P&REC	102.00
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP	HOTEL/MOTEL TAX PYMT-ECON DEV	13,527.76
DE NOVO	MONTHLY MAINT-LBC	300.00
DELTA DENTAL	INSURANCE	1,573.22
DIESEL TURBO SERVICES INC	EQUIPMENT REPAIRS-RUT	381.00
DIESEL TURBO SERVICES INC	VEHICLE REPAIRS-RUT	81.50
ECHECK.NET FUNDING	REFUND-LBC	58.85
EMILY BEEHLER	FUEL-PD	42.06
EVOQUE WATER TECHNOLOGIES LLC	CHEMICALS-WAT	1,325.00
GARLING CONSTRUCTION INC	WELLNESS CENTER-LOST III	357,285.12
GARY'S FOODS	SUPPLIES-P&REC	61.63
GORDON LUMBER	BLDG SUPPLIES-PD	14.00

IOWA DIVISION OF LABOR	ELEVATOR PERMIT/INSPECTION-LBC	225.00
IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES	BAGS-RUT	301.87
IOWA SOLUTIONS	COMPUTER MAINT-PD	925.00
IOWA SOLUTIONS	MONTHLY MAINT-ALL DEPTS	902.30
JOENA'S SPECIAL NEEDS	UNIFORMS-PD	15.00
JOENA'S SPECIAL NEEDS	UNIFORMS-PD	10.00
JOE'S QUALITY WINDOW CLEANING	WINDOW CLEANING-P&A	125.00
JOE'S QUALITY WINDOW CLEANING	WINDOW CLEANING-PD	80.00
JOE'S QUALITY WINDOW CLEANING	WINDOW CLEANING-PD	80.00
JORDAN AXTELL	REFEREE-P&REC	100.00
KONE INC	ELEVATOR MAINT-P&A	84.87
KONICA MINOLTA	MAINT PLAN/COPIES-LBC	5.66
KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	MAINTENANCE PLAN/COPIES-LBC	130.38
LBC BANKCARD 8076	CREDIT CARD FEES-LBC	318.83
LIBERTY DOORS INC	BLDG MAINT-PD	175.00
LINN CO-OP OIL CO	FUEL-PW	2,974.48
LYNCH FORD	VEHICLE MAINT-PD	69.16
MEDIACOM	PHONE/INTERNET-P&A	343.13
MEDIACOM	PHONE/INTERNET-RUT	242.01
MEDIACOM	PHONE/INTERNET-PD	470.83
MEDIACOM	PHONE/INTERNET-WWTP	269.10
MEDIACOM	PHONE/INTERNET-P&REC	241.01
MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	STORM SEWER REPAIRS-SEW	28,150.00
NEAL'S WATER CONDITIONING	WATER/SALT-RUT,P&A	52.75
OFFICE EXPRESS	TONER-ALL DEPTS	358.44
OFFICE EXPRESS	MASKS-ALL DEPTS	379.98
PAYROLL	CLAIMS	86,167.32
PIGOTT INC	CITY HALL PROJECT	3,574.48
PITNEY BOWES	SUPPLIES-ALL DEPTS	209.90
POSTMASTER	NEWSLETTER-ALL DEPTS	473.54
POSTMASTER	POSTAGE-WAT,SEW,SW	396.40
PUSH-PEDAL-PULL	CONSTRUCTION-LBC	195.00
REC DESK LLC	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION-LBC	5,614.90
RICKARD SIGN AND DESIGN CORP	VEHICLE MAINT-PD	3,469.00
RICKARD SIGN AND DESIGN CORP	DRUG BOX LOGO,ENTRANCE-PD	243.00
ROBERT BUSER	ISFSI MEMBERSHIP-EMA	125.00
ROXANNE ROLLAND	REFUND-LBC	157.90
SARAH FRIED	DEPOSIT REFUND-WAT	52.63
SCHRADER EXCAV. & GRADING CO	WAGON PASS PROJECT	6,313.46
SHERWIN WILLIAMS	PAINT-SEW	230.88
SHERWIN WILLIAMS CO.	BLDG REPAIR-P&A	32.44
SIMMONS PERRINE MOYER BERGMAN	LEGAL FEES-P&A	3,573.50
SIMMONS PERRINE MOYER BERGMAN	LEGAL FEES-P&A	1,017.50
SIRCHIE	SUPPLIES-PD	116.12
SJ SMITH CO, INC	WELDER-RUT	2,900.00
SJ SMITH CO, INC	WELDER WIRE-RUT	81.84
SJ SMITH CO, INC	WELDER TIPS-RUT	15.33
STAPLES	SUPPLIES-PD	17.40
STEVE MOEL	REIMB DOG FOOD-K9	70.99
STORM STEEL	EQUIPMENT MAINT-RUT	295.35
STORM STEEL	EQUIPMENT MAINT-RUT	11.37
STREICHERS	UNIFORMS-PD	1,313.00
STREICHERS	UNIFORMS-PD	149.00
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE	INSURANCE	1,520.23

TECHNICOM	REPAIRS-P&A	301.44
TRI-CITY ELECTRIC CO OF IOWA	SZ SOFTWARE LIC RENEWAL-LBC	426.65
TRI-CITY ELECTRIC CO OF IOWA	BLDG MAINT-LBC	364.96
TRI-CITY ELECTRIC CO OF IOWA	SERVICES-LBC	353.00
US BANK	CREDIT CARD PURCHASES	8,385.59
US CELLULAR	CELL PHONE-P&REC,WAT,SEW	173.37
VEENSTRA & KIMM INC	CITY ENGINEERING GENERAL	752.00
VEENSTRA & KIMM INC	NPDES PERMIT RRENEWAL-SEW	186.00
WAPSI WASTE SERVICES	GB,RECYL-SW	22,587.52
WATER SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED INC	CHEMICALS-WAT	4,319.81
WELLMARK	INSURANCE	21,595.14
WENDLING QUARRIES	ROCK-WAT	1,213.81
TOTAL		645,844.12
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS		9,887.94
GENERAL FUND		47,174.55
LBC		15,349.87
LOST III COMMUNITY CENTER		359,241.79
PAYROLL		86,167.32
ROAD USE TAX		8,064.43
SEWER FUND		43,581.77
SOLID WASTE		60,347.54
STORM WATER FUND		715.97
WATER FUND		15,312.94
TOTAL		645,844.12

Discussion and Consideration of Modifications to the Dog Licensing Requirements for the City of Mt. Vernon – Council Action as Needed. The City currently requires annual renewal of dog licenses, although there has been very little follow up conducted on the renewals during Covid. When talking with staff, ensuring the public obtains the initial license is the key to tracking down owners when an animal is found at large. The annual renewal becomes cumbersome for both residents and staff. Staff is recommending the City move to a simple one time dog license issuance. Council members were in agreement with moving forward and discussing this change with an ordinance amendment.

Discussion and Consideration of Purchasing a Finish Mower for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 – Council Action as Needed. Each of the next three items are listed in the CIP for FY2022. The issue we are seeing this year is Covid related production delays. The City will not be invoiced for the equipment until July 1, 2021, however, delaying the order until that date will cause us to miss critical windows of use. One item of note, the F550 purchase was shown in the CIP as an F450 replacement. The budget dollars of \$100,000 remain the same, but the F550 is more versatile. Motion made by Wieseler, seconded by Rose to approve the purchase of a finish mower for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$15,000. Carried all.

Discussion and Consideration of Purchasing a Ford F550 4x4 for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 – Council Action as Needed. Motion made by West, seconded by Wieseler to approve the purchase of a Ford F550 4x4 for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 at a cost not to exceed \$100,000. Carried all.

Discussion and Consideration of Purchasing a Ford F250 4x4 for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 – Council Action as Needed. Motion made by Rose, seconded by Wieseler to approve the purchase of a Ford F250 4x4 for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 at a cost not to exceed \$30,175. Carried all.

Discussion and Consideration of the Police Department Phase II Renovations – Council Action as Needed. Staff has been working with Martin Gardner Architecture on the expected costs to complete renovations at the new police station. They are estimating an additional \$700,000 in construction, plus \$79,000 in additional design fees. This was a Council goal for the next two years, so staff would like to discuss possible paths moving forward. Nobsch said if the City moves forward with a project of this magnitude, the City will need to look into different funding avenues (borrowing, combination of cash/borrowing, TIF). The consensus from Council was that this was a priority to move forward on. Nobsch will work with MGA to get more definite numbers and also work with Speer Financial on financing options.

Discussion and Consideration of Setting a Public Hearing Date Amending Chapter 77 All-Terrain Vehicles and Snowmobiles – Council Action as Needed. Staff is working on a proposed ordinance similar to the one adopted by the City of Lisbon. This would allow for continuity between the two communities, and the police department staff charged with enforcement. Motion made by Wieseler, seconded by Rose to set the public hearing date for April 19, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Carried all.

Discussion and Consideration of Voluntary Extension of Covid Leave Time Until July 1, 2021 – Council Action as Needed. Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, employees were granted up to 80 hours of Covid relief time if they met certain conditions (required to quarantine, tested positive for Covid, etc). The Covid relief period initially ended in December 2020, although subsequent relief packages have allowed employers to voluntarily extend this leave until September 2021. At the current rate of vaccination, staff is recommending a voluntary extension of this time until July 1, 2021. Individuals that can are still able to work remotely if need be, but not all employees are able to do that. Nobsch explained that this would be paid time off and employees would not be required to use their accrued vacation/sick time. Motion made by Rose, seconded by Wieseler to extend the Covid leave time until July 1, 2021. Voting yes: Wieseler, Rose, West, and Herrmann. Voting no: Roudabush. Motion carries.

Discussion and Consideration of LBC Rental Fee Reduction/Waiver – Book Club at Cole Library – Council Action as Needed. The City has actually received two requests for fee waivers. The book club that normally hosts events at the Cole Public Library has requested a waiver of the fees for a meeting at the LBC. Historically, waivers have been limited to government boards and commissions, and non-profit organizations. The consensus was to leave the current practice as is, but agreed that a formal policy is something to be considered. No action taken. Fees will not be waived.

### **Discussion Items (No Action)**

Lincoln Highway Signage. Derecho damaged a number of signs in the County and the current plan is to replace them over the course of the next four years. Linn County Historical Society has asked if alternative locations should be considered and staff suggested looking at Memorial Park. The City could donate to the cause and speed up the placement of the Mt. Vernon sign.

Covid Policies/Discussions. Based upon the latest information, vaccination rates could hit the necessary number between May and July. Staff is receiving a few more calls from local businesses inquiring about the status of the mask resolution (whether it is still in effect). Some businesses have been good about the enforcement of masks, while others are more hit and miss.

Water Meter Program. This has been an on-going “wish list” item in the CIP for the past five years. The estimated cost of meter purchase, install, and technology upgrades is estimated to be in the \$500,000 to \$800,000 range. The difference being on how advanced the new system will be, and who installs the meters. There are lease to purchase programs, but they will still run in the neighborhood of \$75,000 to \$90,000 per year (over the course of 10 years). The City would start to see a reduction in water revenue

monies that are designated for bond payments in 2025 and could use that money for the program, otherwise we could add 1-2% to the 3% increase over the next five years. Unfortunately, we are going to have to address the age of meters at some point relatively soon. Employees spend four to six days reading meters and leak detection does not happen for approximately a month.

### **Reports of Mayor/Council/Administrator**

City Administrator's Report. Staff is working with representatives from the League of Women Voters on rescheduling a State of the City address that was originally scheduled for 2019. The Fire Department Advisory Board met last week to complete a year-end review. The Township representatives have asked the Fire Chief to report on controlled CRP burns and the effects of implementing a program would have on staff and equipment. The City will be receiving 200 tree seedlings from the Iowa DNR at the end of the month. Half of the trees will be used to repopulate city grounds, and the other half is being proposed for homeowners. These are not right of way trees as seedlings have an extremely hard time surviving in the right of way. More information will be made available in the coming weeks.

**Closed Session** - Pursuant to Chapter 21.5 (1) J, the City Council may enter into closed session, "to discuss the purchase or sale of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property or reduce the price the governmental body would receive for that property. Motion to go into Closed Session made by Rose, seconded by Wieseler, the time being 7:56 p.m. Carried all. "Exit Closed Session – Council Action as Needed. Motion to come out of Closed Session made by Herrmann, seconded by Wieseler, the time being 8:19 p.m. Carried all. No action was taken by Council.

As there was no further business to attend to the meeting adjourned the time being 8:19 p.m., April 5, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marsha Dewell  
Deputy Clerk