

The Mount Vernon City Council met August 21, 2023, at City Hall, 213 1st Street NW, Mount Vernon, IA. A Zoom option was available. The following Council members were present: Engel, West, Tuerler and Rose. Absent: Herrmann.

Call to Order. At 6:30 p.m. Mayor Thomas M. Wieseler called the meeting to order.

Agenda Additions/Agenda Approval. Motion made by Rose, seconded by Tuerler to approve the Agenda. Motion carries. Herrmann absent.

Consent Agenda. Motion made by Tuerler, seconded by Engel to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carries. Herrmann absent.

Approval of City Council Minutes – August 7, 2023 Regular Council Meeting

Resolutions for Approval. Resolution #8-21-2023A: Accepting Public Improvement Installation for the Stonebrook 9th Addition Subdivision. The public improvements for Stonebrook 9th Addition (17th Ave SW) have been completed and inspected by the city engineer. One project remains from the review, and that is the grinding of the 17th Avenue street surface. Small inundations on the surface create a slight “washboard” affect when driving at slow speeds. There is no particular “smoothness” standard within the city code, however the developer has agreed to grind the surface. Motion made by West, seconded by Rose to approve Resolution #8-21-2023A Accepting Public Improvement Installation for the Stonebrook 9th Addition Subdivision. Roll call all yes. Resolution passes. Herrmann absent.

Motions for Approval

Consideration of Claims List – Motion to Approve. Motion made by Rose, seconded by West to approve the Claims List. Motion carries. Herrmann absent.

ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-POOL	4,375.84
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-WAT	3,832.68
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-FD	810.75
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-RUT	469.67
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-WAT	390.77
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-P&A	288.31
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-P&REC	244.55
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-PD,RUT	209.12
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-ST LIGHTS	186.24
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-RUT,WAT,SEW,P&A	76.28
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-SEW	6,752.46
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-LBC	5,014.30
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-ST LIGHTS	4,688.30
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-WAT	2,516.80
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-SEW	533.22
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-ST LIGHTS	210.59
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-P&REC	74.70
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-SIRENS	48.08
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-SEW	35.29

ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-P&REC	31.64
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-SW	27.87
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-CEM	20.38
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-PD	13.08
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-WAT	12.39
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-P&REC	243.12
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-LBC	217.57
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-P&REC	199.80
ARAMARK	RUGS,SERVICES-FD	80.57
ARAMARK	RUGS,SERVICES-FD	80.57
BANKCARD 8076	CREDIT CARD FEES-LBC,POOL,P&REC	803.20
BRADLEY HAUGE CPA	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES-ALL DEPTS	5,640.00
BUD'S AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR	EQUIP REPAIR-RUT	29.95
CAUSE TEAM	UNIFORMS-POOL	28.00
CAUSE TEAM	UNIFORMS-PD	278.75
CENTURY LINK	PHONE CHARGES-PD	61.22
CITY LAUNDERING CO	SERVICES-P&A	69.33
CITY LAUNDERING CO	SERVICES-LBC	234.55
CITY LAUNDERING CO	SERVICES-P&A	69.33
CUMMINS SALES AND SERVICE	GENERATOR REPAIRS-WAT,SEW	952.41
DE NOVO MARKETING	COMM PLATFORM-ALL DEPTS	3,500.00
DIESEL TURBO SERVICES INC	VEHICLE MAINT-RUT	979.48
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	GROUP INSURANCE-ALL DEPTS	36,519.09
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	INSURANCE CLAIMS-ALL DEPTS	644.14
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	INSURANCE CLAIMS-ALL DEPTS	220.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	INSURANCE CLAIMS-ALL DEPTS	1,837.69
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	INSURANCE CLAIMS-ALL DEPTS	260.00
EVIDENT INC	SUPPLIES-PD	96.00
EVIDENT INC	SUPPLIES-PD	64.00
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING BUREAU	TRAINING-FD	150.00
FITZGIBBON WOODWORKING	WHALE ART-LOST III COMM CENTER	247.50
GAZETTE COMMUNICATIONS	ADS/PUBLICATIONS-PD	31.86
HAWKEYE FIRE & SAFETY	AIR PACK TESTING-FD	695.00
HAWKEYE FIRE & SAFETY	SUPPLIES-WAT	56.00
HAWKINS INC	CHEMICALS-WAT	20.00
HDC PRINTED PRODUCTS	ENVELOPES-PD	184.04
HUNTER RICKELS	INSTRUCTOR-LBC	50.00
IOWA INSURANCE DIVISION	509A FILING FEE-P&A	101.59
IOWA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY	TRAINING-PD	175.00
IOWA SOLUTIONS INC	MONTHLY MAINT-ALL DEPTS	782.50
J ROBERT HOPSON	ACTUARIAL CERT-ALL DEPTS	550.00
JEFFREY L SCHMATT	INSTRUCTOR-LBC	273.00
KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	MAINT PLAN/COPIES-PD	217.68
KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	MAINT PLAN/COPIES-LBC	57.50
L.L. PELLING CO INC	PAY APP #2 (FINAL)-PALISADES ROAD OVERLAY	18,415.27
LOU'S GLOVES	GLOVES-SEW	106.00
LYNCH DALLAS PC	LEGAL FEES-P&A	1,748.81
M & K DUST CONTROL	DUST CONTROL-RUT	2,580.00
MARKET STREET	SERVICES-MVHPC	64.00
MARTIN GARDNER ARCHITECTURE	CONSTRUCTION ADMIN-PD CONSTRUCTION	1,335.78
MEDIACOM	PHONE/INTERNET-POOL	736.13
MEDIACOM	PHONE/INTERNET-RUT	261.49
MIDWEST MUNICIPAL CONSULTING	GOAL SETTING SERVICES-ALL DEPTS	1,827.75
MIDWEST SAFETY COUNSELORS	INSTRUMENT CALIBRATION-FD	75.00

MIDWEST WHEEL CO	VEHICLE MAINT-RUT	344.50
MONTICELLO PARKS & RECREATION	RIBBONS/MEDALS-POOL	96.60
MOUNT VERNON ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-ALL DEPTS	2,005.58
MT VERNON ROAD TIRE CO	VEHICLE MAINT-PD	733.12
OTTSEN OIL COMPANY	EQUIP REPAIR-SEW	636.15
P&K MIDWEST INC	GENERATOR REPAIRS-SEW,FD	452.87
PAYROLL	CLAIMS	142,491.94
PEAK CONSTRUCTION	PAY APP #6 (FINAL)-PW STORAGE	25,230.00
PNP	FUEL-PD	1,872.68
PROFESSIONAL WINDOW CLEANING	WINDOW CLEANING-PD	40.00
PROFESSIONAL WINDOW CLEANING	WINDOW CLEANING-P&A	72.00
RACOM CORPORATION	RADIOS/TABLETS-PD	106.47
RC TECH	CAMERA SERVICE-SW	186.50
RICHARD BURROUGHS	CEMETERY MAINT	965.00
SEPTAGON CONSTRUCTION	PAY APP #8-PD CONSTRUCTION	67,837.12
SHERWIN WILLIAMS CO.	EQUIP REPAIR-RUT	785.09
ST LUKE'S WORK WELL SOLUTIONS	TESTING-PD	50.00
STAPLES INC	SUPPLIES-P&A	35.18
STAPLES INC	SUPPLIES-P&A	60.83
STAPLES INC	SUPPLIES-P&A	9.99
STATE HYGIENIC LAB	TESTING-SEW	1,987.00
UNITYPOINT CLINIC-OCCUPATIONAL	DRUG TESTING-WAT,SEW	42.00
US BANK	CREDIT CARD PURCHASES	5,608.12
WENDLING QUARRIES	TILE ROCK-PW COLD STORAGE	230.75
WIENEKE LAND SOLUTIONS	FERTILIZER/WEED CONTROL-P&REC	4,205.00
TOTAL		370,798.47

ARP POLICE STATION CONST	69,172.90
GENERAL FUND	48,720.60
LBC	11,549.76
LOST III COMM CENTER	247.50
PALISADES ROAD OVERLAY	18,415.27
PAYROLL	142,491.94
PW COLD STORAGE	25,230.00
ROAD USE TAX FUND	16,921.06
SEWER FUND	18,305.68
SOLID WASTE	3,204.88
STORM WATER FUND	1,326.56
WATER FUND	15,212.32
TOTAL	370,798.47

Discussion and Consideration of a Street Closure Request for Downtown – Lincoln Highway Arts Festival – Council Action as Needed. The Mount Vernon Area Arts Council is requesting the temporary closure of the east stretch of 1st Street from Hwy 1 to B Ave for the Lincoln Highway Arts Festival. The closure will begin at 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on September 23, 2023. Motion made by Engel, seconded by Tuerler to approve the street closure for the Lincoln Highway Arts Festival. Motion carries. Herrmann absent.

Discussion and Consideration of Mt. Vernon Parks and Rec Board Pool Recommendation – Council Action as Needed. Water's Edge gave their presentation to City Council on the findings of the pool study at their April 3, 2023 meeting. Council then referred it to the Parks and Recreation Board and Pool Committee for a

recommendation on which option to go with. Parks and Recreation has met and is recommending “Concept A”, which is located at Davis Park. This option provides an outdoor lap swim pool that has the ability to be enclosed at some point in the future. The cost of the entire facility would run from \$14.5 to \$16.5 million. Due to the fact that Lisbon and Solon both have a splash pad, this is one option that could be omitted to save approximately \$1.3 million. Nobsisch agrees with both groups that Concept A is the option that should be considered. Unfortunately, with the City’s current debt, we would not be able to bond for this project until approximately 2028. That would take all of the City’s usable debt capacity at that point and the annual bond payment would be over \$560,000.00. If the City were to put this to a vote for a property tax increase, the cost would be approximately \$3.80 per \$1,000 of property valuation and the City levy rate would go over \$17 per \$1,000. Nobsisch said he does not see this type of bond referendum passing. The City would not be able to utilize TIF as an option until FY31 because those dollars are currently wrapped up in the payment of the LBC. Nobsisch is recommending putting the project on hold for now because we physically don’t have the ability to do it and look at creating a fundraising mechanism. The project could potentially be done in phases, with the lap pool and restrooms being built first as one project for approximately \$6 million, while still operating/maintaining the current pool but Nobsisch does not recommend this. He recommends having Water’s Edge come back and prioritize repairs and improvements at the current pool to get us by for a few years so the City can work on funding mechanisms for the new facility. There was a question from Council about closing down the current pool for a few years and putting that money towards the cost of the new facility and if that would move the timeframe up? Nobsisch said this would not make a difference in the timeline as you are looking at two pots of money; debt and operational expenses. Other areas of possible expense for the City are \$2,000,000 over 10 years to the school, LMI housing, childcare initiatives and 1st Street Streetscape. Council appreciates the work that has been done by Water’s Edge and staff and it is clear that the citizens of Mount Vernon want a new pool, so it was necessary to look at all of the options so citizens and City staff know how to plan for the future.

Reports to be Received/Filed. Full reports can be found on the City website under the August 21, 2023 Council Packet.

Mt. Vernon/Lisbon Police Report. Chief Shannon reminded everyone that it was opening school week and to watch out for kids and traffic.

Mt. Vernon Public Works Report.

Mt. Vernon Parks and Rec Report. The start of flag football and soccer is being delayed until next Monday due to the heat.

Cole Library Monthly Report

Discussion Items (No Action)

Cemetery Repurchasing Policy. Staff has received requests periodically to purchase back the internment rights (cemetery plots) to the Mount Vernon Cemetery. Previous legal counsel had recommended against any such action by the City. Current legal counsel has reviewed a new request and identified a proposed policy that would allow such actions to occur. After review, staff believes the process remains complicated and would recommend against the purchasing of internment rights. No action taken.

Reports of Mayor/Council/Administrator

Mayor’s Report. The Economic Impact report has been issued by Cornell. Wieseler complimented Leigh Bradbury for working with Linn County Historic Society on a trailhead with data points and placards.

Wieseler had a meeting with the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation working on the community fund process. The board will be put together in the next few months to work on identifying non-profits and allocating proceeds.

City Administrator's Report. August 28, 2023 will be the Council goal setting session at 5:30 p.m. City Offices will be closed September 4, 2023 for the Labor Day holiday. During the flag discussion at the last Council meeting, Greg Papin pointed out that a lawsuit had been filed against the City, which Nobsisch said that was not the case. He went back to his files and found that a lawsuit had actually been filed and Mr. Papin was correct when he made that statement. Nobsisch wanted to go on the record stating the error.

As there was no further business to attend to, the meeting adjourned, the time being 8:12 p.m., August 21, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Dewell
City Clerk