

The Mount Vernon City Council met March 18, 2024, at City Hall, 213 1st Street NW, Mount Vernon, IA. A Zoom option was available. The following Council members were present: Andresen, Tuerler and Engel. Absent: West and Rose.

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

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

Consent Agenda. Motion made by Engel, seconded by Tuerler to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carries. West and Rose absent.

Approval of City Council Minutes – March 4, 2024 Regular Council Meeting
Approving Liquor License – Bigs BBQ and Brew Pub
Approving Liquor License – Chameleon’s Pub and Grub
Appointing Cathy George - Planning and Zoning Commission

Rose arrives at 6:32 p.m.

Public Hearing

Public Hearing on the Determination an Area of the City to be an Economic Development and Blighted Area, and that the Rehabilitation, Conservation, Redevelopment, Development or a Combination Thereof, of Such Area is Necessary in the Interest of the Public Health, Safety or Welfare of the Residents of the City; Designating Such Area as Appropriate for Urban Renewal Projects; and Adopting the Amendment No. 9 to the Mount Vernon Urban Renewal Plan. Mayor Wieseler opened the public hearing at 6:32 p.m. Nobsch explained that this amendment is necessary to utilize TIF financing for the \$2 million dollar pool renovations. Hearing no public comment, Mayor Wieseler closed the public hearing at 6:35 p.m. Council then acted on Resolution #3-18-2024A.

Resolutions for Approval

Resolution #3-18-2024A: Determining an Area of the City to be an Economic Development and Blighted Area, and that the Rehabilitation, Conservation, Redevelopment, Development or a Combination Thereof, of Such Area is Necessary in the Interest of the Public Health, Safety or Welfare of the Residents of the City; Designating Such Area as Appropriate for Urban Renewal Projects; and Adopting the Amendment No. 9 to the Mount Vernon Urban Renewal Plan. Motion made by Tuerler, seconded by Andresen to approve Resolution #3-18-2024A. Roll call all yes. West absent.

Resolution #3-18-2024B: Providing for New Stop Sign Locations within the City of Mt. Vernon, Iowa. Staff has received a citizen request for the review of possible stop sign locations in the Spring Meadows Addition. Chief Shannon has reviewed and approves of the proposed stop sign locations. A stop sign will be placed at the intersection of 6th Street NE and Ashton Drive NE; southeast corner for north bound traffic on Spring Meadow Drive NE and another sign will be placed at the intersection of 6th Street NE and Ashton Drive NE; northwest corner for south bound traffic on Ashton Drive NE. Motion made by Engel, seconded by Rose to approve Resolution #3-18-2024B. Roll call all yes. West absent.

Resolution #3-18-2024C: Fixing Date for a Meeting on the Proposition to Authorize a Loan Agreement and the Issuance of Notes to Evidence the Obligations of the City Thereunder – Not to Exceed \$1,000,000. The next three resolutions are for the same borrowing; however, they must be divided into three separate resolutions because the funds will be used for different projects. The amount the city could borrow with the adoption of the resolutions is \$5,100,000. This does not mean the city has to borrow this amount, but it does mean that we cannot exceed these amounts. This loan agreement for \$1,000,000.00 will be used for the water meter replacement project. Motion made by Rose, seconded by Andresen to approve Resolution #3-18-2024C setting the public hearing date for April 15, 2024. Roll call all yes. West absent.

Resolution #3-18-2024D: Fixing Date for a Meeting on the Proposition to Authorize a Loan Agreement and the Issuance of Notes to Evidence the Obligations of the City Thereunder – Not to Exceed \$2,250,000. This loan agreement will be used for the pool renovations. Motion made by Andresen, seconded by Engel to approve Resolution #3-18-2024D setting the public hearing date for April 15, 2024. Roll call all yes. West absent.

Resolution #3-18-2024E: Fixing Date for a Meeting on the Proposition to Authorize a Loan Agreement and the Issuance of Notes to Evidence the Obligations of the City Thereunder – Not to Exceed \$1,850,000. This loan agreement will be used for the Cottonwood LMI Project (Glenn Street) and other infrastructure related improvements. Motion made by Rose, seconded by Andresen to approve Resolution #3-18-2024E setting the public hearing date for April 15, 2024. Roll call all yes. West absent.

Motions for Approval

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

PAYROLL	CLAIMS	120,131.88
SEPTAGON CONSTRUCTION	PAY APP #14-PD CONSTRUCTION	50,961.23
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	GROUP INSURANCE-ALL DEPTS	36,179.20
REPUBLIC SERVICES #897	GB,RECYL-SW RESIDENTIAL	23,524.68
REPUBLIC SERVICES #897	GB,RECYL-SW COMMERCIAL	14,520.22
US BANK	CREDIT CARD PURCHASES-ALL DEPTS	10,131.85
TURF TANK	GPS PAINT ROBOT AGREEMENT-P&REC	10,000.00
MARION, CITY OF	LINE STRIPING-RUT	7,857.50
IOWA SOLUTIONS INC	SERVER UPGRADE-ALL DEPTS	5,824.00
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-SEW	5,118.07
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-ST LIGHTS	4,753.02
FELD FIRE	HELMETS-FD	3,967.00
RED LION RENEWABLES	SOLAR ELECTRIC PROD-P&A,PD,LBC	3,890.24
ALLIANT ENERGY	NEW SERVICE-PW COLD STORAGE	3,103.24
BRADLEY HAUGE CPA	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES-ALL DEPTS	2,925.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	INISURANCE CLAIMS-ALL DEPTS	2,478.06
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-WAT	2,351.11
IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES	SIGNS POSTS/BASES-RUT	2,132.00
STATE HYGIENIC LAB	TESTING-SEW	1,864.50
DINGES FIRE COMPANY	GLOVES-FD	1,724.57
SANDRY FIRE SUPPLY LLC	UNIFORMS-PD	1,645.00
PNP	FUEL-PD	1,488.18
PAYROLL	CLAIMS	1,386.35
IOWA SOLUTIONS INC	COMPUTER MAINT-ALL DEPTS	1,297.00
EQUIPMENT MGMT COMPANY	EQUIP MAINT-FD	1,280.00
LYNCH DALLAS PC	LEGAL FEES-P&A	1,275.40
IOWA SOLUTIONS INC	MONTHLY MAINT-ALL DEPTS	1,240.00

ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-RUT	1,138.09
IOWA SOLUTIONS INC	MONTHLY MAINT-PD	1,040.00
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-WAT	926.83
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-FD	823.02
STUDENT PUBLICATIONS INC	ADS/PUBLICATIONS-ALL DEPTS	811.61
BANKCARD 8076	CREDIT CARD FEES-LBC,P&REC	805.65
MOUNT VERNON BANK & TRUST	NSF CHECK-LBC	775.00
MT VERNON ROAD TIRE	TIRES-PD	678.00
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-P&REC	668.40
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-SEW	604.58
VERMEER SALES & SERVICE INC	CHIPPER MAINT-SW	565.22
THE HISTORY CENTER	ART SPONSORSHIP-MVHPC	500.00
MARTIN GARDNER ARCHITECTURE	CONSTRUCTION ADMIN-PD CONST	489.90
IOWA SOLUTIONS INC	COMPUTER MAINT-PD	460.00
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-ST LIGHTS	400.07
MEDIACOM	PHONE/INTERNET-SEW	349.71
FOSTERS/KRAUS HEATING & AIR	BASEBOARD HEATER-PD	300.50
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-P&A	282.95
CITY LAUNDERING CO	SERVICES-LBC	253.92
US CELLULAR	CELL PHONE-PD	247.51
STAPLES INC	SUPPLIES-PD,P&A	246.16
GPM ENVIRONMENTAL	EQUIP REPAIR-SEW	233.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	INSURANCE CLAIMS-ALL DEPTS	232.00
KONE INC	ELEVATOR MAINT CONTRACT-P&A	212.67
KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	MAINT PLAN/COPIES-PD	207.31
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-POOL,P&REC,FD	205.01
TROJAN TECHNOLOGIES	EQUIP MAINT-SEW	187.17
CENTRAL IOWA DISTRIBUTING	SUPPLIES-LBC	168.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-RUT	164.76
BANKCARD 8076	REFUND-LBC	154.08
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-LBC	153.76
MARKET STREET	ONLINE TECH SUPPORT-MVHPC	117.60
SUE ASTLEY	SUPPLIES-MVHPC	114.86
STUDENT PUBLICATIONS INC	ADS/PUBLICATIONS-P&REC	107.73
STEVE MOEL	FITNESS MEMBERSHIP-PD	100.00
STUDENT PUBLICATIONS INC	ADS/PUBLICATIONS-LBC	100.00
AIRGAS INC	CYLINDER RENTAL FEE-PW	97.58
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-PD	79.98
CITY LAUNDERING CO	SERVICES-CITY HALL	79.69
CITY LAUNDERING CO	SERVICES-CITY HALL	79.69
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-RUT,P&A,WAT,SEW	76.28
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-PD	65.90
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-POOL	65.79
CENTURY LINK	PHONE CHARGES-PD	64.68
PRESTO-X	PEST CONTROL-PD	62.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-P&REC	60.97
LORYN COON	DEPOSIT REFUND-WATER	54.02
BANKCARD 8076	REFUND-P&REC	50.00
NEAL'S WATER CONDITIONING	WATER/SALT-RUT	48.00
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-SIRENS	46.16
STAPLES INC	SUPPLIES-P&A	45.40
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-P&REC	45.23
MELINDA SNYDER	INSTRUCTOR-LBC	40.00
MARKET STREET	ONLINE TECH SUPPORT-MVHPC	33.60

DES MOINES STAMP	NOTARY STAMP-PD	33.00
NEAL'S WATER CONDITIONING	WATER/SALT-FD	33.00
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-RUT,WAT,SEW,SW	31.61
HAWKINS INC	CHEMICALS-WAT	20.00
ALLIANT ENERGY	ENERGY USAGE-CEM	19.07
NEAL'S WATER CONDITIONING	WATER/SALT-CITY HALL	18.50
IOWA DEPT OF INSPEC & APPEALS	CHARITABLE GAMBLING LICENSE-PD K9	15.00
JOENA'S SPECIAL NEEDS	UNIFORMS-PD	5.50
AUTHNET GATEWAY BILLING	CREDIT CARD SERVICES-LBC	5.00
TOTAL		339,150.02

FUND EXPENSE TOTALS

PAYROLL	121,518.23
GENERAL FUND	53,392.41
POLICE STATION CONSTRUCTION	51,451.13
SOLID WASTE	41,915.90
ROAD USE TAX FUND	26,609.35
SEWER FUND	16,063.51
LBC	11,920.49
WATER FUND	11,526.77
PW COLD STORAGE	3,445.55
STORM WATER FUND	1,306.68
TOTAL	339,150.02

Discussion and Consideration of Pay Application #13 – Police Station Renovation Project – Council Action as Needed. After Septagon received payment on pay application #14 for the police station renovations, they realized they had submitted pay application #13 to the wrong location. Pay application #13 is in the amount of \$39,609.35. Motion made by Tuerler, seconded by Engel to approve Pay Application #13-Police Station Renovation Project. Motion carries. West absent.

Discussion and Consideration of Change Order #16 – Police Station Renovation Project – Council Action as Needed. Change order #16 is in the amount of \$2,915.00 and approves moving an existing light pole and base near the new garage drive-through. The light fixture itself will be reused, but it did require a new base and wiring before it was set. Motion made by Engel, seconded by Rose to approve Change Order #16-Police Station Renovation Project. Motion carries. West absent.

Discussion and Consideration of Sculpture Trail Funding Request – Council Action as Needed. Marie DeVries with the Mount Vernon Area Arts Council addressed Council with a request for funding in the amount of \$10,000.00 in FY2025 for the third phase of art on the sculpture trail between First Street and Third Street SE. In July of 2023 Council paid the Area Arts Council \$10,000.00 for the first phase of sculpture art on the trail. Phase two of the project, a dragonfly sculpture by Amie Jacobsen in the amount of \$15,000.00, was funded by a State grant of \$10,000.00 and the Area Arts Council covering the remaining \$5,000.00. Should the Council agree to tonight's request, the funds would come from LOST trails monies. Tuerler spoke against using LOST funds that is earmarked for trails for art and does not feel that this use was intended for those funds when LOST III was originally approved. Tuerler said he supports the concept of art on the trails but not the funding source. DeVries argued that the art has definitely encouraged more people to use the trail. Rose felt that the sculpture art was enhancing the trails, which would justify using LOST funds, but would like to know what the actual language was in the resolution that was originally voted on. Engel agreed with Rose that this would be a good use of LOST funds. Nobsch said there would not

be a funding source available outside of LOST money for this request. Tuerler made a motion to table this item until a later date to give Council an opportunity to look into further. Seconded by Rose. Motion carries. West absent.

Discussion and Consideration of No Mow May and Monarch Butterfly Plantings – Council Action as Needed. Gretchen Reeh-Robinson addressed Council requesting their support for “No Mow May” again this year. Not mowing will help promote ground pollinators that come out in late April and early May and reduce the use of pesticides. Small yard signs will be provided for residents that are interested in supporting this effort so that others are aware of the reason for not mowing. Residents could even consider starting out with smaller patches that aren’t mowed if they didn’t want to do their entire lawn. Work is also being done with the Monarch Research Project to provide seed to the City for prairie/pollinator plantings on City property. Council agreed to support “No Mow May” again this year. No formal action was taken but the City will not enforce the mowing nuisance in the month of May.

Discussion and Consideration of the Cottonwood Apartments Site Plan – Council Action as Needed. The Planning Commission voted unanimously on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, to approve the site plan with staff conditions. This will be a 30 unit complex on the south side of Glenn Street extended to the east. Motion made by Tuerler, seconded by Andresen to approve the Cottonwood Apartments Site Plan. Motion carries. West absent.

Discussion and Consideration of Change Order #17 – Police Station Renovation Project – Council Action as Needed. Change order #17 is a credit in the amount of \$1,100.00. Motion made by Tuerler, seconded by Rose to approve Change Order #17-Police Station Renovation Project. Motion carries. West absent.

Discussion and Consideration of a Bond Counsel Engagement Letter with Ahlers Cooney Attorneys for the General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2024 – Council Action as Needed. This engagement authorizes Ahlers Cooney to prepare the necessary documents and filings for the Series 2024 General Obligation borrowing. The estimated fee for this borrowing is \$21,700.00. Motion made by Tuerler, seconded by Andresen to approve the Bond Counsel Engagement Letter with Ahlers Cooney Attorneys. Motion carries. West absent.

Discussion and Consideration of Operation and Maintenance Assistance Agreement with Carrico Aquatic Resources – Pool – Council Action as Needed. The City currently uses Carrico for their water management program and this would continue those services. The total contract cost for annual maintenance, chemicals, and training \$19,125.00. Motion made by Engel, seconded by Rose to approve the maintenance agreement with Carrico Aquatic. Motion carries. West absent.

Reports to be Received/Filed. Full reports can be viewed on the City website under the March 18, 2024 Council Packet.

Mt. Vernon/Lisbon police Report
Mt. Vernon Public Works Report
Mt. Vernon Parks and Rec Report
Cole Library Report

LMVAS Annual Report/Strategic Plan Presentation. Jacob Lindauer presented the annual report of the Lisbon-Mt. Vernon Ambulance Service. Full report can be found on the City website under the March 18, 2024 Council Packet.

Reports of Mayor/Council/Administrator

Mayor's Report. Wieseler attended a Local Leaders meeting at the capital a couple of weeks ago and will be interviewed by the Chronical of Higher Education about the relationship of a small town with a private college. More rain barrels may be available in the future.

Council Reports. Engel reported that the Mount Vernon/Lisbon childcare committee has, through grants and fundraising, distributed about \$55,000 to Mount Vernon and Lisbon childcare providers associated with the school districts to help augment their wages and help with retention. The next step is to sustain this program on an annual basis. The long-term vision of the committee is to have a centralized, more permanent childcare facility in the community. The committee will meet again on April 9, 2024 at Cornell College. This meeting will include members of the Lisbon City Council, Lisbon School Board, Mount Vernon City Council, Mount Vernon School Board. The Iowa Women's Conference will help lead the meeting. The hope is to provide history of what has been done the last couple of years and what can be done to move forward.

City Administrator's Report. Full report can be viewed on the City website under the March 18, 2024 Council Packet.

As there was no further business to attend to, the meeting adjourned, the time being 8:41 p.m., March 18, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Dewell
City Clerk