

MOUNT VERNON CITY COUNCIL

Council Minutes

March 10, 2025

The regular meeting of the Mount Vernon City Council was called to order at 7:00 pm by mayor Weston Frank. The following council members were present: Austin Kayser, Dave Renken, Sherri Kayser, Roger DeKok and Matt Geidel. City employees present: Maintenance Officer Ryan Stahl and Finance Officer Laura Mayclin. Attorney Mike Fink and Chase Jons attended for public participation. Fink attended to discuss the 6th Avenue encroachment and building permits. Jons attended to observe the process.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. All motions are unanimously approved unless otherwise stated.

Motion by DeKok, seconded by S. Kayser, to approve the agenda.

Motion by DeKok, seconded by A. Kayser to approve the following consent items for February: Financial Statement, Council Minutes, General Fund Balances, Credits Report/Bank Statement, and Payment of Bills. Bills:

OLD BUSINESS

1. The Hall has a new monthly office space tenant, Nick Paulson. It has also been booked for use on March 22nd, 23rd, and 24th.
2. There are a few properties in town that will require code enforcement letters for various violations. Council will be gathering addresses for properties, some even possibly needing to be condemned. Council is also looking into rental properties that may not be rental ready, with proper amenities, such as a working heater/furnace.
3. The Parks Board met recently and decided to keep a calendar for use of the ball fields. All bookings will go through S. Kayser. We received a new unexpected bill for transport of sod of \$950, to be paid in April. The council discussed whether there should be a charge to use the fields, as several people have asked about it. They decided not to charge to use it, but to require any user to clean up after use (bathrooms, etc.) Council also discussed ways to improve other areas of the park. One idea was adding frisbee golf. Council plans to surplus mowers and other items in hopes of supplementing the Park Department.
4. Attorney Mike Fink discussed the 6th Avenue encroachment with the council, noting several options. As it is, the property owner would not be able to sell the property, because they couldn't obtain Title Insurance. Council decided to write a letter addressing the encroachment. Motion by Renken, seconded by DeKok for Attorney Fink to write a letter objecting to the placement of the building to the property owner.
5. Frank will be contacting Jacob Sonne, SPN, to see exactly how the extra money obtained in the grant will best be used.
6. Discussion of building permits included concerns or city liability if permit is issued, and then the contractor does something other than what was approved. Attorney Fink noted that if we begin issuing building permits we would need to have an Administrator and Stop Order in case someone builds without a permit.
7. The Ambulance District will be having a meeting on March 23rd at The Hall, 317 E. 2nd. It is open to the public and we encourage all residents to attend to hear the information and ask questions. Mayclin provided a spreadsheet showing the projected tax if residents approve the Ambulance District. Here are examples: Assessed value of home (non-agricultural): \$100,000, the tax would fall somewhere between \$39.32 and \$58.98 annually. To figure out your own, you can multiply or divide these figures. For example, a home with a \$300,000 assessed value would be 3 times those of the \$100,000 assessed value home, or between \$117.96 and \$176.94 annually. The tax on agricultural properties is lower than non-agricultural properties. A \$100,000 assessed value of agricultural properties would have taxes between \$34.00 and \$51.00. If the Ambulance District is voted down, Mount Vernon will no longer have ambulance service from Mitchell. There is no other ambulance service that has the ability to take on serving our community.
8. Motion by DeKok, seconded by S. Kayser to approve the first reading of the FEMA Floodplain

Ordinance.

9. Two of the three open council seats have had petitions returned, leaving one seat, Austin Kayser's, that will be unfilled. Chase Jons is interested in joining the council for that third seat.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Maintenance Officer Stahl reported an issue with barking dogs and other general noise at a residence on Main Street. He asked Frank about the mini split for the new meeting room at City Hall. Frank says he will get it cleaned up and bring it to him. The meeting room is coming along with carpet and furniture and painting almost complete. We should be able to have our April meeting at our new facility, even if it isn't 100% ready. Council discussed outdoor burning in the area, voicing concerns over how dry everything is. They hope people won't burn outdoors, but they will follow Davison County's lead when making a burn ban, and there isn't one at this time.
2. Mayclin reported that the CD that renewed is currently 90 days, and council will need to look at it again in a couple of months to make another investment decision. She also asked about having guardrails and street signs added to the insurance policy, since we recently had a claim for these, which wasn't covered. Council said to look at cost of adding the guardrails, but not the signs.
3. Council is looking into charges for multi-family residential properties that are currently getting billed the same as a single-family residential property. Mayclin will see how other cities handle these properties that have one meter for several individual residences and have information for the April meeting. Council will also look at ordinances to see if we need to add something for future construction of multi-family properties to include a water meter for each unit.
4. Council decided to have DeKok represent us on the Equalization Board again.
5. The city is currently working with the ISO representative to get our rating lowered. ISO did not have the city's current provider, Davison Rural Water, in any of their computations when they recently raised the rating to a 10. Since getting that information, the ISO representative says we look good on the water side, but the training at the fire department is still a problem. Per Stahl, they have started a new training program with proper documentation. The ISO representative has asked for information on the training, and Stahl is working with Mike Kluth to get that. Mayclin will email that information to ISO, and follow up to see if they will change the rating, based on that information.
6. No executive session for personnel and legal SDCL 1-25-2.1 and 2.3 was required.

Motion by S. Kayser, seconded by DeKook to adjourn at 9:42 pm.

Weston Frank
Mayor

Laura Mayclin
Finance Officer

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