

Mount Vernon to draw up flood ordinance

By GALE FIEGE
Staff Writer

MOUNT VERNON — City Attorney Larry Moller will be drawing up a flood plain management ordinance to be presented to the Mount Vernon City Council at its next meeting on July 28.

The city had been granted an extension of the deadline set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to write an ordinance in order to enter into the regular flood insurance program.

The city has until Aug. 2 to approve such an ordinance or be dropped from the federal insurance program altogether.

FEMA officials will be checking the information used in determining elevation figures required in the flood insurance program. The apparent "unreasonableness" of the figures prompt-

ed City Engineer John Wiseman to send an appeal to FEMA last month.

Wiseman told the council that in a recent conversation with FEMA official Chuck Steele he was told it may take the agency up to two years to review the Army Corps of Engineers' figures used in determining how high new structures in the flood plain should be.

Historical data, newspaper accounts of past flooding and photographs may be used in determining the elevation heights when the city writes its flood plain management ordinance, Steele has said.

Wiseman said that at such time as FEMA does complete its study and require higher elevations, the city could opt out and remove itself from the flood insurance program.

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