

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL

May 22, 2017

The regular meeting of the Lexington City Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Spencer Johansen in the City Council Chambers at Lexington City Hall.

Mayor led the council in the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call was taken to find the following physically present: Mayor Johansen, Alderman Stover, Alderman Cole, Alderman Schreiber, Alderman Fosen, Alderman Coclosure, and Alderman Richard. Members of the staff and public present were: Lucy Loper, Mary Beth Wright, Sue Noland, Pati Pease, Thomas M Shields, Ashley Hacker, Billy Dubois and Dave Belvery.

It was moved by Alderman Cole and seconded by Alderman Fosen to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2017 council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Alderman Fosen and seconded by Alderman Cole to approve the treasurer's report and pay bills in the amount of \$16,772.44. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input: Lucy Loper, who came representing the Lexington Library presented the council with a handout showcasing the features of the 21st Century Library and all of the amenities the Lexington Library has to offer. Loper then proceeded to hand out library card applications to those present who did not currently have a Lexington Library Card. The council was asked to check out the Library's Facebook page for upcoming event information. Mary Beth Wright, representing Castle Gardens, announced that Castle Garden's Concert on the Lawn series would be starting on June 2nd. Mary Beth Wright also shared that she had been interviewed by local tv stations showcasing the events. Alderman Richard asked Mary Beth Wright how interested visitors to Lexington can find out more about Castle Gardens. Mary Beth Wright advised that the website and Facebook page contain information about tours and pictures of the event venue.

Old Business:

Health Insurance Update: Alderman Richard explained the history of the employee health insurance to the new aldermen and how the increase of employee cost has evolved in regards to the aggregate fund. Current percentage is at 50% and that is the amount that was passed in the 2017/2018 budget. Aldermen Richard requested that the council votes on the percentage of the employee's share of the spouse/family coverage. Item will be on the agenda for a vote during the June 12, 2017 council meeting.

New Business:

Appointment of City Clerk: Mayor Johansen advised the council that after the resignation of former City Clerk, Melanie Kunkel, resident Patricia Pease had expressed interest in filling the

vacancy. Motion made by Aldermen Cole to appoint Patricia Pease as the new City Clerk. Seconded by Alderman Colclasure. Motion carries unanimously.

Appointment of Deputy Clerk: Mayor Johansen advised the council that Ashley Hacker expressed interest in becoming Deputy Clerk for the City of Lexington. Motion made by Alderman Fosen to appoint Ashley Hacker as Deputy Clerk. Seconded by Alderman Stover. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Appointments: Mayor Johansen advised the council that the committee assignments were listed in the handout that was given to each alderman prior to the meeting. Mayor Johansen explained the addition of citizens to some of the committees. Other changes to this fiscal year's committees include the appointment of a new City Attorney, Thomas M Shields along with his new associate, Attorney Charlie Reynard. Alderman Cole motioned to approve the new committee assignments. Seconded by Alderman Colclasure. Motion carried unanimously.

Park District Office Space: Mayor Johansen informed the council that he had been approached by the Lexington Park District to use an office space in City Hall to store documents for the Park District and potentially use desk space as needed. Mayor Johansen mentioned that the Zoning Office would be a possibility for them to use during City Hall's normal business hours. Mayor Johansen mentioned the good working relationship between the Park District and the City. Aldermen Stover motioned to allow the Park District to use the Zoning Office as needed during City Hall's business hours. Seconded by Alderman Cole. Motion carried unanimously.

Food Pantry Door Repair: The Food Pantry has expressed the need for a new exterior door. Explaining that the casing is cracked and was no longer very secure. John Cheever, has asked the council to replace the damaged door. The cost of the new door would run \$412.99. Mayor Johansen indicated that the Food Pantry will be continuing with the painting of the building to complete the renovation. Alderman Fosen motions for the City to replace the Food Pantry door for a total cost of \$413.00 and to pay for the expense out of the 11.11.166 account line. Motion seconded by Alderman Cole. Motion carries unanimously.

Change of Council Meeting Time: Mayor Johansen brought forward the idea to change the time of the council meeting to an earlier time. Alderman Mike Richard suggested a meeting time of 6:30pm. The discussion continued and will be on the agenda for the next council meeting.

Purchase of New Police Squad Car: Alderman Richard advised the council that the Crown Vic police vehicle had been in an accident involving a deer. Alderman Richard discussed the purchase of the new squad car at this time to replace the damaged vehicle. Mayor Johansen indicates that the purchase of the new squad car has been included on this fiscal year's budget and begins the four year replacement plan rotation. Police Chief Belvery explained the handout containing the breakdown of the cost of the new squad car informing the council how the state bids work with the dealerships. Motion made by Alderman Richard to approve the purchase of the Ford Explorer for a total price of \$37,934.14. Seconded by Alderman Stover. Motion carries unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Mayor: Mayor Johansen discussed the progress with the flooring bids for City Hall. The Mayor advised the council that Wrights Furniture out of Pontiac was contacted and that their bid was \$3,000 less than Carpet Weavers out of Bloomington. Mayor Johansen also informed the council that Amanda Kline from Commerce Bank works with municipal leases on equipment and asked that Alderman Fosen set up a meeting with the bank to discuss the purchase of the dump truck. Alderman Fosen indicated that these leases can be used for big purchases, it frees up some cash, but that you lock yourself into payments. Mayor Johansen recommends that the Street and Finance Committees meet to discuss. Mayor Johansen then asks for Alderman Fosen to explain the Wabash Valley project to the council. Alderman Fosen advised that Wabash Valley / Cornbelt is seeking bids on a proposed development that would require certain specifications. Alderman Fosen indicated that there was only a 36 hour turnaround notice for the City to respond with the proposal. Water requirements, sewer, electricity, gas and road requirements were high regarding the potential development. Alderman Fosen discussed the work that was involved in creating the proposal and suggested to the council that if the City was even semi-serious about future economic developments, that the City needs to be prepared and know the answers to potential questions regarding the different property locations. Mayor Johansen indicated the importance of showing interest in developments like this to get on the radar for future projects. Alderman Fosen stressed the importance of having the landowners involved. Mayor Johansen discussed a meeting that he had with the Rt 66 Bi-way last week. The Rt 66 Biway president passed along a lot of marketing ideas and was excited about all the new development along Rt 66 this past year. They will be presenting the council at the June 12th meeting. Mayor Johansen asked Alderman Stover to follow up with the feasibility study that was done for the Lexington Park District. Mayor Johansen then updated the council on the progress with a potential Casey's being built in Lexington. Advising the council that this past fall a packet of information on available property was mailed to Casey's for consideration. Mayor Johansen advised that he will keep everyone updated if anything evolves.

Police: Alderman Richard informed the council that Chief Belvery graduated from his class to conform to the continuing education requirement. Alderman Richard also advised the council that the new laptop for the Police Department has been ordered and that the estimate for vehicle repairs to the Crown Vic was \$2046. Alderman Richard asked that the repairs for the squad car be added to the next agenda.

Building/Insurance: Alderman Richard advised that the insurance company will do another review of the building this summer.

Finance/TIF: None

Water and Sewer Committee: Water Superintendent, Billy DuBois, advised that the new water plant is approximately 70% completed. Inside is about to be painted. DuBois informed the council that next comes the testing of the water. At this time, Alderman Cole, Water and Sewer Committee chair, submitted his letter of resignation. Mayor Johansen read the letter from Alderman Cole indicating his last meeting will be June 26th. Announcement of vacancy will be made.

Street/Alley/Sanitation: None

There being no further business, it was moved by Alderman Richard and seconded by Alderman Colclasure to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Star Torkelson, Deputy Clerk

Approved: