

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Monday, April 26, 2010

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

Roll call was taken finding the following physically present: Mayor Mohr, Alderman Cole, Alderman Brill, Alderman Winterland, Alderman Fiero, Alderman Miller and Alderman Revelle. Staff and members of the public present were: Mike Beard, Bill Elias, Billy DuBois, Zach Knight (Farnsworth Group), Donna Williams, and Christie Collier(Kenny's Restaurant).

It was moved by Alderman Brill and seconded by Alderman Cole to accept the minutes of the April 12, 2010 City Council meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Alderman Winterland and seconded by Alderman Revelle to accept the Treasurer's Report and authorize payment of bills in the amount of \$16,043.74. Motion carried unanimously.

It was then moved by Alderman Winterland and seconded by Alderman Revelle to approve payment of the first IEPA loan distribution in the amount of \$416,243.93. (Funds to cover those payments have been received and deposited) Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input:

1. Donna Williams, General Chair for the Red Carpet Corridor event this weekend, displayed a flyer created by Jillian Swan. She also noted that WMBD will be at the walking trail in the vicinity of the Ford dealership on Thursday at 4:15. She asked for "volunteers" to serve as extras to be in the background for promotional video the station is putting together. Also local vendors will be able to set up on Friday morning, and then out-of-town vendors on Friday afternoon to keep congestion at a minimum.
2. Zach Knight, of Farnsworth Group, presented a sewer construction progress update: **Div.A-Wastewater Treatment Plant**-Leander Construction has gotten lots of grading done, starting with the berm for the first lagoon. Also the gravel road into the site has been completed. **Div.B –Lift Stations**-Stark has not started yet, but shop drawings have been submitted. **Div.C-Forcemain**-Stark has about 2 miles of forcemain installed, working at about a rate of 1000' per day, and trying to stay ahead of farming operations. **Div.D – Gravity Sewers Far West, West & Central**-G.A.Rich has started the bore pit near the cemetery, and will start the push on Tuesday. **Div.E-Gravity Sewers North, East and South**-Dawn Companies has the silt fencing in place near the creek and will start top soil stripping next. **Div.F-Irrigation**-Have submitted shop drawings for equipment. Zach explained that the first pay request usually takes the longest to process, but from now on should be handled on a monthly basis. Contractor payroll requests are verified by FWG weekly, and then approved by the IEPA as well, before funds are issued to the City to disburse. Mayor Mohr asked about ISU questions about the timing of their financial contribution toward one of the center irrigation pivots, and the construction schedule for them.

Old Business:

1. **Summer Mowing**-Because of time demands on City staff during sewer construction this summer, the hiring of mowing help was discussed. Danny McDaniels, already serving in 2 positions for the City, is familiar with the City's needs and is available to do this kind of work. It was moved by Alderman Cole and seconded by Alderman Fiero to approve hiring Mr. McDaniels on an as-needed basis to help with City mowing for the 2010 season at a rate of \$10.00/hr., not to exceed \$5000.00. This amount has been allowed for in the new budget. Motion carried unanimously.
2. **Sledding Hill** – Since the current construction project is going to produce a large quantity of soil for disposal, Alderman Winterland has been looking into the possibility of using these materials to build a recreational sledding hill. Space requirements of 200' of slope at a 30 degree slope with a 100' runout is standard, with the slope facing north or east. The Park District would be agreeable to such a project, but finding such a space is proving difficult. More research will be done.
3. **Health Insurance Study** - Alderman Miller reported that he has spoken again with the representative for Health Star Consultants regarding their Blue Cross-Blue Shield health insurance proposal for City employees. He would like to schedule a meeting some evening so that employees and their spouses can

learn more about the plan. He also reported that Margaret had been to the rate-setting meeting for the Local Government Health Plan on Friday, and that she learned that the increase this year will be 16.8%. That amount is represented in the budget numbers. That could make potential savings even greater by switching to another provider. Quinley stated that the City is in a 2-year agreement with the State plan, so the City would not be able to return to that plan for 2 years, should they decide to do that in the future. A decision will need to be made in the next month. Miller will set up the meeting and notify employees.

4. Golf Cart Ordinance – Alderman Revelle is still researching the proposal, and has sent information from Colfax to the City Attorney Tibbs for review and input. Revelle will report back at future council meetings.

New Business:

1. Outdoor seating Request by Kenny's Restaurant - Christie Collier brought a photo to illustrate what she would like to do on the sidewalk outside Kenny's restaurant at 316 W. Main St. She would like to place table and chairs for patrons to use in nice weather. She would like to install low ornamental fencing such that would separate the dining space from City sidewalk space. Outdoor dining would be available during kitchen hours, until 10 p.m. on weekends, and 9 p.m. on weeknights. Mayor Mohr reminded that current liquor code does not allow alcohol consumption outside the premises for which the license is issued. Alderman Miller asked if she would proceed if alcoholic beverages were NOT allowed outside. Ms. Collier stated that she wanted patrons to be able to enjoy their alcoholic beverages with their meal, and that they would then return inside to eat if consumption was not allowed. This would defeat the purpose of providing outside tables. Bill Elias asked who would remove snow from the walks if a fence was permanently attached, as City equipment would be prevented from getting to that space. Ms. Collier said the restaurant would do that removal. Alderman Winterland asked if she knew if the McLean County Health Dept. had any rules in this type of situation. Ms. Collier and the City both will do further research on the proposal.

2. Use of City Buildings and Vehicles – Alderman Brill asked what the policies were for off-hours use of City vehicles and equipment by City employees, storage of non-City property in City-owned facilities, and use of City facilities by the general public. Mike Beard, who also works for the village of Ellsworth, said that Ellsworth has no equipment or tools, so when he flushes their hydrants twice a year, he uses our equipment and pays for the gas himself. Beard then asked if someone could find homes for the items being removed from the west shed on Morris as it is emptied, mostly belonging to the former Taste of Country Fair organization. Alderman Fiero commended the spirit of cooperation between communities. Alderman Winterland commented that as long as there is no cost to the City, present practice is acceptable.

3. Budget 2010-2011 – Mayor Mohr complimented council and staff for the good work done on putting together a tight budget at the workshop last week. The general fund is still a major concern, given the drastic reduction in revenues in that fund. Using the figures presented, including a 2% pay raise and the 16.8% health insurance increase, the Mayor has recommended 2 budget scenarios – one budget reflecting the current 6 full-time employees: Police Chief, 1 Full-time Officer, Street Supt, Water Supt, one Full-time water dept assistant, and a City Collector; and the other reflecting 5 full-time employees which eliminates the full-time police officer. Other major increases in expenditures for the general fund are additional legal fees that will be incurred with the police department collective bargaining, and funds to have storm sewer studies done to plan remedies for recurring storm water problems. After discussion, including questions about level of service, budget concerns, replacing officers later if needed, and weighing infrastructure demands against productivity, it was moved by Alderman Fiero and seconded by Alderman Revelle to adopt the 5 full time employee budget in the total amount of \$13,856,334.64. (This includes more than \$12,000,000. in loan receipts from the IEPA to pay for sewer construction expenses) Motion carried with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote.

4. Motor Fuel Resolution 2010-5 - Street Supt. Elias, presented the 2010 resolution for motor fuel fund expenditures in the amount of \$24,600.10. This year's program is greatly reduced, as street sealing has been eliminated due to sewer construction. Spray patching is included, but also may not be needed for the same reason. Damage, if any, done to streets by sewer contractors is included in their contracts to be repaired at their expense. It was moved by Alderman Revelle and seconded by Alderman Cole to adopt **Motor Fuel Resolution 2010-5**. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Website Business Module – Alderman Fiero has been in contact with Paul Peacock regarding the portion of the City website which would let local businesses promote their services. Originally, the site was asking for fees in euros, but that has been corrected just recently, so further search for a different module is unnecessary. She went on to say that the 2010 City Directories will be printed by the Red Carpet Corridor event. 500 will be printed at a cost of \$1024. The printer can print more later, if necessary.

Committee Reports:

Mayor – 1. Mayor Mohr has had discussions with several engineering firms on developing a storm water proposal for the City. Those all should be available for the first meeting in May. 2. He has met with ISU for discussions on the center pivot irrigation installation that they are paying for, and will relay the information from Farnsworth Group on that progress. 3. He played a message from Geoff Andres of the IEPA, who has reassured the Mayor that the City is still on track for 25% principle forgiveness and 0% interest on the IEPA loan for the sewer project funding. More information will be available after the first week of May.

Police – Alderman Brill noted that the committee will next meet on Monday, May 10, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. It is an open meeting, so any council member may attend. Alderman Brill also scheduled a council workshop meeting for the final review of the codification project documents. The meeting will be Wednesday, May 5, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Building/Insurance – None, although Alderman Miller was made aware of renewed interest in the property at 117 N. Vine St. by Tom Stinde.

Finance/TIF – None

Water – None

Sanitation – Mike Beard explained a change order for the layout of the sewer lines that will service 101 E. Chatham St. The change will add a manhole and run the lines down the alley. This will better connect 3 homes and the St Paul Lutheran Church. The change order will cost approximately \$5000.00, but savings will be realized by eliminating 3 street cuts in the original design. Also, consideration of hiring a former employee to help with specific service stub locations for maximum convenience and savings has been included in the 2010 sewer budget.

Street/Alley – None

There being no further business, it was moved by Alderman Winterland and seconded by Alderman Miller to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Quinley, City Clerk

Approved: 5/10/10