

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL

August 9, 2010

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

Roll call was taken, finding the following physically present: Mayor Mohr, Alderman Brill, Alderman Cole, Alderman Fiero, Alderman Miller, Alderman Revelle, and Alderman Winterland. Members of the staff and public present were: Chief Schneider, Mike Beard, Bill Elias, Donna Williams and Josh Martin.

It was moved by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Brill to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2010 City Council Meeting, and the June 14 and July 12, 2010 Police Committee Minutes. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Mohr would like a folder added to the City website to include committee meeting minutes – Alderman Fiero will follow up on that.

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 \$24,135.73. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input:

1. Donna Williams brought information about a Route 66 video that is being made by Vincent Videos. They will be in Lexington filming on August 26, 2010. Individuals with "memories" they would like to share are encourage to meet at the Filling Station Restaurant, 905 ½ W Main, at 10:45 am to reminisce. Filming will take place in half hour intervals, starting at the Lexington Neon sign at 10:00 am, moving to memory Lane, the Filling Station and then to the Oasis at 11:30. She wondered if any old cars could be brought to Memory Lane for interest, as well as the bed from the Red Carpet Corridor bed race, to promote that event. Bill Elias will see what weed spraying and mowing can be done to clean up the shoulders of the area before then. Donna also says that a need is becoming more apparent for a Lexington Visitor's Booth/Center, and would like to City to investigate how that could be made possible.
2. Josh Martin had more questions about the sewer construction. He would like citizens to be able to see what change orders are being authorized and would like them on the agenda when they come up. He would also like any changes to the completion date to be placed on the agenda and approved at a council meeting.

Police Chief's Report:

Chief Schneider reported the following: **1)** – July activity – 37 calls for service, 13 assists to other police agencies, 3 fire and rescue assists, 1 arrest, 4 verbal traffic warnings, 9 traffic citations, 282.5 manhours, 449 business checks, and 1907 patrol miles logged. **2)** He is waiting to hear from Fire Chief Berry about details for the simulated disaster drill being planned for September 8. **3)** He has hired 2 new part-time patrolmen to cover for the 2 who have returned to active duty with the military – Mike Lay and Kevin Hinshaw.

Old Business:

TIF Grants – Alderman Winterland reported the following: One tuckpointing request has been withdrawn. The second request has been received from Don Jacobs, owner of Bloomington Farm Management at 302 W. Main St. He has obtained bids for tuckpointing the second story of his building and is asking for 50 % assistance from the City. His supporting points were that he employs 3 fulltime employees and 1 part-time; has improved the EAV of the property by a small increase; would use a local contractor to do the work. Alderman Winterland reminded the council that due to the sewer project funding requirements that only \$25,000 is in the budget for grants this year, of which \$18750 remains before school district and park district needs and potential building demolition costs have been addressed. With those remaining expenses in mind, Alderman Winterland recommends no grant at this time. Questions from the council included whether or not Mr. Jacobs would proceed with the work without the grant, would he take a lesser amount in the interest of public safety, as the building abuts 2 well-used sidewalks, and from Mrs. Williams – also an owner of a downtown building showing signs of similar need – what value does the council place on maintaining old downtown buildings, which have an attractive and irreplaceable charm? Alderman Winterland will talk again with Mr. Jacobs before any council decision is made.

Code Supplement – Alderman Brill referred to the fact that when the new code was approved in June, it was discovered that the fee structure pages were incomplete. Late today, those updated pages arrived, but no adopting Ordinance. Due to council and clerk absences, the item will be moved to the first meeting in September for approval. The Code on the website does not show these updates either.

New Business:

Water Service Connection Fees – A local resident has recently installed all new plumbing in and water line from a residence, but that did not improve the flow of water in the house. The City crews then replaced the portion of the service from the property line to the water main and solved the problem. However, the resident is objecting to the customary \$325 tap-on fee charged by the City in these instances. Much discussion followed, centered on City practice and policy since 1984, which has seen nearly 500 such connections, both entirely new services and replacement services, and most of which have paid the fee. Mike Beard discussed the current actual costs to the City for doing the work and providing the materials needed. Most of the confusion comes from unclear language in the Ordinance. Many suggestions were made on what clarifications need to be made. Mayor Mohr asked Chuck Cole, Water Dept. Chair, to come up with acceptable proposed changes to the wording so an amendment to the ordinance can be prepared. In the meantime, the \$325 fee will stand and be charged.

Committee Reports:

Mayor – **1)** The city website now has a link to the searchable City of Lexington Code. **2)** The financial report for July includes the new Managed Health Care Fund numbers. **3)** He received an email from Curt Nettles, School Supt., requesting a meeting to discuss the proposed changes to Lexington TIF District and its potential impact on the school. Mayor Mohr, Alderman Winterland, Supt. Nettles and School Board Pres. Steve Brown will meet when a date can be conveniently set. Alderman Fiero suggested that Tom Jacob, the City's TIF consultant, be included. **4)** Zach Knight, of Farnsworth Group provided the following sewer construction update by email: Div. A-Earthwork continues on lagoon berms. Concrete has been poured for the wet well and walls of the blower room for the Treatment Plant. Div. B- No new developments. Lift station plumbing will be finished later this year. Div. C – No new developments. Further force main work is waiting on earthwork completion at the Plant site. Div. D – Approximately 22% of total pipe has been installed. Crews are finishing 10" line from Turkey Creek to Barker Chevrolet and 8" line along Gregory this week, and finished directionally drilling 8" line along PJ Keller near the Wright property. Div. E – Finished 12" line along Delane. Approximately 14% of total pipe has been installed. Div. F – No new developments. Alderman Brill raised the question of access to Timber Ridge when sewer work begins on Spencer St. The concrete refuse in the alley at Anvil Brand needs to be moved before then if that access becomes necessary. Elias reported that attempts had been made to move the material to Steve Hoselton's rural property, but equipment became mired in mud along the river bottom where the fill is needed.**5)** Central Illinois Disposal contacted him regarding the demolition project at Benedict's property on PJ Keller. They were referred to Ms. Benedict.

Police – The committee met tonight preceding the council meeting. A meeting will be held this Thursday with Mayor Mohr, Alderman Fiero in Alderman Brill's absence, and the attorneys to discuss the salary proposal for the part-time officers. As mentioned in the Chief's report, 2 new part-time officers have been hired.

Building/Insurance – Alderman Miller also discussed the financial report sections, which detail the Managed Health Care Fund and its balance. Several months of experience will need to occur to get a better picture of how the fund is working, as this month's report contains the start-up 2 months' worth of expenses and revenues. Also, the pictures of the lagoon construction appearing in this month's City newsletter were taken as part of the process to get that property and the storage garage on N. Vine St. into tax-exempt status.

Finance/TIF - Alderman Winterland will be contacting Don Jacobs to discuss his TIF request.

Water - None

Sanitation – Alderman Fiero has talked to Dan Winters of Allied Waste. They are discussing the company's proposal to provide toters to residents for regular garbage pickup. Since she will not be at the August 23rd meeting, she will have more to report at the first September meeting.

Street/Alley – Bill Elias reported that two large culverts in Timber Ridge need to be replaced. They are probably original to the subdivision and have rotted away at the bottom. A 30" culvert, 80' long will cost approximately \$3000. He still needs to get a price for the 18" 48' long piece. City crews can install them. He hopes to have a final price by the next meeting. Josh Martin suggested that Bill check the construction contract, as the contractor who uncovered them may help replace at least the section that is directly under the road, saving the City some money.

There being no further business, it was moved by Alderman Winterland and seconded by Alderman Miller to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted

Margaret Quinley, City Clerk

Approved: 8-23-10