

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL

December 10, 2012

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 to find the following physically present: Mayor Mohr, Alderman Cole, Alderman Higgins, Alderman Miller, Alderman Brill, Alderman Revelle and Alderman Winterland. Members of the staff and public present were: Melanie Kunkel, Don Cavallini, Zach Mason, Dave Schneider, Jill Mohr, Julie Crouch, Sharon Benjamin, Dan Winters, Roge Mason, and Jeff Wissmiller.

It was moved by Alderman Brill and second by Alderman Miller to approve the November 26, 2012 council minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Alderman Winterland and seconded by Alderman Revelle to approve the treasurer's report and pay bills in the amount of \$39,912.33. The final payment to Rowe Construction for the repaving of North Park is included in this amount. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input- None

Old Business:

Police Chief's Report: Chief Dave Schneider provided his report to council members. He is currently working with City Collector, Star Torkelson, to post schedules on the city's Cloud network. He has moved the work schedule and the daily police logs into a Cloud storage that can be accessed by city employees and council members from any computer.

New Business:

Dan Winters-Allied Waste contract: Dan Winters from Allie Waste addressed the council with a proposal to extend the garbage collection contract for an additional three years. The contract provides for approximately a 3% annual fee increase. The contract provides for an increase in recycling pickup to two times per month. The city would be split into two sections with recycling pickups occurring on alternating weeks. The new rate of \$13.32 would be effective January 1st. Scrap metal collection will also be provided for in the agreement and continue as in the past. Motion by Alderman Revelle and second by Alderman Cole to accept the proposal by Allied Waste and to bill residents accordingly for the next three years. Motion carries unanimously. With this decision a City subsidy of approximately \$0.57 per month per account for recycling will end.

114 & 116 Cedar Street Demotion proposals: Mayor indicated that he forwarded the asbestos inspections to Jeremy Hafley with Accurate Site Specialists and confirmed with him tonight that the demolition estimates include asbestos removal. Motion by Alderman Brill and second by Alderman Miller to accept the proposals from Accurate Site Specialists for the demolitions at 114 & 116 Cedar Street in the amount of \$20,200.

City Hall Volunteers: Sharon Benjamin with the Illinois Department of Human Services addressed the council on behalf of Zach Mason. Zach is a part time volunteer for the city who is looking to transition from high school into a paid part-time position. Sharon works with individuals with disabilities helping them with educational pursuits, employment, and transitioning from high school into adult services. She is encouraging the City to hire Zach to continue working for the city. She is proposing that the State of Illinois will help Zach transition into a work environment by paying his training wages. She is asking the city to help by hiring him on a part-time basis and by teaching him his job skills. She is willing to pay \$8.25/hour for 20 hours per week for two months. Those wages would then be reduced to \$6.19 for the following two months and \$4.12/hour for the remaining two months of the State's program. The city would be responsible for paying \$900 for 6 months of work. In the end her hope is that the city will hire Zach in some capacity. Zach has been helping to read water meters. He may also be able to do some mowing of public areas following an assessment of his capabilities. Sharon Benjamin has contacted a rehab hospital in Chicago for some occupational therapy to assist him with the use of his left hand as well as evaluating his ability to drive. If it is determined that he can drive, her program will pay for the necessary conversions to whatever vehicle he would be assigned to drive. Alderman Revelle noted that some of the city's concern is Zach's willingness to wear an apparatus on his wrist provided to him by a therapist as well as his interest in helping himself as much as others are helping him. Alderman Miller would like to see Zach evaluated as his concern lies with Zach's ability or comfort level of having to perform jobs by himself. Motion by Alderman Winterland and second by Alderman Cole to accept Sharon's proposal for Zach beginning January 14th , to accept the proposed wage schedule, while recommending that the Mary Joy Hospital rehabilitation evaluation be completed as soon as possible to help the city determine appropriate tasks to be assigned. Motion carries unanimously.

TIF-Local Slice Grant Request: Julie Crouch addressed the council as one of the owners of the building located at 127 W. Main Street. She noted that they have changed their vision from a pizza restaurant to improving the building for other commercial uses. There are three units downstairs, one of which is being leased by Country Insurance Agent, Mike Rich. Julie feels the second level has a lot of potential and they have been approached by a photographer who is interested in renting space but wants to see the space with windows before committing to a lease. She is looking for some financial help to make improvements in an effort to attract some additional rental income and commercial activity along Main Street. A finance committee meeting was held on December 7th to discuss the request. It was decided the city could help with some payment-in-kind help by assisting with some tree removal, sewer and water connections. The finance committee is also recommending a reimbursement of any property tax increment resulting from building improvements for the next five years. That would have the effect of freezing property taxes at the current level to encourage private investment. Many of the improvements listed in Julie's report are not TIF eligible expenses. The committee is reluctant to dedicate any grant money without having evidence of rental agreements in place. Mayor reminded the Council of commitments already made to improve the properties at 305 W. Main, 114 N Cedar St. and 116 N Cedar Street. Motion by Alderman Winterland and second by Alderman Revelle to provide in kind support in the form of a sewer hook-up, removal of plant and tree vegetation on the property and to effectively freeze property tax increases by reimbursing any increment for five years. Motion carries unanimously.

Reschedule 12/27/12 Council meeting: Meeting will remain on December 27, 2012. No action taken.

Employee End of Year Bonuses: With a 4% pay raise provided back in May, the council agreed to a \$250.00 employee end of year bonus. Motion by Alderman Revelle and second by Alderman Miller to provide cash bonuses to city employees, including Margaret Quinley, Skip Schott and Sue Vincent, grossed up so that each individual receives a flat \$250. Motion carries unanimously.

2013 Council Meeting Calendar: Clerk, Melanie Kunkel, provided council members with the 2013 council meeting calendar. Motion by Alderman Miller and second by Alderman Brill to adopt the 2013 Municipal calendar. Motion carries unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Mayor: Mayor agreed to pay the music licensing fee to ASCAP for the Christmas music playing on Main Street. The City has received many compliments on the music being broadcast over Main Street loud speakers.

Police: Kiwanis and the American Legion have voted to reimburse the city 1/3 each of the cost of the replacement lights for the lighted snowflakes on Main Street.

Building/Insurance: Alderman Miller has spoken to Marty Ryan regarding the amount of items being stored outside the building. The situation has improved some. She is attempting to work with Mark Anderson for another electronics recycling pick up.

Finance/TIF: Alderman Winterland is asking the council to think of other ways to help Julie Crouch in her quest to rehab her building.

Water: None

Sanitation: None

Streets/Allys: None

There being no further business, it was moved by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Higgins to adjourn at 9:37 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Kunkel, City Clerk

Approved: 12/27/2012