

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL

August 12, 2013

The regular meeting of the Lexington City Council was called to order at 7:50 p.m. by Mayor John 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 Phelps, Alderman Revelle and Alderman Brill. Alderman Johansen and Alderman Miller were absent. Members of the staff and public present were: Melanie Kunkel, Don Cavallini, Brittany Phelps, Leeah Phelps, Jeff Elston and Sue Noland.

It was moved by Alderman Brill and seconded by Alderman Phelps to approve the July 22, 2013 and July 29, 2013 Council Meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Alderman Revelle and seconded by Alderman Brill to approve the treasurer's report and pay bills in the amount of \$45,919.69. Mayor noted that in the bills were checks in the amount of \$500 to Skip Schott and \$390 for Logan Elias as compensation for part time work they did for the city assisting employees with tree removal. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input: Don Cavallini witnessed a woman fall near the post office and part of the reason she fell was because the curb drops off. He's asking the city to repaint the curbs yellow, to distinguish the transition, like they were before. Alderman Brill would like to see those curbs fixed in the future when development begins on the old Jaycee Hall. Mayor noted that City Collector, Star Torkelson, also witnessed the accident and completed a complaint form regarding the lack of yellow paint on the sidewalks. The street department has been notified and will repaint the curbs.

Jeff Elston addressed the council. He is running for Sheriff of McLean County. He discussed his campaign and what he would bring to the department if elected. He also fielded questions from council members.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Motion to Accept Wirtz Way Construction Bid: Four bids were received for the construction of Wirtz Way. Stark was \$307,894.63, Rowe was \$396,188.70, Otto Baum was \$357,415.42 and Opperman was \$343,980.95. The engineering estimate was \$405,336. Alderman Phelps asked the Mayor if he had any concerns with the city accepting the lowest bid. Mayor indicated that he did not have any concerns as he feels Stark's bid is lower due to the fact that they have equipment on site and have already prepped the road. Alderman Cole noted that he would rather see Rowe be awarded the bid because the final finished product will be much smoother than Stark, however, he could not argue the difference in cost. Motion by Alderman Cole and second by Alderman Revelle to accept the bid from Stark in the amount of \$307,984.63 pending any protests for the construction of Wirtz Way. Motion carries unanimously.

Money Market Accounts: City Treasurer, Sue Noland, noted that the balance in the city's checking account is substantial and would like to move some of it to the city's money market account. The interest rate on the checking account is currently 0.02% and interest on the money

market is 0.05%. Mayor recommended moving \$500,000. Mayor asked Sue to monitor interest rates and if she sees them rising, to reopen the sweep account with Commerce and invest excess monies in treasuries as the city has done in the past. Motion by Alderman Phelps and second by Alderman Revelle to move \$500,000 from the city's checking account to the city's money market account. Motion passes unanimously.

Building Maintenance on Main Street: Alderman Phelps would like to see the council to consider an ordinance forcing local businesses to maintain the outside of their buildings as he has observed some businesses with electrical wires hanging out, handwritten poster board signs indicating hours, etc. Mayor noted he was unsure how to enforce maintenance of a privately owned business unless it becomes a nuisance. Mayor asked Alderman Phelps to research this topic in other small communities and bring the information back to the council. Alderman Revelle indicated that times are tough and perhaps it is financially difficult for businesses to keep their doors open and also make repairs. Alderman Phelps will research this topic.

Estimate for Building Inspector: Alderman Cole handed out a proposal for Edwards Architects to inspect the construction of the Wirtz building on behalf of the city. Mayor noted that per the building permit issued to Wirtz, Farnsworth is set to inspect the building on behalf of the city at a number of important construction stages. No further action to be taken on the proposal from Edwards Architects.

Committee Reports:

Mayor: Mayor would like a meeting scheduled for August 19th to approve the bids for PJ Keller Highway construction. Mayor gave an update on Police Chief Dave Schneider. Dave has worked with Star to manage some pay or payroll issues with regard to his medical leave. Our code does not require employees to use all of their sick time, personal days and vacation time in order to be on medical leave. Dave is holding onto some of his sick, personal and vacation time and, with Star's help, has approached IMRF to see if he is eligible for a short term disability. Mayor's concern is that there will be an increase to the IMRF payments in the future. Physically he is making progress but recently ran into some blood clots that he is taking medication for. He is expected to make a full recovery. After some research, Dave will have to reimburse the city for his family's share of the health insurance premiums during his leave. Mayor will have to draft a letter indicating Dave is still employed here. Dave Jenkins will be in town Wednesday. He will be providing an interview with a company called BCEGS which studies small towns to see if there is a construction code compliance process in place. Mayor met with John Lindenbaum and asked him to suspend his complaints about his neighbor until Mayor can figure answer the right-of-way ownership question with IDOT. Mayor would like to spend some money doing some advertising on Facebook. All council members were in agreement that this would be a good idea. Regarding the 115 Parkway auction, all the paperwork has been signed and filed and everything is moving ahead. We are still waiting for Fannie Mae to approve the offer. Mayor indicated that the redevelopment agreement is in the hands of the attorney for the investment group interested in the Jaycee Hall. They are asking to salvage some tin ceiling tiles to incorporate in the new construction.

Police: Alderman Phelps met with the police department which included Dave Schneider, Eric Hill and Josh Dingler. They discussed a need to enforce city ordinances and follow up on them. They shared their concerns about staffing. Alderman Phelps asked them to send him their recommendations of what they are looking for in writing.

Building/Insurance: -None

Finance/TIF: -None

Water: Mayor encouraged Alderman Cole to follow up with the city employees on the phase one feasibility study for the water treatment plant. Mayor would like to keep pushing to get that done.

Sanitation: -None

Streets/Alleys: Alderman Brill spoke with Bill Elias and he will be working on spray patching this week. He also spoke to Mike Patton about the added driveways at his business. Alderman Cole inquired when the city was going to pave the city's driveway off Orange. Mayor indicated he had previously asked Bill Elias to see what is required and get an estimate. John Deere is also inquiring as to what is required so they can pave their driveway as well.

There being no further business, it was moved by Alderman Brill and seconded by Alderman Revelle to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Kunkel, City Clerk

Approved: 8/26/2013