

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL

November 11, 2013

The regular meeting of the Lexington City Council was called to order at 7:30 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 Johansen, Alderman Miller, Alderman Phelps, Alderman Revelle and Alderman Brill. Members of the staff and public present were: Melanie Kunkel, Mike Beard, Jon Kemp, Terry Bitner, Don Cavallini.

It was moved by Alderman Johansen and seconded by Alderman Miller to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2013 council meeting.

It was moved by Alderman Revelle and second by Alderman Phelps to approve the treasurer's report and pay bills in the amount of \$57,876.70 which includes an invoice for approximately \$24,000 for street sealing done back over the summer. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Input:** None.

### Old Business:

**Employee Goal Worksheets:** Alderman Phelps noted that the head of his department has done very well. He noted that Dave Schneider has met all the goals Phelps has set for him. Alderman Brill noted that he too met with Bill Elias and Bill provided him with an update on all the goals he had on his list. Alderman Phelps asked City Collector, Star Torkelson, to get a form of evaluation that can be completed by committee chairs and placed in employee files for future reference. Alderman Phelps asked that a Human Resources type of department be created for employees to be able to discuss problems they may be having in a private setting that won't be discussed elsewhere.

**Streetscape Proposal:** Mayor brought up this topic at the last meeting. Alderman Phelps asked if something could be done to beautify Main Street in the form of requiring some of the businesses to clean up the fronts and backs of the restaurants. He would also like the city to spend some money beautifying Main Street for the holidays. He will contact Devore Landscaping for an estimate. Alderman Johansen recommended hiring someone to clean the inside of city hall. He recommends Katie Brad. Mayor wants to make sure the money is budgeted. Mayor is looking for suggestions on how to landscape certain areas in town. Alderman Johansen would like the city to put in a new city sign out on PJ Keller Highway once construction is complete. Mayor noted that would be an item to discuss during the budget. Alderman Phelps would also like to see some nice signs designating business locations at the end of PJ Keller Highway. This item will be discussed at the budget meeting.

### New Business:

**Front of City Hall:** Alderman Johansen asked that the front of city hall be landscaped after all the bushes, etc. were torn out at the beginning of summer. He also asked the city to lead by example by taking care of the grounds. He'd like someone to make the front look presentable.

Mayor recommends putting it in the budget for next year and adding it to the list of areas being landscaped and watered by Dan McDaniels along Main Street.

**An Ordinance Authorizing a Redevelopment Agreement Between the City of Lexington and Public Hall Hospitality:** The original draft was created by city attorney, Mike Tibbs. Alderman Phelps would like to see some changes to the agreement regarding the amount the city would contribute to the project. Alderman Cole advised Jon Kemp to leave the hole open after demolition, fence it off for the winter, then back fill the necessary areas after the first set of walls are up. Jon Kemp noted that he did not have blue prints drawn for the council to see as he was waiting for the council to approve the RDA before he committed any money to this location. Current seating at the Upper Tap is 45. He is planning on having 80 seats for the new restaurant. Outside seating would be 15-20. Jon feels he and his business have demonstrated over the past 10 years consistent success with a lack of ability to accommodate the amount of patrons trying to get in. One point of the RDA is that the developer cannot appeal his property tax assessment for 10 years allowing the city to recapture some of its investment. Alderman Phelps asked who would take responsibility for paying Farnsworth for their work preparing the specs and advertisement for demolition. Mayor noted the city would absorb that cost. Motion by Alderman Brill and second by Alderman Phelps to approve Ordinance 2013-18 An Ordinance Authorizing a Redevelopment Agreement between the City of Lexington and Public Hall Hospitality. Motion carries unanimously.

**An Ordinance Approving a Property Tax Levy:** Mayor is looking for some input on the property tax levy. It has not changed in six years. The current levy from property taxes is \$155,160. The city can ask for 5% more without a truth in taxation public hearing. In order to cover increasing costs of employee salaries in the future, Mayor recommends increasing the levy. The city's share of the total property tax bill is 5%. Alderman Miller feels the city should go without an increase to the tax levy. Alderman Johansen also does not agree with an increase to the levy. This topic was a starting point of discussion for this ordinance and will be continued at the next meeting.

**IMLRMA Property Insurance:** mayor spoke to the claims management rep. The city's yearly premium is \$55,000 per year. The representative suggested some ways to make the yearly premium more manageable for the city by self-insuring certain items.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Mayor:** The intersection on PJ Keller Highway is nearing completion and Wirtz Way is ready to be opened and the construction road will soon be removed. They still need to stripe and seed and a stop sign needs to be put in place. The intersection won't be fully completed this winter. There is a top layer that has to be installed in the spring. Most of EDP money has been received from IDOT.

**Police:** Alderman Phelps noted the police department ordered new uniforms and computers. There will be an anti-bullying program put on by Lexington Police at the school. 7 traffic citations and 2 verbal warnings were issued in the month of October.

**Building/Insurance:** Alderman Miller noted that Mrs. Graham's family has paved her driveway. They paved around the pole.

**Finance/TIF:** None

**Water:** Alderman Cole noted that half of the water main has been installed on Spencer Street that will service the new subdivision.

**Sanitation:** None  
**Streets/Alleys:** None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Kunkel, City Clerk

Approved: 11/25/2013