

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL

August 25, 2014

The regular meeting of the Lexington City Council was called to order at 7:35 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 Miller, Alderman Phelps, Alderman Revelle and Alderman Fosen. Alderman Johansen was absent. Members of the staff and public present were: Melanie Kunkel, Bruce Klein, Jason Thomas, Mike Beard, Sandra Morgan, Brandon Fried, Lori Page, Curt Nettles, and David Belvery.

It was moved by Alderman Phelps and second by Alderman Miller to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2014 council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Alderman Fosen and second by Alderman Revelle to approve the treasurer's report and pay bills in the amount of \$28,355.24. Mayor will hold any payments to Stark until some punch list items on Wirtz Way, the new subdivision and a flooding issue are resolved. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input: None

Old Business:

Fireside Façade Project: Restaurant Manager, Brandon Fried, submitted a request for a TIF grant for some renovations on the inside as well as the outside of the old Fireside building. They are looking to install a patio in the front as well as installing sliding glass doors in the front. They are looking to spend \$19,000-\$20,000 in renovations and are asking the city for \$9,000. Some Alderman voiced concerns about the amount of money the city has invested in the building itself and the many businesses that have come and gone. Concerns regarding the structural condition of the back of the building where bricks are falling off were brought up by Alderman Phelps. Alderman Miller and Alderman Fosen recommended some sort of staggered payment scheduled based on the council's receipt of a written estimate, Motion by Alderman Miller and second by Alderman Fosen that TIF payments in a grant form totaling \$9,000 with installment payments of 1/3 after the receipt of a formal estimate from the current contractor, 2/3 on or after January 1, 2015 and the final payment June 1, 2015. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business:

School Funding Resolution: Mayor provided council members with a copy of a resolution granting \$300,000 to the school board in exchange for postponing the property tax referendum proposed for the November 4, 2014 general election. The resolution also allows the grant to be called at any time to meet deficit reduction needs over a two year period beginning upon passage and ending June 30, 2016. There is a fundraising initiative made up of residents who are committed to see that the city keeps its K-12 school system. Mayor is committed to maintaining a property tax rate that is competitive with other cities in McLean County, encourages economic activity and maintains the value of residential and commercial property within the city. Alderman Miller asked that there be a two year time limit included in the resolution that the school will not come back in the next two years and add a tax referendum to future elections.

Alderman express concerns over the board continuing with current budget cuts after the bailout as well as continuing to find more cuts with very little effect on the children. Voting on this resolution is postponed until the entire council is present.

Cedar Street Property Redevelopment Agreement: Postponed until the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

Mayor: **City Inspector:** Farnsworth has an employee who has retired but who they feel may be able to help with building inspections. **Ongoing Projects:** With the exception of some punch list items Stark is working on, Wirtz Way and PJ Keller Highway are close to being closed out. The City is still waiting on some grant money from IDOT. The Trail Ridge subdivision finalization will be complete once Stark completes their punch list items and they have reaffirmed their commitment to pay the invoices for the flooding damage on the Meadow Ridge home. **Kemp:** Blueprints were provided to council members for review. **Commerce Bank lot:** Mayor has forwarded the resolution back to Commerce Bank after the last meeting. **Water Treatment Plant Property Acquisition:** Easements are completed and the Mayor is trying to get paperwork signed and submitted. **Meadow Ridge Playground:** Jaycees have begun the installation of the Meadow Ridge playground and basketball court.

Police: Alderman Phelps circulated a proposal from Chief, Dave Belvery, asking for an additional full time officer for coverage purposes. He also distributed a coverage schedule that would provide coverage seven days a week.

Building/Insurance: Alderman Miller has taken care of Barbara Graham's plumbing issue.

Finance/TIF: None

Water: Mike Beard has received a lot of complaints about odor in the water. He thinks the filters are nearing the end of their life. He is going to take the top 18" off the filters in the hopes that will fix the problem.

Sanitation: None

Streets/Alleys: Alderman Revelle noted that the spray patching is almost done.

There being no further business, it was moved by Alderman Phelps and seconded by Alderman Miller to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Kunkel, City Clerk

Approved: 9/8/2014