

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL

January 25, 2016

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.

Mayor led the council in the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call was taken to find the following physically present: Mayor Mohr, Alderman Miller, Alderman Cole, Alderman Richard, Alderman Meyer, Alderman Johansen and Alderman Stover. Members of the staff and public present were: Melanie Kunkel, Jason Thomas, Dwight Stricklin and David Belvery.

Mayor led the council and public present in a moment of silence for the Mayor of Ellsworth, Jay Smithson, who recently passed away.

It was moved by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Meyer to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2016 council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Alderman Stover and seconded by Alderman Cole to approve the treasurer's report and pay bills in the amount of \$82,330.95. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input: None.

Old Business:

Mayor explained that city attorney, Mike Tibbs, crafted the ordinances below and added some language that was beyond the Council's intentions that were determined at the December 28th meeting. Mayor met with both parties to discuss changes, made those changes and forwarded redlined versions to all council members before the meeting.

Ordinance 2016-1 Authorizing Wildwood Brewing, LLC Redevelopment Agreement: Motion by Alderman Miller and second by Alderman Johansen to approve Ordinance 2016-1 authorizing a Redevelopment Agreement with Wildwood Brewing, LLC. Motion carries unanimously.

Ordinance 2016-2 Authorizing Freeman Redevelopment Agreement: Motion by Alderman Cole and second by Alderman Meyer to approve Ordinance 2016-2 authorizing a Redevelopment Agreement with Brett Freeman and Mike Freeman. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business:

Waiving late fees on water bills due to change in billing date: Mayor noted that after changing the due date on water bills, city collector, Starlette Torkelson, had waived the fees for late December payments on the January statements. Going forward she will apply those late fees since adequate notice has been given in the newsletter and on the utility statements regarding the

change in due date from the last day of each month to the 25th day of each month. No action required.

Resolution to move IL Funds to Commerce Bank: Mayor noted that there is still about \$70,000 in the IL funds account with the Illinois Treasurer. Mayor would like to transfer this money and close the account in order to simplify monthly reconciliations. Treasurer, Sue Noland, is doing some research to see if there is any reason the city needs to keep that account open. Mayor did not get the resolution written so this item will be forwarded to the next meeting.

Resolution for school funding: School Superintendent, Dwight Stricklin, thanked the council for their previous and continued financial support. He noted that the school's deficit was previously \$850,000 and they are hoping to have it under \$150,000 now. Mr. Stricklin fielded questions from various council members regarding the current budget, their upcoming referendum and teacher contract negotiations. He acknowledged that a large part of the schools financial situation was due to poor decision making in the past and the goal moving forward is to live within the school's means while planning for future improvements on textbooks and technology. He also stressed the importance of the upcoming tax referendum passing as they are anticipating the state implementing property tax caps soon and transferring teacher pension contributions to the district. Mayor Mohr has received a letter from Superintendent Strickland on behalf of the School Board requesting \$90,000 of the \$150,000 the City had earmarked in its FY15/16 budget to help the school with deficit reduction. Motion by Alderman Miller and second by Alderman Stover to approve Resolution 2016-1 authorizing the release of \$90,000 of the earmarked money to the school. Alderman Richard noted that he would rather not use any more city funds to fund the school but feels the council needs to show a united front to the community. Motion carries unanimously.

Resolution to move remaining school funding to TIF Fund: Mayor noted that he was looking to move \$50,000 of the remaining \$60,000 to the TIF fund but did not have a chance to get the documents drawn up. This item will be forwarded to the next meeting.

Cedar Street Townhomes – Garbage Handling: The developer was under the impression that the city was going to provide garbage totes for the townhome residents. He is concerned about having to provide a dumpster as he feels residents outside the townhomes will be using it and he has no way to control that. Mayor noted that the city's code indicates that the city will provide garbage totes for single or two family homes. Mayor noted that each of the units there are single family homes thereby qualifying each unit to have a tote. Each unit owner will be required to keep the totes in their garage and place them outside their garage on collection day. Alderman Johansen volunteered to do a little more research regarding this topic. This item will be on the next agenda.

Committee Reports:

Mayor: Mayor reminded the council of the TIF Joint Review Board meeting scheduled for 7:00 pm February 22nd. The medical equipment installation business looking at land in Lexington has chosen to locate in Pontiac. Mayor is expecting to get the sales contract from Anthony Eckhart

for the purchase of the old City hall building soon. Mayor spoke to Mary Beth Wright who has been busy promoting the Castle Gardens. One event she is planning is a bridal expo scheduled for April. She is partnering with other local businesses that can support a wedding for the promotion. Mayor circulated minutes from a meeting he had with Farnsworth regarding the water treatment plant. The EPA has issued the construction permit.

Police: Chief Belvery noted that Officer Carter and Officer Eckhart have graduated from the Police Training Institute and Officer Carter graduated 1st in his class with a 4.0 GPA.

Building/Insurance: None

Finance/TIF: None

Water: None

Sanitation: Alderman Johansen has a prospective business who is interested in building in Lexington. They have a developer willing to build for them. Alderman Johansen will have more on this topic in upcoming meetings.

Streets/Alleys: None

There being no further business, it was moved by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Meyer to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Kunkel, City Clerk

Approved: 1/25/2016