

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL**January 23, 2023****7:00 P. M.**

The regular meeting of the Lexington City Council was called to order at 7:00 P. M. by Mayor Spencer Johansen in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mayor Johansen led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken to find the following physically present: Mayor Johansen, Alderman Mattingly, Alderman Little, Alderman Richard, Alderman Stover and Alderwoman Wilson with Alderman Franklin absent. Members of the staff and public present were: Ken Sours, Dustin Carter and Maggie Johansen.

It was moved by Alderman Mattingly and seconded by Alderwoman Wilson to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023 regular and closed sessions of the City Council meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Alderman Stover and seconded by Alderman Mattingly to approve the Treasurer's Report and paying of the bills in the amount of \$53,575.09. Mayor Johansen made the comment that they have started to pay the bills weekly to avoid late fees. Alderman Stover or Alderman Richard come in and sign off on them. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input: None

New Business:**Discussion/Vote to Proceed with Purchase of Retention Basin Parcel 09-07-326-025**

You may recall that back in the summer the retention basin was bought by someone who bought in on back taxes and wanted to sell it to us for \$15,000 to which we were not interested. He has now lowered the price to \$1,500. Mayor Johansen feels it would be a wise decision for us to move forward with the purchase of the property now. The last thing that we would want is for him to sell this property to someone else. It was believed that he had paid \$770 for it.

We don't have to own the detention basin for the subdivision. The city has maintained it since the start of the subdivision when we assumed the maintenance of the streets. The subdivision code requires them to turn it over to us and for us to leave space for a playground. No one can build on the property and it has no access to it. If he should sell to someone else it leaves us open to a potential suit as we are telling them they cannot build on it.

Jack Snyder was the one who was to sign off on the property and the city should have followed through on it and didn't. When Jack passed away the family quit paying taxes on it. It is not

where the playground is. If you look at the arial it looks like there is a road to it but it is a water way.

The vote tonight is to just to move forward with the purchase. He will have the attorney complete the paperwork. He believes that when a municipality purchases property they have to declare that they have a use for it, and we do have a use for it.

We can always come back to him with a lower offer.

Motion was made by Alderman Richard and seconded by Alderman Mattingly to proceed with the purchase of retention basin parcel 09-07-326-025. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Vote Resolution 2023-1: In Support of Tax Increment Financing

This is a resolution that the Illinois Municipal League suggested that we pass. There is a house bill on the floor that has an amendment representing issues that the IML strongly oppose reforming the current Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act (TIF). It takes away the decision-making authority from the municipal officials and the IML feels will work against the economic development goals and needs of Illinois communities.

Motion was made by Alderman Richard and seconded by Alderman Stover to approve Resolution 2023-1: In Support of Tax Increment Financing. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Solar Proposals

There was some confusion over when we were to open the bids. We thought it was January 20th but that was the date to answer questions or concerns. The actual date to open the bids is February 20th. We are not making any decisions to purchase anything, only looking at the proposals and looking at what our options are. Mayor Johansen will send out a notice before the bids are opened.

Old Business:

Vote to go into Closed Session to Discuss Policy/Procedure/Personnel Changes

Motion was made by Alderman Richard and seconded by Alderman Mattingly to go into closed session to discuss policy/procedure/personnel changes at 7:13 PM.. Motion carried unanimously.

Vote to go into Open Session

Motion was made by Alderman Richard and seconded by Alderman Mattingly to go into open session at 9:43 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Vote Policy/Procedure/Personnel Changes

Motion was made by Alderman Richard and seconded by Alderwoman Wilson to implement all policies, procedures and personnel changes we agreed upon in the closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor's Report: Mayor Johansen reported on the following items:

He has talked with a business that wants to open a pizzeria in town. Discussing a couple different options.

He is meeting with Carey Davis on Thursday. There is a meeting in Bloomington where you can present your plans to different contractors.

He has met with someone who is interested in putting in another apartment complex in Lexington if Tentac reaches out. They hope to be ready by spring.

Police: None

Building/Insurance None

Finance /TIF None

Water/Sewer/Sanitation None

Mayor Johansen has met with the fiber optic people and they had a good discussion. He did not want them cutting the streets or sidewalks till it had been approved by Bill Elias.

Street/Alley None

Alderman Richard brought up the fact that the fiber optic workers had hit a gas main and wanted to pass an ordinance where they could no longer come in and bore the streets to place fiber optics. When Mayor Johansen emailed the attorney he was informed we had an ordinance in place.

We do need to get the trailer court cleaned up. It is a mess. He doesn't know why we cannot enforce our ordinance out there. It was thought that trailer courts were held to a certain level by the State of Illinois. Mayor Johansen has reached out to the owner of the trailer court.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Mattingly to adjourn at 9:49 P.M. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Pati Pease

City Clerk

Approved: February 27, 2023