

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL**January 24, 2022****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 Stover, Alderman Richard, Alderman Mattingly, Alderwoman Wilson and Alderman Franklin with Alderman Little absent. Members of the staff and public present were: Chief Belvery and Rex Osborn.

It was moved by Alderman Mattingly and seconded by Alderwoman Wilson to approve the minutes of the December 27, 2021 regular city council meeting. Motion carried with four yes and Alderman Franklin voting present.

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 \$55,645.18. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input: Rex Osborn has been working on the newest business in town, an airbnb located at 1002 W. Walnut Street formerly owned by Tom Kaskabar. He is decorating it in a 1966 motif inside. He plans on being up and running by April 1, 2022.

He is using local labor for the work on this project and has rehabbed a total of four properties in Lexington.

Rex has a love of Lexington and has visited many times over the last 25 years. Historically his great grandparents came from the Colfax and Chenoa area with his great great grandfather being sheriff of Mclean County.

Old Business: None

New Business:**Discussion: Ordinance Amending Chapter 5, Section 16 of the City Code of the City of Lexington Pertaining to the Sale and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages in Outdoor Gardens**

Mayor Johansen has asked the attorney to look at this ordinance with the new brewery opening soon. During COVID we violated our outside seating ordinance by allowing open alcohol in the tent next door. We have had good compliance but it is time we addressed that. The attorney has recommended some changes to the ordinance.

Fred wants to buy Shirley Sutter's house and tear it down and put up an outside beer garden. Cleary is working on his building and would like to open an Irish Pub in there.

He would like to get this approved before the new brewery gets open.

The question was asked if this makes a distinction between alcohol being sold outside or not. No, it does not and Mayor Johansen does not feel that we want to get in that position where it is sold outside unless they apply for a special permit. Alderman Stover agreed with that position. It needs to be sold inside and taken outside to drink it. The city has the power to control that and Mayor Johansen will make sure the wording is in the ordinance.

Council members were asked to look over the ordinance and let the mayor know if they have any questions.

Discussion License Agreement between the City of Lexington and Rex Osborn

This pertains to the pop up building by Patton Park. Part of the building, about 4-10 feet containing the plumbing and the sewer, are on city property, mostly the porch.

The person who is going to lease the property knows this, but if we are not sitting on the council, we need to do a license agreement with him. Look this over and let the mayor know if they have any questions. The cigar shop is to open in February and has some inventory already and is working on getting a liquor license.

There was a question asked about the bike racks in Patton Park. It has been explained to him that that area is a city park and there is to be no smoking or loitering out there. It was noted that the person leasing the building is planning an outdoor garden in the back and would not be seen from Patton Park.

Discussion McLean County Mayor's Association Proposal for ARPA Funding Assistance

Mayor Johansen led this discussion stating that it had been brought to their attention that Champaign County, when they got their federal funding from the government, had reached out to all the small communities in Champaign County wanting to know what their needs were as far as infrastructure. They decided to approach McLean County with the same idea. They have met with the county administrator and the head of the McLean County Board. They worked on a proposal and sent a survey out to all 22 communities in the Mayor's Association and received nine responses back from the communities that had projects that they were working on. We have been working with those nine and have come up with a proposal. We are now waiting to go before the finance committee. They are asking for a little over \$4,000,000 for the nine communities. Saybrook is in the worst shape needing a new tower and treatment plant. We have gotten favorable responses from the Chairman of the McLean County Board and the county administrator. He believes that they are going to work with us but they may not get the full amount that they are asking for.

Mayor Johansen asked for \$250,000 for Lexington to use for maintenance on the Water Tower. We have a \$420,000 proposal for the maintenance for the inside of the Water Tower. If we get it, we can take the rest of the money out of our funds and move forward with the tower. The money we have in reserve to pay for the tower we can put back into our General Fund. We can refurbish our Water Tower and not spend any money out of our budget. We started budgeting a long time ago for future expenditures. Mayor Johansen urged council members to contact a county board member to approve this proposal.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Johansen reported on the following items:

He has had another response from BP. They have sent their proposal that has everything they are going to do for phase one and has the detention basin. Mike Beard, Zak and Mayor Johansen are to go over it and they will start as soon as the plans are approved. Once phase one is completed a year after that they will start on phase two which will include a hotel and fast food restaurant.

It was brought up that we need an ordinance for businesses to keep their place free of trash citing Casey's as being a mess behind their store. Chief Belvery stated that he had been out to talk to them three times about the problem. His suggestion was to put out some garbage barrels. It was thought that truckers were responsible for a large part of the mess. He will get the regional manager's number and contact her about the problem.

It was also brought up that in the summer the hardware store's air conditioner had quit working and the owner of the building had not gotten it fixed. Now the furnace has quit working and they are using space heaters. They are keeping it around 58 degrees.

Police:

Chief Belvery reported that they had been approved for a grant from Envenergy to purchase a new portable breathalyzer. The Fire Department got \$6,500 and the city got \$3,700. We also got a new AED through the Fire Department. The Police Department got one and the city got one.

Mayor Johansen commented that city employees would have training on the AED in February.

Building/Insurance

upcoming loss prevention seminar.

Alderman Franklin reported that there was an

Finance /TIF

None

Water/Sewer/Sanitation

None

Street/Alley:

None

There being no further business, motion was made by Alderman Franklin to adjourn at 7:27 P.M. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Pati Pease

City Clerk

Approved: February 14, 2022