

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL**August 8, 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, Alderwoman Wilson, Alderman Mattingly, Alderman Franklin, Alderman Richard, Alderman Stover and Alderman Little. Members of the staff and public present were: David Belvery.

It was moved by Alderman Mattingly and seconded by Alderwoman Wilson to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2022 regular session of the City Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Alderwoman Wilson and seconded by Alderman Mattingly to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2022 Appropriation Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Alderman Stover and seconded by Alderman Franklin to approve the Treasurer's Report and paying of the bills in the amount of \$26,012.48. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input: None

Old Business:**Discussion/Vote Resolution 2022-5: Sales Tax-Authorizing a Referendum**

Alderman Franklin led this discussion by stating that there was some confusion about how to go about raising the sales tax rate and in what increments it could be raised. It can be raised in ¼% increments up to 1%. He felt it would be easier to raise it to 1% than to ask for ¼% now and another ¼% later. It can be used for infrastructure or property tax. He had a list of other McLean County town's rates and even with the raise we would be taxing less than other cities similar to our size. We need to pass the resolution tonight in order to get it on the November 8th ballot.

Mayor Johansen asked Alderman Franklin to work on a statement to present this resolution to the public. It is not all local people who will be paying this tax. There are a lot of people from McLean County that come here to eat and shop. We have seen an increase in our water and chemical bills as well as electricity. We will only be adding ½% to something that was at 6.25% before.

Motion was made by Alderman Franklin and seconded by Alderman Richard to adopt Resolution 2022-5: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LEXINGTON, MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS, DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO CERTIFY AND SUBMIT THE QUESTION TO THE MCLEAN COUNTY CLERK OF WHETHER THE CITY OF LEXINGTON SHALL INCREASE THE NON-HOME RULE MUNICIPAL RETAILERS' OCCUPATION TAX AND A NON-HOME RULE MUNICIPAL SERVICE OCCUPATION TAX. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

Discussion/Vote Resolution 2022-4: To Adopt the Annual 1,000 Hour Standard For IMRF Participation

IMRF rate right now is 600 hours. We have some part time officers that have exceeded that threshold. We are hoping not to get fined but the next step is to pass the resolution raising the minimum to 1,000 hours. This is the police retirement and part time officers do not pay into it. The State of Illinois says they cannot work so many hours but they have been filling in because we do not have a full time officer.

We did not know we were not in compliance until the audit. We have not heard if we will be fined but will keep everyone informed.

Motion was made by Alderman Richard and seconded by Alderman Little to approve Resolution 2022-4: To Adopt the Annual 1,000 Hour Standard For IMRF Participation. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Vote Lexington Downtown Retail Loan Subsidy Program Application for Possible New Business on Main Street

The Coffee Trailer on Kinsella's corner is a huge success and she is looking for a place for the winter where she can be permanent. She wants to expand her menu and have lunches and rent out facilities for events in the evenings. Aldermen Franklin and Stover met with her and her mom. She is asking for rental assistance in renting Christo's building and she will live upstairs. She gave them her projections. The coffee Hound would like for her to carry their brand.

She is from Iowa but an ISU graduate and an EMT. She was going to go south for the winter but would rather stay here and now plans to be open by October 1st. She will keep the trailer and use it for special events. She has a good business plan and a good following.

Motion was made by Alderwoman Wilson and seconded by Alderman Franklin to approve the Retail Loan Subsidy Program Application For Possible New Business on Main Street. Motion carried unanimously.

There was some discussion about the parking on the block that Analytical Brewery is on. Mayor Johansen stated that Main Street is a county road and any parking issues were up to them.

Discussion Only Tourism Grant

Mayor Johansen started this discussion by talking about the Illinois Tourism Grant that the State of Illinois has to promote tourism in Illinois. Each grantee could get up to \$500,000 for their town. He thought we could use it to purchase the Oasis, demolish the building, refurbish the sign and put up a new canopy. John mentioned extending the bike path. There is no guarantee that we would get it but it would take care of the problem of the Oasis and clean up that area. He is willing to write the grant for whatever the council agrees on.

He does not think that we do enough to promote Historic Route 66. We need to get them downtown. We could put up some type of business directory or something showcasing our downtown. There was a bus stopped at the elephant and he stopped and gave them Route 66 pins and gave a little talk and the people loved it.

There was some discussion about whether we could keep the building and lease it out for events or use it as a pop up.

The question was also asked why we let old cars sit there when they are not allowed in residential areas?

Mayor Johansen would like to get started on the grant by the end of the week as applications are due by the end of September.

He is willing to approach the owner to see what it would take to purchase the property.

There was some discussion about the Thrift Avenue building. It could be made into a tourism center or game center and is right on Route 66 for Route 66 memorabilia . It also has an overhead door and could be used for storage. Also, maybe we could put up a small building by the elephant, but it was noted that we do not own that parcel of land.

Mayor Johansen will also approach the owner of Thrift Avenue about the purchase of her building.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Johansen reported on the following items:

He met with Carey Davis and Charlie Farney with Tentac Group. The engineers are trying to format some sort of layout plan of the subdivision. Once that is done they will meet again. Charlie expressed an interest in moving forward with an apartment complex and doing the housing after that. We are out of building lots in town and can really use the housing and apartments.

He explained that we had gotten \$125,000 of the money for the Water Tower project. Once we go over that we need to put in a request for the additional \$125,000. They will start on this project in September.

Police: Alderman Richard reported that Officer Kolat will be taking his power test and should pass it with ease. It is the last hurdle to the hiring process. He also had breakfast with someone who was wanting to move to Lexington but there is no housing.

Mayor Johansen added that we go August 12th for the Administrative Search Warrant for the Center Street property and would like to get it done as soon as possible. He has asked Mike Beard to write down all the buildings they had without permits.

The tree is down safely. They had to take down two power lines. Strides Tree Service took it down.

Building/Insurance None

Finance /TIF None

Water/Sewer/Sanitation Alderwoman Wilson reported on the following:

The EPA made an inspection of the Water Plant. She is just starting to look over the report.

Devore Landscaping got the wind block in.

She will begin working on a landlord meeting. Maybe have it before one of these meetings. She will ask Star to help her gather up the name of landlords.

It was felt they should mail them a cover letter and a copy of the ordinance. Something can also be put out on social media. They might need to do two meetings. Alderman Richard will also help with this project.

Street/Alley: Alderman Mattingly reported that they are working on North Street drain and that the money for that was approved in the last budget.

He has talked to Mr. Martin regarding the procedure for the fall cutting of trees and in the spring we come back and grind the stumps before the sidewalks are replaced. Mr. Martin is able to grind the stumps himself and wants to know how much of the walk we will fix. He would like to have the sidewalk put in this fall. Alderman Mattingly thinks that might be a possibility.

He also had talked to the owner of the sunflowers on Main Street and they had agreed to take everything down on the outside of the sidewalk but they had not done it yet. He will talk to them again.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Mattingly to adjourn at 7:46 P.M. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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Pati Pease

City Clerk

Approved: August 22, 2022