

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL**November 14, 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 Mattingly, Alderman Franklin, Alderman Richard and Alderman Stover. Alderwoman Wilson and Alderman Little were absent.

It was moved by Alderman Mattingly and seconded by Alderman Franklin to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2022 regular session City Council 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 \$233,116.60. It was noted that there is a total of \$58,000 left on the Water Tower rehab. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input: None

Old Business:**StraightUp Solar Presentation**

Alderman Franklin led this discussion on the benefits from StraightUp Solar as their representative was out of town and unable to attend tonight's meeting. There were proposals for both the Water and Sewer Plant sites.

The proposal called for 120 Kilowatts on the south side of the Water Treatment Plant and 184.5 Kilowatts at the Sewer Treatment Plant and there is still room there for additional pods. Each plant has their own set of numbers showing total project cost and the outflow of where the money is spent. His chart shows SREC money coming back over seven years and a 30% tax credit. Ameren gives credit back for smart inverter incentives that Corn Belt does not. He believes this has to do with how Corn Belt negotiates their wholesale rates.

In both cases, we get a faster payback from Ameren in how they credit us back. The Water Treatment Plant is under five years and closer to eight years for the Sewer Plant through Corn Belt.

If you believe solar works as a kind of straight financial investment, we have 30 years of reduction in our utility bills. In terms of actual presentation Alderman Franklin did not hear any difference from the last presentation. They will handle the whole process, applications for

credit and both would be proposed for turn key operations. We would have immediate savings on utility bills and use that money to return to the accounts used to pay for the installation.

Alderman Richard commented that everyone he knew that was putting in solar on the farms was having problems with delays with start up, communication and some have been waiting a year and still haven't gotten it going. He will try to find out what company they are working with and if this is a common problem.

The question was asked if this would happen with a municipality?

Mayor Johansen commented that they would see a decrease in their Ameren bill. They had pushed the wind turbines through but now you do not always see the wind turbines moving. Ameren bills are not going to decrease. The tax increase will take care of some of this. The wind turbines go into a grid, the solar will stay here.

Mayor Johansen and Alderman Franklin are in support of this. We will save money down the road and we are doing our part for green energy. We do not want to have to ask for another tax increase in a couple of years. There will still be those people who will not do their research for a tax increase. We need to do this before the end of the TIF and the Sewer Plant is paid off and we are saving at the same time.

It was decided that Mayor Johansen should move forward with preparing documents to have bids published in the paper. With the holidays and our attorney being out it was unclear how long this process could take.

There was some discussion on how the city would pay for this project. It was noted that there was also a subdivision going in and did we want to invest in that? Are we able to do both? Carey Davis had received some prices for infrastructure. He has had people approach him wanting to build houses in Lexington.

Update on Landlord Property

Alderwoman Wilson was unable to attend the meeting but did send a second notice to be sent to those landlords who had not responded to the first letter that had been sent out. It was felt that there were some revisions that needed to be made to the letter before it was sent out.

New Business: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

He was glad the tax increase passed and in an interview with Channel 31, reading between the lines, felt that they were impressed that it passed with the numbers that it did.

He is still talking with Carey Davis about the subdivision and should have some concrete numbers very soon.

He is still being contacted by new businesses wanting to come to Lexington.

Donnie B is still working on locking in the lease for the building down the street.

DollFace Desserts is no longer interested in coming to Lexington.

Donnie B is interested in putting up a storefront that faces Main Street.

He was asked the question about the other half of Kemp's building. It is currently being used for storage. At the time that building was built the council thought they were approving two businesses but it hasn't worked out that way.

He would like to see the city, at some point, in time create a comprehensive plan of where we would like to be in five and ten years, how we are going to get there and how we are going to pay for it. The last one was done when John Mohr was mayor.

Billy Dubois had asked about overtime. He has gotten some with all of the locating he has been doing. He had called Alderwoman Wilson but she never returned his call.

Alderman Franklin felt that if he was doing the work, he should be paid.

He needed to keep track of his hours for locating and we needed to follow up with a letter to the fiber optic company. They are getting grants to pay for their supplies and equipment.

It just is not right that we do not get reimbursed for his work. An alternative is to pass an ordinance and charge a permit fee to cover Billy's hours. We have not had any citizen complaints about the fiber optic company. They are excited to have options.

Alderman Stover thinks they should be able to use the same cables for all companies.

If we do sidewalk patching it adds to our costs.

It was brought up that we don't know anything about this company or their service. When will we know some prices?

Mayor Johansen will work on a permit ordinance for the next meeting.

Police: Alderman Richard reported Officer Kolat is on course to graduate December 9th from the Police Academy with a solid B+. He then will have his ride alongs and field training to complete. He should be ready by spring to go on his own.

The chief is currently on vacation.

Building/Insurance Alderman Franklin reported that they have a long list of insured property by address and they have been giving them nicknames so they know what each property is for.

Finance /TIF Alderman Stover has the levy done and it will be ready to vote on for the next meeting. He is asking for a \$4,000 increase.

