

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL**September 27, 2021****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 Little, Alderman Richard, Alderman Mattingly, Alderman Franklin and Alderwoman Wilson. Members of the staff and public present were: Andy Arndt, Nate Poehlman, Kenneth Sours, Mike Cotter and Chief Belvary.

It was moved by Alderwoman Wilson and seconded by Alderman Franklin to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2021 City Council meeting. 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 \$27,365.86. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input: Analytical Brewery was attending to give an update on the progress of their building. Since their last update a lot has been going on. They have been working on siding and windows and have run out of parts. It will take approximately a week and a half for parts to come in. They have taken out the concrete inside and out back. It was 10 inches thick in places. They did find some interesting items, some of which they would like to incorporate into the decorations of the building, an old iron wheel and horseshoe. The power has been hooked up and the overhead lines are down. Timeline for the overhead doors is January or February and the other doors and windows are October or November. Plumbers will start soon. They have it graded and are ready to lay drains and vents. The health department has signed off on their plans. They are working on their trademarks and labels to go public. Working on their state and local liquor licenses. They are working on their financing for their equipment. It will take 12-14 weeks after ordering and slightly longer for the larger equipment.

Mike Cotter, president of the Fire District, spoke of the Fire Department's need to be able to build on the alley behind the Fire Department. He stated that there was an email sent to the city in July asking for the alley to be deeded to the Fire Department.

Mr. Cotter had five options for the council to consider as a solution to their problem to move the power pole:

1. The city TIF funds to pay to move the power pole
2. Split costs 50% fire 50% Coffee Hound

3. Split costs 50% fire 50% city
4. Split costs evenly, city, fire and Coffee Hound
5. The Fire Department move the poles themselves but would be very disappointed in not having the cooperation of the city and neighboring property owners

He felt that drainage with the city and location of the tile should not be an issue. If the city feels otherwise they can keep 10 feet from the south end of the white block building to the north which is to the retaining wall. The corner of the Fire Station hangs over about a foot or so of the remaining 10 feet. This is why they would like to own this property. They would like this property to put a patio and greenspace for the EMTs that work 12 hour shifts. They need about 20 feet to build their addition. Banks are not in the habit of loaning money to build on property that they do not own.

Mike wanted to remind the city that when they had property under the Water Tower that with no questions asked they gave it to the city.

Mayor Johansen stated that he had been in contact with the Coffee Hound and they were good with leaving the power pole where it was and granting access. Ameren does not want to move it as it costs around \$20,000 to move it. This is the first time he has heard of some of these options that were presented this evening. He feels we need to retain the portion of the alley where the drain runs and the utility pole is. He proposes that we move with the vacating 120 feet on the south side. The pole and the drainage would still be on city property. In the past when we have vacated an alley we have split the alley between the two property owners, not that it has to be done that way this time.

The Fire Department would like to keep the 10 feet next to their building on the north end although Mayor Johansen is not recommending that. They are already using it as they thought they already owned it. It does not affect the drainage. They do not want to have to come to the city everytime they want to do something. They did not know that there was an alley there.

The council will need to see complete building plans including drainage and locating the city tile before they can vote on anything.

Alderman Richard is not in favor of giving up the property. He feels it is needed for drainage for both properties.

The Fire Department will be 6 feet setback from the Coffee Hound if their plans are approved.

Old Business:

REVIEW/DISCUSSION GOLF CART UPDATE

Alderman Richard reported that the information had been sent to the attorney and she had responded with a few changes. She added a paragraph concerning private property. There are still a couple of items she is going over. Some language had been changed and one section had been deleted with the items added to other sections. The ordinance should be ready by the next meeting.

DISCUSSION/VOTE - TO PROCEED WITH VACATING ALLEY/EASEMENT BETWEEN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND COFFEE HOUND

This has been on the agenda several times for discussion. The Building Committee will visit the property then make recommendations to the council.

Motion was made by Alderman Franklin and seconded by Alderwoman Wilson to table this item until such time as the Building Committee can visit the site to make a recommendation to the council. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

DISCUSSION/VOTE - COMPUTER SOFTWARE SUPPORT FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Alderman Richard reminded the council that they had talked last time about the need for computer software support for the Police Department on a consistent basis. Brick Technology has come back with a bid for all computers of \$12,500 per year. We need to do something for the Police Department. The CURES program should reimburse us for the initial cost. We have yet to hear back from our current company, Stability Solutions.

Chief Belvery commented that the city owns 19 computers plus, needs IT support for office phones and all squad cars. The network is attached to a mirror network in Colfax that backs up everything including our chrome books. The city is dealing with people's personal information not only on the water billing side but the Police Department side and needs IT security. The cost breakdown is \$622 per year per computer plus cameras and phones.

Motion was made by Alderman Richard and seconded by Alderman Little to approve the bid from Brick Technology in the amount of \$12,500 for computer software support. Motion carried with 5 yes and Alderwoman Wilson voting no.

DISCUSSION/VOTE - APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 2021-11

Motion was made by Alderman Stover and seconded by Alderwoman Wilson to approve Appropriation Ordinance 2021-11. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

October 2nd is Ladies Day Out sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce for the small businesses in town. Some of the aldermen have heard ads on the radio.

Dollface Desserts are still moving forward with their plans. They were planning on going to their bank last week.

BP is still moving forward with their plans.

Terry Bitner met with Commerce Bank and made them an offer on their building.

The first week of November we will be able to get the furniture out of the Commerce Bank Building.

There is a tree behind Charlie Wilder's that needs to be taken down.

There is a fiber optic company that wants to bring internet and cable to town.

Police: Alderman Richard reported the newly hired police officer, Tom Walker, is ready to schedule his psyche evaluation. He has passed everything else that he has needed to pass so far.

There has also been another application from a fireman EMT for a part time position. They will interview him after the harvest is completed.

Building/Insurance Alderman Franklin reported that Brandts are still getting furniture in and will be out by mid-October.

He is still getting additional information on insurance. One of the questions he is being asked is "What are you doing for network protection?"

There has been some talk of someone buying a lot on the west side to put in an art gallery.

Finance /TIF None

Water/Sewer/Sanitation Billy DuBois asked permission to volunteer his time to put in a water line at the Purple Park. The Park District is buying all of the supplies. This probably will not get done till spring.

Street/Alley: Alderman Mattingly reported that they have begun work on the Pine Street project.

The curb by the Library has been done but the handrail is not up yet.

Parking by DaT bar is back to normal with the barricades down and the tables have been removed.

The Street Department has rented a bucket truck to trim and take down some trees next week.

The FFA will be planting 20 trees around town under the Tree Program October 1st.

There being no further business, motion was made by Alderman Mattingly to adjourn at 7:48 P.M. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Pati Pease

City Clerk

Approved: October 11, 2021