

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL

August 22, 2016

The regular meeting of the Lexington City Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor, John Mohr, in the City Council Chambers at Lexington City Hall.

Roll call was taken to find the following physically present: Alderman Miller, Alderman Cole, Alderman Johansen, Alderman Meyer, and Alderman Stover. Alderman Richard was absent. Members of the staff and public present were: Melanie Kunkel, Don Cavallini, Mike Beard, David Belvery, Stacy Thomas and Emily Ketelsen.

It was moved by Alderman Meyer and seconded by Alderman Miller to approve the minutes from the August 8, 2016 council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Alderman Stover and seconded by Alderman Cole to approve the treasurer's report and pay bills in the amount of \$78,305.15. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input: None

Old Business:

None

New Business:

25 MPH Speed Limit Signs: Stacy Thomas addressed the council noting that she and her husband have lived in Lexington for 10 years and now reside in Meadow Ridge with their three little boys. Her house sits on Prairie Ridge Lane and there are over 30 children that live on that street alone. The current speed limit is 30 mph which she feels is too fast to begin with but that many cars drive by considerably faster posing a potential risk of a child in their neighborhood getting hit and killed. Stacy and Emily Ketelsen are present on behalf of their community to see what can be done to reduce the speed of the cars within their development. Chief Belvery noted that the minimum speed limit for roads in the State of Illinois is 25 mph. His officers ran radar out in their neighborhood and found that almost all drivers were close to 30 mph. Chief recommends changing the overall speed limit in Lexington to 25 mph unless otherwise posted and purchasing nine street signs to place at the entrances to the city indicating same. Alderman Cole feels that it is the parents' job to watch their children to make sure they don't go in the road or that installing a fence in the backyard and letting their children play there would eliminate any road risk and a need for a change in speed limit. Alderman Cole also feels that this is an issue with the city's police department and that if they spent more time patrolling Meadow Ridge and less time running radar on Route 66, speeding would not be an issue there. Motion by Alderman Johansen and second by Alderman Miller to designate a 25 MPH speed limit within the city limits unless otherwise posted. Motion carries with a vote of 4 yes, 1 no and 1 absent.

Ordinance amending Section 240-39 for the purpose of removing the possession of not more than 10g of cannabis from the list of violations which may result in the impoundment of motor vehicles used in connection with illegal activities: Motion by Alderman Meyer and second by Alderman Johansen to approve Ordinance 2016-7 as described above. Motion carries unanimously.

Ordinance amending Chapter 190, section 15 of the code for the purpose of prohibiting the deposit of grass clippings, landscape waste or other material upon public streets, sidewalks or alleys in the city: Motion by Alderman Cole and second by Alderman Meyer to approve Ordinance 2016-8. Alderman Meyer feels enforcing such an ordinance based on someone's opinion will be tough. Communicating the council's desires to the community would be his preference. He feels some of the language in the ordinance as prepared leaves it open for obscurity. Alderman Cole feels this ordinance is important to prevent grass clippings from backing up in the city's storm drainage system. Motion carries unanimously. Chief Belvery noted during Committee Reports that in order for the police department to enforce this ordinance, an individual has to witness a resident pushing debris on to the street and has to be willing to sign the complaint form before a violation can be issued as it will be impossible for the police department to always know which yard the debris came from and who put it there.

Cedar Street and Parkway Lots Maintenance: In an attempt to beautify the community, Alderman Johansen would like to have the council decide what type of material to put down on the city owned vacant lots. Motion by Alderman Johansen and second by Alderman Miller to put down black dirt and seed both lots. Motion carries unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Mayor: Mayor received a call from John Lindenbaum asking that the city to mow the rag weed on the East side of Spencer Street as it's taking a toll on his allergies. Mike Beard recommends that the city leave it alone and ask Mr. Lindenbaum to hire someone to take care of it as he feels the street does not belong to the city. Alderman Miller will discuss same with Street Superintendent, Bill Elias, and allow him to make the decision. Mayor noted that the bonds are being sold tomorrow. The interest rate on the new bonds will be 2.78% saving the city approximately \$90,000 over the life of the bonds. There is \$970,000 worth of bonds available in \$1,000 increments at 2.78%. Mayor asked Don Cavallini to report the information for Bernardi Securities in the paper so the public would know who to contact if they are interested in purchasing same. Mayor discussed the possibility of purchasing some available farm land and indicated the council would go into closed session at the next meeting to discuss same.

Police: Chief noted that they took the prize winner from the Bike Safety event shopping to purchase his bike. Alderman Meyer recapped the earlier meeting with Erica Kaiping of Business Builders. She looked into pricing for the Home Finder in the Pantagraph and noted that before winter comes the city should get some stock photos done. She is asking for a budget for the promo videos that need to be shot. She was also asked to get prices to run banners on online home market sites like Zillow, etc.

Building/Insurance: None

Finance/TIF: None

Water: Alderman Cole noted that Billy has flushed all the water mains in the new section. Mike Beard noted that he has a diver coming to dive all the sewer ponds because there are problems with the aeration system.

Sanitation: None

Streets/Alleys: Alderman Miller noted that Bill Elias is going to contact the City of Normal to discuss borrowing their leaf vacuum. Mayor asked that if Bill does not receive a favorable response from his contact at the City, that he let the Mayor know as he has a working relationship with the Mayor of Normal and is willing to ask for his assistance as he has offered it in the past.

There being no further business, it was moved by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Johansen to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Kunkel, City Clerk

Approved: 9/8/2016