

SPECIAL/REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL
September 26, 2016

The special meeting of the Lexington City Council was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Mayor, John Mohr, in the City Council Chambers at Lexington City Hall.

Business Builders Ongoing City Advertising Discussions: The Home Finder pricing distributed by Erica is for once a month, not once a week. A mock-up of an ad was circulated to council members for approval. Some council members like the idea of inviting local realtors to submit applications to the city in advance for a chance to highlight one of their Lexington homes for sale. Alderman Johansen would rather the city initially use the ad to promote Lexington and allow realtors to promote their own homes for sale. The ad will run 26 weeks in the Pantagraph Home Finder on Fridays for a total cost of \$3,016. Mayor was thinking more along the lines of a once a month advertisement. Motion by Alderman Miller and second by Alderman Meyer to place a half page ad twice a month for a year in the Pantagraph's Home Finder in the amount of \$3,016. The invoice will be paid from Economic Development charged to line 11.11.170. Motion carries with a vote of 4 yes and 2 absent. Motion by Alderman Meyer and second by Alderman Johansen to prioritize the social media plan; giving Erika good direction on how to proceed. Motion passes with a vote of 4 yes and 2 absent. Mayor asked Erika to coordinate those advertisements with Star and Katie. Alderman Meyer would like to see Business Builders use snippets of the video the city already has.

The regular meeting of the Lexington City Council was then called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Mayor Mohr.

Roll call was taken to find the following physically present: Alderman Miller, Alderman Johansen, Alderman Meyer, Alderman Richard and Alderman Stover. Alderman Cole was absent. Members of the staff and public present were: Melanie Kunkel, Erica Kaiping, Jason Thomas, Dwight Stricklin, David Belvery, James Groth, Jill Mohr, Mike Cotter, and Chris Olsen.

It was moved by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Johansen to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2016 council meetings. Motion carries unanimously.

It was moved by Alderman Stover and seconded by Alderman Meyer to approve the treasurer's report and pay bills in the amount of \$24,990.22. Motion carries unanimously.

Public Input: Jason Thomas, President of the Lexington School Board, noted that he is encouraged to see the Intergovernmental Agreement between the city and the school on the agenda tonight. He also noted that he watches Cubs games on Channel 59 and there are a lot of local small towns who have businesses that run commercials during that time.

Old Business:

Christmas Tree Lighting Proposal: Jim Groth would like to have a tree lighting ceremony the evening of Christmas on the Prairie. The trees at the top of Main Street along the city park will be decorated and lighted during the ceremony December 3rd. Motion by Alderman Johansen and second by Alderman Richard to authorize the purchase of lights for the trees at the city park and to hold a lighting ceremony on December 3rd in conjunction with Christmas on the Prairie. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business:

Intergovernmental Agreement between City and Unit 7 School District Establishing TIF Increment Sharing Plan: Mayor circulated the agreement for council members to review. The reasons for considering these agreements at this time are that the school and the fire district have expressed a financial need during the last three TIF Joint Review Board meetings, they both have some increased costs associated with TIF district improvements, the revenue needed by the City to meet IEPA loan requirements for the sewer project and now the water treatment plant have essentially been met, and the five year average shares of the individual property tax bill is 63.3% for the school and 5% for the Fire District. The proposal is to establish a TIF Incremental Property Tax threshold above which every new dollar is shared with the School and Fire District for the remainder of the TIF District, the threshold will be set at \$650,000 and, based on their shares of the current property tax bill, it will return 60% to the School and 5% to the Fire District. It will also reserve the right to create incentives for significant new projects that increase EAV. The benefits of the Intergovernmental Agreements are that it restores the School and Fire District funding and allows them to manage increased costs, sends the property taxes back to where they were originally intended before the TIF was created, encourages more participates in future development incentive discussions, and encourages the council to prioritize incentives on projects that create real property tax value. Motion by Alderman Meyer and second by Alderman Johansen to approve Resolution 2016-5 an Intergovernmental Agreement Between City and Unit 7 School District Establishing a TIF Increment Sharing Plan. Alderman Richard is opposed to passing these agreements at this time, would like to revisit the idea after a year, as he would like to make sure the water treatment plant does not go over budget. He also feels that the city has already donated taxpayer money to the school. Alderman Miller also voiced concern that there is enough cushion available if the city had a big ticket item come up. Alderman Richard is also concerned that if the water treatment plant is to go over budget, he does not want to see water rates increased to cover the cost. Alderman Richard is in favor of the partial planned water rate increase to cover water treatment plant expenses but is against doing so after giving tax money away to other entities, then adding an increase because we shorted ourselves in the process of giving to the school and fire department. Motion carries with a vote of 4 yes, 1 no and 1 absent.

Intergovernmental Agreement between City and Lexington Fire Protection District Establishing TIF Increment Sharing Plan: See item above for a detailed explanation. Motion by Alderman Johansen and second by Alderman Miller to pass Resolution 2016-6 An Intergovernmental Agreement Between City and Lexington Fire Protection District Establishing a TIF Increment Sharing Plan. Motion carries with a vote of 4 yes, 1 no and 1 absent.

Prescription Drug Disposal Program: Brad Fraher contacted Alderman Richard regarding a prescription drug disposal program. Brad provided Alderman Richard with a packet of research. Chief is going to research how other towns handle this program and bring his research back to the council.

Committee Reports:

Mayor: The first day to circulate petitions for several elected City offices was September 20th and completed petitions are due in early December. **Mayor's note:* I think that it's important at this time to announce that after 16 years (4 as an Alderman in Ward 3 and 12 as Mayor) I will not be seeking a 4th term. I think that it's important to make this announcement now in order to provide prospective candidates' time to complete the paperwork required to be included on the April ballot. I also think that it's important to allow enough time for prospective candidates to seriously consider the commitment required and the responsibility associated with each office. I am more than pleased with our accomplishments over the last 16 years. And I strongly believe that there are 4 key principles that I have relied on that have contributed to our success.

* Collect the money that's due before asking taxpayers for anything more, even analyzing the quality of revenue streams often – like sales tax.

* We must continue to enforce our City Code to provide safety, create good aesthetics and protect property values.

* Invest in projects that create real value – the best way to measure that is by determining the consequences our spending decisions have on Equalized Assessed Valuation.

* Have a hunter's mentality of "Eat what you kill". A cliché which simply means growth and development projects don't drop into your lap. There are other hunters in the market place.

I hope prospective candidates will keep these principles in mind. I plan to spend the remainder of my term enlisting even more help in completing some of the projects that are underway and organizing information for a smooth transition to the new Mayor and new Council members.

Police: Chief Belvery noted that two officers have been trained in computer crime detection. They have the ability and the software to detect where pictures have been taken. Two officers have also been trained in rifle usage.

Building/Insurance: Mayor has asked Jim Evans for a resume and some credentials. Alderman Richard has received the renewal for the building insurance. That will be approved at the next meeting.

Finance/TIF: Alderman Stover noted that the city has received another TIF grant application for a wheelchair accessibility ramp at the former auction house. Alderman Stover feels that now that the city has a handle on how the water treatment plant loan payments will be made, TIF grants should be brought back into consideration. Council also feels now is a good time to review the TIF grant process.

Water: None.

Sanitation: Alderman Johansen reminded council members that the city sponsored Halloween Party is Oct 30th from 2-5pm at the school and the council is asked to serve hot dogs. Alderman Johansen also noted that he had previously circulated an email to council members and asked them to consider it.

Streets/Alleys: Alderman Miller noted that the street department has completed more street repairs.

There being no further business, it was moved by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Richard to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Kunkel, City Clerk

Approved: 10/10/2016