

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Monday, February 22, 2010

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

Roll call was taken, finding the following physically present: Mayor Mohr, Alderman Cole, Alderman Fiero, Alderman Miller and Alderman Winterland. Aldermen Brill and Revelle were absent. Members of the public present were: Chuck and Mary Beth Wright, David Proeber/Pantagraph, Scott Genung and Steve Menken (sp).

It was moved by Alderman Fiero and seconded by Alderman Winterland to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2010 City Council meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Alderman Winterland and seconded by Alderman Cole to approve the Treasurer's Report and authorize payment of bills in the amount of \$15,744.24. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input:

Chuck Wright addressed the Council, giving them data regarding private investment over the years, which have contributed to physical improvements in the City of Lexington and had significant impact to the TIF district. One example is the condominium project at southeast corner of Cedar and Walnut Streets. These comments were provided to support a request for a TIF grant. The Mayor and Council complimented him on the quality of the presentation and supporting facts.

Old Business:

Police Patrolman Job Description: Alderman Miller stated that work on that description was nearly done. Action on the proposed job description will be postponed until Police Committee Chairman Hank Brill and Alderman Don Revelle are present.

New Business:

CIRBN Presentation: Mayor Mohr had invited representatives from Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network to speak to the council about the Broadband Internet collaboration being designed in McLean County. Their goal is to create a sustainable, high-speed and lower per-unit cost internet network that would interconnect communities, organizations and external networks. Having that type of system available in outlying areas like Lexington would be a positive tool in promoting the community. Grants are being written and CIRBN is seeking as many partnerships as possible. Mayor Mohr asked them to provide a template for a Partnership Resolution, and will place this item on the March 8, 2010 Council agenda.

Wright TIF Request: The TIF committee has the formal request, as well as the information presented earlier, and will include this in the budget process, which will begin soon. The Wright's proposed project will not begin until weather is fit for outdoor structural work to be practical, and additional bids need to be received, so the timing of the request fits the City's financial planning schedule.

Overholt Drainage School: Mayor Mohr would like to see City employees get some training in using GPS equipment and mapping utilities. This would be very valuable during sewer project construction as well as improve mapping for water lines and storm water lines. Farnsworth Group is evaluating whether they can provide a GPS unit for the City to use for the duration of the sewer construction. Such training is available at the Overholt Drainage School being held in Degraff, Ohio, in March. After discussion, it was moved by Alderman Winterland and seconded by Alderman Miller to allow expenses of up to \$2000 to send Mike Beard, Bill Elias, and Alderman Cole to the 1.5 day session on March 22-23. Motion carried with 4 yeas and 1 present (Cole) votes. 2 Aldermen were absent.

OMA Online Training: Mayor Mohr has sent to all the council, via email, links to the Illinois Attorney General's website. He would encourage all to find time to take the online training found there for both FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) and OMA (Open Meetings Act). This training will help to insure that Council behavior is consistent with legislation.

Health Insurance Research: Mayor Mohr asked Building and Insurance Chair Miller to begin a process of seeing what alternatives for employee health insurance might be available. Full-time City employees

currently are covered through the State of Illinois Local Government Health Care Plan. Prudent management of City financial resources includes this type of regular review.

Overtime Budgets: Again, out of financial consideration, the Mayor is asking that overtime and other discretionary budget line items be held at the current level until the end of the fiscal year in April.

Committee Reports:

Mayor: 1) A link to the McLean County GIS (Geographical Information System) is now on the City's website from the Public Works tab. Residents can now easily access parcel numbers, taxing district information, and other mapping tools for the City of Lexington. **2)** More communications will be sent to council members via email, so keeping that contact information current will be important. At present, if any councilman has a committee preference, let the Mayor know, as the new schedule and assignments will be submitted in May. **3)** Mayor Mohr has recently written letters of support for both the CIRBN (Broadband) and Illinois State University Sustainable Energy projects. **4)** Another expression of interest in the City Shed on S. Morris St. has been received. Portions of the appraisal have been forwarded, with the note that as municipal property, it cannot be sold for less than 80% of appraised value. **5)** Mayor Mohr noted 2 recent deaths of friends of Lexington: Mike Sweeney, former long-time McLean County Board Chair, and Lenore Weiss – wife of John Weiss – both ardent Rt. 66 organizers and promoters. **6)** The City's response to Collective Bargaining has been forwarded to Mike Tibbs, City Attorney.

Police: None

Building/Insurance: Alderman Miller has also spoken to the individual interested in the Morris St. Shed. He gave him the information about the Vine St. building as well. Also, Parker Kemp has the paperwork necessary to get the deed for the City Hall property prepared and recorded.

Finance/TIF: Chairman Winterland will be scheduling a committee meeting to review the Wright request as soon as all members are available.

Water: None

Sanitation: Garbage Route changes are being made to accommodate Waste Management's strict safety enforcement policies. Recycling participation continues to increase.

Street/Alley: None

There being no further business, it was moved by Alderman Miller, and seconded by Alderman Winterland to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Quinley, City Clerk

Approved: 3/8/2010