

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Monday, March 8, 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 Brill, Alderman Cole, Alderman Fiero, Alderman Miller, Alderman Revelle and Alderman Winterland. Staff and members of the public present were: Mike Beard, Bill Elias, Helen Leake, Donna Williams, Josh Martin, Chuck Wright, Karen and Ned Sours, and Tim Tyler.

It was moved by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Winterland to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2010 City Council Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Alderman Winterland and seconded by Alderman Revelle to approve the Treasurer's Report and authorize payment of bills in the amount of \$36,378.50. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input:

Chuck Wright asked about the status of his TIF request. Alderman Winterland replied that the TIF committee had not met yet, but that a meeting was being scheduled for March 11, 2010, and the recommendation from the committee would be discussed at the March 22, 2010 meeting. Secondly, Mr. Wright presented copies of a letter he has written to the Mayor concerning several issues he wants the City Council to take action on, and that he will be expecting Council decisions on those actions very soon.

Old Business:

Red Carpet Corridor Event Update: Donna Williams and Helen Leake were present to give a presentation on the planning that has been done for the event being held on May 1 & 2. 12 towns along the Old Rt. 66 corridor from Joliet to Towanda are participating. The Mayor expects the City's financial contribution to be approximately \$2500, paid from the Economic Development budget and/or City Sponsored Events account. Vendors are paying for booth spaces, and the former Taste of Country Fair Organization is dissolving and may have cash/equipment to donate to the City for this type of project as well. A sign-up sheet was passed so Aldermen could choose a shift to work at the City Booth. Also, the City's insurance carrier representative had sent some information regarding liability insurance requirements, which will be clarified and addressed at the March 22, 2010 meeting.

Morris St. Shed Offer:

Josh Martin, representing his father, Rod Martin, has submitted an offer on the City shed on S. Morris St. Much discussion followed, with the Mayor saying there are others who have expressed an interest in the property too. Chuck Wright stated that he also had been interested at one time in the building, but felt it was hard to make an offer when the City had not put an actual price on it. Illinois Municipal Code authorizes the sale of property by resolution. The value of real estate to be sold under this procedure must be determined by a written appraisal and the selling price cannot be less than 80% of the appraised value. After much more discussion, it was moved by Alderman Brill and seconded by Alderman Miller to accept all proposals at the March 22, 2010 City Council meeting for the Morris St City Shed. Information about the conditions of the sale will be made available at City Hall by March 12, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

Property Clean-up Status: Alderman Fiero asked if any letters had yet been sent to the property owners identified previously as possible ordinance violation offenders. Mayor Mohr has met with Dave Jenkins and the LeRoy City Manager to hear about the processes they use there. The Atkins property has already been cleaned up, thanks to the effort of neighbors. Dave Jenkins, Code Compliance Officer, will be sending a letter out this week to another owner. Mid-Central Community Action has been looking for some projects they can do for beautification/improvement, and they were considering work at two of the locations already identified. As the City continues to receive complaints on these properties, progress will be reported in upcoming meetings.

Codification Project Status: Alderman Brill handed out copies of the Index for the new City Code and asked Council to again look over for any last minutes changes they may see that need to be addressed. The fee schedule has now been placed in a Chapter by itself for ease of reference. Once this final draft of the code is approved, the City will need to adopt it by Ordinance. At that point, the searchable Code will be made available online through a link on the City's website. The item will be placed on the agenda for the March 22, 2010 meeting.

New Business:

Red Carpet Corridor Resolution: Since this was addressed earlier in Old Business, this was tabled.

Committee Reports:

Mayor: 1) To clarify earlier Council action, Mayor Mohr noted that it is within the power of the Mayor to appoint a Police Chief. **2)** The part-time police department patrolmen are now recognized as a collective bargaining unit represented by the Illinois Council of Police. The City will now be negotiating contracts with them through the Illinois Labor Relations Board. **3)** CIRBN, broadband proponents, have been contacted by another infrastructure provider interested in a combined grant application. This will not invalidate the City's letter of support for CIRBN's work – in fact it could have the effect of lowering the previously estimated participation cost to an estimated \$45.00 per full time employee basis. For a small investment, the City could make great technology available for commercial, and/or residential uses. **4)** Mayor Mohr was contacted this past Friday by Christy Collier of Kenny's Restaurant. Due to septic issues, they will need to find another City tile to connect with and are asking for financial assistance in getting that accomplished. A TIF request will need to be completed. This will be placed on the agenda for the March 22, 2010 meeting. **5)** Stark Construction has begun work on the force main installation north of town. Mike Beard has gotten estimates for the septic replacement at the Robert Grimsley residence, as dictated by the terms of the easement agreement with him, the low estimate being \$5000.

Police: Alderman Brill reported that the Police Committee had met this evening at 6:30 p.m., along with Mayor Mohr and Chief Schneider. Scheduling, compensation, special projects, and management issues were discussed. As part of the conditions of Schneider's appointment, the Police Committee will meet each month at 6:30 preceding the first City Council meeting of the month, with the Chief also scheduled to attend. His monthly report will be placed on that Council meeting's agenda immediately following Public Input.

Building/Insurance: Alderman Miller reported that he is in the process of gathering information from several employee benefit providers, and will have more information at the next council meeting.

Finance/TIF: Alderman Winterland would like to schedule a TIF/Finance Committee meeting for Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 5:30 pm at City Hall. The committee will consider current TIF requests on hand from Chuck Wright, Jr. and Kenny's Restaurant. Quinley will post the notice for that meeting this evening following adjournment.

Water: None

Sanitation: None

Street/Alley: Alderman Revelle noted that one side of the "Lexington" neon sign at Main St. and Rt. 66 is out again. Elias stated that it was probably time for another transformer replacement. It was also reported that trees and vegetation abutting the Morrison property has been cleared, as per terms of the Morrison easement agreement. Josh Martin recommended that the City do their own photographic documentation of the conditions of the streets before much more of the sewer construction takes place. Mayor Mohr asked Chairman Revelle to follow up on that suggestion and see that filming is done soon.

There being no further business, it was moved by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Winterland to Adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Quinley, City Clerk

Approved: March 22, 2010