

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Monday, April 12, 2010

The regular meeting of the Lexington City Council was called to order by Mayor Mohr in the City Council Chambers at Lexington City Hall at 7:40 p.m.

Roll call was taken, finding the following physically present: Mayor Mohr, Alderman Brill, Alderman Cole, Alderman Fiero, Alderman Miller, and Alderman Revelle. Alderman Winterland was absent. Staff and members of the public present were: Mike Beard, Bill Elias, Billy DuBois, Dave Schneider, Brian Becker, Donna Williams, Mary Beth Wright, Kathy Franklin, Jon DeVore, Shelley DeVore, Denise Martin, Rod Martin, Josh Martin, and Bob Kohlhase.

It was moved by Alderman Fiero and seconded by Alderman Brill to accept the minutes of the March 22, 2010 City Council meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Alderman Revelle and seconded by Alderman Miller to approve the Treasurer's Report and authorize payment of bills in the amount of \$57,524.20. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input:

1. Bob Kohlhase, of Farnsworth Group, was on hand to give the Council an update on the work currently being done on the sewer system project. He or Zach Knight will try to be at least one council meeting per month to provide regular reports on progress. Division A: (Leander) Entrance road to treatment plant site is being constructed, top soil stripping started, and work trailers are on site, both for Leander Construction and for Farnsworth Group. Division B (Stark) Work on the 5 lift stations will begin later, and in this order- North, Wall St., Turkey Creek, South and Timber Ridge. Division C: (Stark) Installation of force main to the irrigation site will start Tuesday, April 13. Division D: (G.A. Rich) Will be starting with the bores that are needed to go under major roads and creeks. Division E: (Dawn) Pipe is onsite, and silt-fence construction will begin Wednesday. Pipe installation will begin at the North pump station and proceed to Bowery St. and then Delane St. Division F: (Sunrise Ag) Are in communication with the farmer of the irrigation site regarding removal of an unused storage bin.

Josh Martin asked if a control plan was in place regarding use of streets by construction traffic. The answer was that contractors will be responsible for streets in their own areas.

2. Donna Williams gave a report on progress of the Red Carpet Corridor Event planning. She displayed the puzzle that attendees will be able to complete by stopping at all the participating towns and getting the piece representing each location. She is looking for an article with photographs of students painting the Rt 66 stencil to appear on the Pantagraph soon. The sign-up sheet was again made available for councilmen to find a time to donate at the City Booth. Mayor Mohr thanked her for all the work she has put on the project.

3. Mary Beth Wright also thanked Donna for all her work. She then asked about gravel for a hole in the street parking in front of 112 N Cedar. St. Supt Elias said that was on his list of things to get done this week. She also asked about having that space paved similar to the condos across the street. Elias reported that his spray-patch money ran out last year before he got all the projects done he would have liked to have completed. In light of the sewer construction that will take place, paving now will be unlikely. Her last question regarded the Statement of Economic Interest she had received. She feels that as long as she is being required to fill out and sign legal documents because of her position on a local board, then that board should at least meet once during the year. Josh Martin agreed.

Police Chief Report: Chief Schneider reported the following: 1.) He has met with EMA Director McDaniels to get a tabletop disaster drill scheduled. This may also lead to a live drill being planned. 2.) He is working with a company called Community Safety Net, which provides programs and materials for 4th-6th graders reinforcing all aspects of safety. This program will be at no cost to the City, but depends on local business support. 3.) Worked with the State Bomb Squad to safely remove and detonate a live pipe bomb, which was found by a homeowner while cleaning out a garage in March.

Old Business:

Morris St. Shed Disposition – Following the City Attorney's recommendations for handling the sale, the City has three offers to consider for the property: DeVore Landscaping at \$65,000, Rod Martin at \$65,000, and Becker Tree Service at \$68,000. Much discussion followed. Mayor Mohr would recommend accepting the DeVore offer, because of its local employment potential and generation of sales tax dollars. Alderman Cole feels it is foolish to sell the building at this point, since the City needs the storage space for equipment and materials until a new building is constructed. Also residents may not approve of not accepting the highest bid. Alderman Revelle reminded that it was too late to remove the property from the sale process. Alderman Brill noted that the property is in an ideal location for visibility, but that the City will need to retain the material storage bins for at least this summer. Alderman Fiero noted that the revenue would not be new sales tax revenue in DeVore's case. It was then moved by Alderman Cole to accept the highest bid by Becker Tree Service, therefore adopting Resolution 2010-4 Authorizing the Sale by the City of Lexington of Property Located at 210 S. Morris St. Motion died for lack of a second. It was moved by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Revelle to accept the offer by DeVore Landscaping, thereby adopting **Resolution 2010-4** – Authorizing the Sale by the City of Lexington of Property Located at 210 S. Morris St. in the City of Lexington. Alderman Miller based his motion on his belief that a Nursery/Landscape business at the crossroads will attract other business, enhance property values, employ local people, and improve the appearance at the entrance to the City. Alderman Brill asked DeVore if the City would be able to retain use of the bins for this summer and was given "yes" answer. He also noted that it was regrettable that the City didn't have the ability to accept all three very good offers. Motion carried with five Aye votes, one Nay vote, and one absent. Both Rod and Josh Martin expressed objections to the sale process.

Sledding Hill – Due to Alderman Winterland's absence, this topic was tabled to a later meeting.

Insurance Summary – Alderman Miller has been researching options for employee health insurance plans that will offer employees relatively the same coverage they currently have while attempting to save the City premium costs. Employees are currently covered by the State of Illinois Local Government Health Plan. Those premiums have historically increased by an average of 9% annually over the last 10 years. The Linden Group plan would be similar but realize very little in substantial savings. Health-Star, with a BlueCross-Blue Shield product, has the potential to save \$20-25,000 annually. Miller will provide copies of the plan to employees for them to examine, and can arrange for a representative to meet with them and answer questions about the company and coverages. This item will be placed on the April 26 agenda. Quinley will have the premium information from State of Illinois by then, as she will be attending a meeting on the 23rd in Springfield. A 10% increase has already been figured into the budget for discussion.

Summer Mowing Help – Because of the increased involvement demands of the sewer project on current City employees, finding someone to do the mowing needs to be considered. Supts. Elias and Beard estimate it would take 2 days per week for approximately 26 weeks, depending on weather. At \$10/hour, the Street budget would be looking at an approximate \$4000. line item. Mayor Mohr will do more research on contract employment requirements, and report back at the next meeting. Aldermen Revelle and Brill both volunteered to help with mowing.

This opened a discussion of budget issues. Mayor Mohr presented an excerpt from the most recent Financial Report, showing the status of the General Fund. Revenues from the State have severely declined. With 11 of 12 months accounted for, anticipated revenue predictions are showing an approximate \$112,500 shortfall from budgeted amounts in the General Fund. Expenses are anticipated to come in at about \$107,000 less than budgeted. Projected revenues are behind projected expenses for this fiscal year by approximately \$15,000. Mayor would like to challenge the council to aim for a \$40-50,000 reduction in the General Fund budget for FY 2010-2011. After 3 years of a static levy, it will most likely have to be increased as well this fall. Quinley asked if a budget workshop or planning session is being scheduled before the last meeting of the fiscal year. Some departments still need to turn in budget requests. Alderman Winterland will be contacted.

Committee Reports:

Mayor: From the Police Committee meeting earlier this evening, Mayor Mohr reported that the Illinois Labor Relations Board has amended the collective bargaining unit for full-time officers to include the Police Chief position. Miller, Hall and Triggs, City Attorneys, have written a letter of objection to that amendment.

Police: Alderman Brill reported on the earlier meeting as well. The department budget was reviewed. Minutes from that meeting will be ready by the 4/26 council meeting. Alderman Brill also reported on the **Codification** project progress. General Code has sent another Draft guide that needs review and decision making. Another Codification workshop needs to be scheduled.

Building/Insurance: None

Finance/TIF: No report in Winterland's absence.

Water: A decision on a saw purchase will be deferred to the next meeting.

Sanitation: None

Street/Alley: None

There being no further business, it was moved by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Brill to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Quinley, City Clerk

Approved: 4/26/2010