

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL

March 28, 2011

Held at Lexington High School Gym

The regular meeting of the Lexington City Council was called to order by Mayor Mohr at 9:40 p.m. in the Main Gym at Lexington High School. This meeting followed a public meeting which allowed the Council to present the plans for connecting building structures to the Sanitary Sewer System. A synopsis of that meeting will be included at the end of this document.

Roll call was taken, finding the following physically present: Mayor Mohr, Alderman Brill, Alderman Cole, Alderman Fiero, Alderman Miller, Alderman Revelle, and Alderman Winterland. Members of the public attending were: Mike Beard, Josh Martin, Jill Mohr, John Sampson, Janice Elder, Sandy Whalen and Melanie Kunkel.

It was moved by Alderman Brill and seconded by Alderman Miller to accept the minutes of the March 14, 2011 City Council meeting and the March 14, 2011 Police Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Alderman Winterland and seconded by Alderman Revelle to accept the Treasurer's report and authorize payment of bills in the amount of \$18, 362.15. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input:

Josh Martin thanked the Council for considering the financial impact of this sewer project on members of the community, but strongly objects to the financing plan considered this evening. He feels that it gives residents no choice in opting to self-install their own connections, and leaves local tradesmen out of the process.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Ordinance 2011-3 – Being considered for adoption this evening is Ordinance 2011-3: An Ordinance Providing for the Construction of Building sewers to Connect all Building Drains in the City of Lexington to the Newly-Constructed Sanitary Sewer System and for the Related Decommissioning of Private Wastewater Disposal Systems. Alderman Winterland stated that although there are objections to the plan to require self-installed connections to pay the monthly fee, it makes up for the amounts residents have already had to pay in user fees to date. Alderman Fiero reminded that this had not been a quick decision and that much thought and hard work was invested to benefit the community as a whole over individual benefits. User fees will be amended to reflect the actual cost as soon as the contract is awarded. A discussion of two additions to the language of the Ordinance was held. Section 3 will be amended to add the phrase "as of March 28, 2011" following "buildings with plumbing systems in the City", and Section 8-E will state the permit fee as "\$0.00". It was then moved by Alderman Brill and seconded by Alderman Winterland to adopt Ordinance 2011-3 as stated above. Motion carried with five yes votes and one no vote.

Electric Fixed Contract Pricing: Alderman Fiero had a quote with the pricing as of today, but due to the fact that this item was not on the agenda, it will be carried forward to April 11.

Committee Reports:

Mayor – None

Police – None

Building/Insurance - Alderman Miller is still working on upgrading light fixtures at City Hall for efficiency. Also will have more information from the Fire Department about the proposed "lock-boxes" for commercial buildings by the first April meeting.

TIF/Finance – Alderman Winterland reminded the council about the budget process, which needs to be completed in April.

Water – None

Sanitation – None

Street/ Alley – Alderman Revelle reported that Bill Elias has purchased the materials needed for the drain project in the E. Bowery St. area.

There being no further business, it was moved by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Winterland to adjourn at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Quinley, City Clerk

Approved: 4-11-11

Public Meeting Synopsis

Mayor Mohr convened a public meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Gym at Lexington High School for the purpose of explaining the Council-recommended sewer connection process for property owners. This meeting was promoted via the City web-site, the March City Newsletter, the Lexingtonian and by direct mail.

In front of a crowd in excess of 350 residents, Mayor Mohr introduced members of the City Council and representatives from Farnsworth Group – City engineers for the sewer project. He then displayed several slides, which showed the components of the construction process, working backwards from the lagoons and treatment plant building to the stakes marking individual connection locations. Zach Knight gave an update on current work progress as follows: DIV. A- The treatment plant is substantially complete, waiting only for fencing and seeding. DIV. B – Lift stations are in the process of being connected to power and will undergo start-up testing. DIV. C – the forcemain to the irrigation site is complete and awaiting testing.

DIV. D & E. – D has been halted due to road conditions, while E will complete Elm St and begin Oak St this week. DIV. F – the irrigation site equipment is completely installed and awaiting testing this month.

Next, the objectives determined by the council were displayed: 1) Make the connection process as simple as possible. 2) Keep the cost of installation as low as possible, and 3) Minimize the out-of-pocket expenses for property owners. Shaping the process much like the current garbage contract, asking for proposals by interested and qualified contractors will help the City and residents realize economies of scale, assure quality work, get all connections made in a timely manner and lift the burden of obtaining contractors from individual property owners. Handing out sample resident connection letters and displaying information from the City website, the Mayor then asked for questions from the audience and gave them the opportunity to write those down. These ranged in scope from how tanks are decommissioned, when and why ejector pumps would be needed, property owner responsibilities, how self-installs will be handled, how any field tile damaged in the process would be repaired, and when property owners could expect to receive the letter and be connected. Answers were provided as the letter was read out loud, or as asked from the crowd. Mayor Mohr also explained all the extremely favorable financing opportunities, which have made this option even possible. The public session was then brought to a close at approximately 9:30 p.m.