

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL

June 10, 2013

The regular meeting of the Lexington City Council was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Mayor Mohr in the City Council Chambers at Lexington City Hall.

Roll call was taken to find the following physically present: Mayor Mohr, Alderman Cole, Alderman Johansen, Alderman Miller, Alderman Phelps, Alderman Revelle and Alderman Brill. Members of the staff and public present were: Melanie Kunkel, Don Cavallini, Danny McDaniels, Dave Schneider and Lucy Loper.

It was moved by Alderman Brill and seconded by Alderman Phelps to approve the May 28, 2013 Council Meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Alderman Revelle and seconded by Alderman Miller to approve the treasurer's report and pay bills in the amount of \$47,466.18. Mayor Mohr noted that the invoice from Farnsworth Group in the approximate amount of \$16,000 was for services rendered from the beginning of the year. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input: Lucy Loper handed out birthday party invitations to council members. The library board will be celebrating the library's 100th birthday with a variety of family oriented activities on Sunday, June 16th.

Old Business:

Police Chief's Report: Police Chief, Dave Schneider, noted that the only activity since the last meeting was burglary on Hilton Drive. A piggy bank and some jewelry were stolen and there was no sign of forced entry. Dave is still investigating. Mayor Mohr asked Dave and animal control officer, Danny McDaniels, about any dog ordinance violations. They indicated that there were some problems with some dogs in the Northview subdivision as well as a pit bull on Hilton Drive. Owners have been contacted and fined. With regard to ordinance violations, Alderman Cole expressed the opinion that the police department should not have to babysit homeowners who don't mow their grass on a regular basis. Mayor noted that the police department is well within their authority to hand out fines for unkept yards.

Code Compliance, Building Permits Discussion: Mayor noted that he had met with code compliance officer, Dave Jenkins, recently. Dave continues to monitor building permits and ongoing construction. He comes to town 2-3 times a month to make inspections. Dave indicated that he is no longer able to monitor code violations for the city and the Mayor feels this responsibility falls upon the police department to enforce. Mayor noted that there is currently a permit application handbook on the city's website which easily explains the permit application process for residents.

With regard to the ongoing discussion regarding concrete drive approaches, Mayor pulled the minutes from the September 13, 2004 council meeting in the hopes of gaining some clarification as to the council's intent when they passed the current ordinance. Though the current ordinance pertains to any homes/buildings constructed since September, 2004, Alderman Miller's main concern is the condition of gravel driveways prior to 2004 and how to handle those. He feels some of those driveways are in such poor condition that they are eroding city streets. Alderman

Johansen proposed some changes to the code that he would like to see adopted. Mayor spoke to his neighbor who is currently in violation of the ordinance to gain her perspective on how the city should handle enforcing this ordinance. The neighbor acknowledged that she knows she's in violation and agreed that the one year allotted in building permit should be more than enough time to get the driveway taken care of. Alderman Brill would like to send letters to violators dating back to the inception of the ordinance in 2004 giving them six months to comply. Mayor Mohr recommends not changing the code but following Alderman Brill's recommendation. Motion by Alderman Johansen and second by Alderman Miller to adopt the changes to Section 190-17 and Section 300-5 of the city's code as proposed via email and each Alderman will be provided with a list of violators in their respective wards that they will contact and ask to comply. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business:

Prevailing Wage Ordinance: Motion by Alderman Brill and second by Alderman Cole to adopt Prevailing Wage Ordinance 2013-10. Motion carries unanimously.

McDaniels Compensation-EMA/Animal Control: Danny McDaniels is asking for a pay increase for himself and Chris McDaniels. The increase would be an additional \$25 per month per person beginning with the next paycheck. Danny did provide for this increase in the EMA budget for 2013-2014. Motion by Alderman Brill and second by Alderman Johansen to provide a \$25 per month pay increase to Danny McDaniels and Chris McDaniels beginning with the next pay period. Motion carries unanimously.

Zach Mason Resignation: Mayor received an email from Sherry Benjamin who is a vocational counselor for the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation. She has been Zach Mason's caseworker for the past year as Zach has worked for city. After an overall assessment of Zach and his job responsibilities with the city, her recommendation is to work with Zach on a different job placement that will more closely meet his skills and abilities and will offer long term opportunities for employment. Motion by Alderman Revelle and second by Alderman Cole to accept Sherry Benjamin's email as a resignation and termination of the current contract for Zach's employment. Motion carries unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Mayor: Mayor is asking the Street Committee to work with staff to make sure the employees maintain grass and weeds on city owned properties, especially the pump stations. Mayor had previously asked the city to pay for his admission to the Midwest Social Media Conference. The Mayor learned in this conference that Facebook and Twitter are essential in reaching a wide base of people and to attract interest in the City. The city currently has a website, a Twitter account and more recently, a Facebook page. With regard to the Susan Wright property discussed at previous council meetings, the Mayor spoke with a real estate broker who suggested that a low offer that has generated some interest with the bank that currently owns the property. Mayor noted that more information is being gathered in the dispute between Mr. and Mrs. Lindenbaum and Mr. Ross. Surveys have been completed and the property boundaries are now known. Mayor is hopeful that a clear definition of the property lines will help resolve their issues. Mayor met with members of the fire district. They were disappointed to find that they will not benefit from any TIF increment that results from construction in the TIF district. They have concerns with the amount of growth the city may have in the years to come. They are making a

list of new equipment and improvements they would need and the Mayor noted that within 1-2 years the city should be in a position to consider some incremental sharing agreements with the school and the fire district. Mayor will also initiate the bond paperwork to help finance Wirtz Way construction and other TIF projects.

Police: -None

Building/Insurance: Alderman Miller noted that health insurance representative, Devin Bernstein, provided a list of alternative health care providers, one being considerably cheaper than what the city has now. Coverage and care are identical but the deductible is smaller. Mayor recommends moving forward with the change.

Finance/TIF: -None

Water: -None

Sanitation: None

Streets/Alleys: Alderman Brill rode with Street Superintendent, Bill Elias, and made note of some trees that need trimmed and streets that need paving.

There being no further business, it was moved by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Phelps to adjourn at 9:13 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Kunkel, City Clerk

Approved: 6/24/2013