

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL

June 13, 2011

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 to find the following physically present: Mayor Mohr, Alderman Cole, Alderman Miller, and Alderman Winterland. Alderman Brill, Alderman Fiero, and Alderman Revelle were absent. A quorum was established with the three aldermen plus the Mayor for a total of 4 votes on each question. Members of the staff and public present were: Melanie Kunkel, Dave Schneider, Lloyd Friedli, Josh Martin, Mike Beard, and Bill Elias.

It was moved by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Cole to accept the minutes of the May 23, 2011 City Council meeting. 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 sum of \$44,019.88. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input:

Lloyd Friedli spoke to the council about the Kiwanis group wanting to clean up Stitchee park and install some plants that would separate the park from the frontage road. Last year Mr. Friedli obtained an estimate and a layout from Devore Landscaping for some plantings. The cost for the plants is approximately \$500.00. Mr. Friedli is asking the city to split the cost of the plantings with the Kiwanis group. He indicated that once the plantings are purchased, the Kiwanis would have a working party to install them and clean up the park. The intent of the plantings will be to separate the park from the frontage road. Mr. Friedli indicated that some of the bushes to be purchased are seven 36" Red Twig Dogwoods and five 3 gallon Viburnum. Mayor Mohr thanked Mr. Friedli and the Kiwanis group for all of their hard work and dedication to the community. Mayor Mohr asked that this request be added to the agenda for the next meeting when all council members would be present to discuss and vote on splitting the cost of the plantings. Mr. Friedli also noted that the placard on the legion monument needs some cleaning and painting. Mike Beard will look in the shop for some left over grey paint that Mr. Friedli can use to repaint the placard.

Josh Martin expressed concern about the amount of the future sewer connection fees for multi-dwelling units. He is concerned that he will have to pay multiple connection fees for his apartments even though he has one water meter and one connection T. Mayor Mohr's recommendation is that there should be only one connection fee per connection T. This topic will be carried forward to the next meeting to be discussed when all council members are present.

Josh also expressed concern about the condition of the alley behind his home. For drainage purposes, there is an asphalt curb and approach in the ally. He says the connection T's for his home and his neighbor's home were brought to the center of the ditch in the ally disrupting the asphalt approach. Josh is asking the council to keep the asphalt curb and approach in mind when

the connections are done and to make sure there is room in the budget to replace the curb and approach.

Police Chief's Report: Dave Schneider indicated that the County has handled the break in at the Upper Tap. The video surveillance of suspects at the Brown Jug in Chenoa is believed to be the same individuals who broke into the Upper Tap. The County says they have not progressed any further with finding out who the individuals on the video tape are, however, they are continuing their search for the suspects. Regarding the burglaries and theft locally, Dave has arrested two juveniles and has recovered 75% of the items stolen and he is continuing his search for the remainder of the items. One of the suspects is being charged with one count of residential burglary and each suspect is being charged with five motor vehicle burglaries. Mayor Mohr wanted Dave to know that the city intends to prosecute these to the fullest extent of the law. Dave will keep the council posted as these cases progress.

Old Business:

1. Benedict Attorney Fees- Mayor Mohr asked the council for a formal decision regarding the recovery of attorney's fees for the Benedict property ordinance violation. There was consensus among the council members to file a lien against the property for the recovery of the attorney's fees which is between \$6,000 and \$7,000. Alderman Winterland moved to file a lien for attorney's fees in regard to the ordinance violation case against Linda Benedict. Alderman Winterland noted that his reasoning for filing the lien is due to the amount of taxpayer dollars used to fight the ordinance violation lawsuit brought on by Ms. Benedict. The motion was seconded by Alderman Cole and passed unanimously.

New Business:

Prevailing Wage Ordinance-It was moved by Alderman Cole and seconded by Alderman Miller to adopt Prevailing Wage Ordinance 2011-4. Motion carried unanimously.

Water Ordinance Amendment for Partial Payments Clarification-Our code does not allow for partial payments on water bills. The City Collector, Margaret Quinley, has adopted a procedure of allowing individuals to pay what they can as long as the outstanding balance is less than \$100. Residents are given several chances to bring their balances current before their water is shut off. Mayor Mohr's recommendation is to leave the code alone, no longer accept partial payments and require all water bills to be paid in full at the time they are due. The amount of outstanding water bills is between \$9,000 and \$10,000 a month. The discussion of Mayor Mohr's recommendation will be carried over to the next meeting so the whole council can discuss a cutoff date as well as how to handle communication to the public that the city will no longer accept partial payments.

Part Time Police Contract- Mayor Mohr is waiting for the final draft to come back from the city's attorney and the part-time police union (Illinois Council of Police). The contract will allow a 25% pay raise for the part time police officers. This item will be carried forward for discussion at the next meeting. The pay increase has been included in the 2011-12 fiscal year budget.

Property Purchase Chestnut Street- There is a triangular patch of land for sale on Chestnut and Morgan. The property is currently owned by Sue Davis and, according to the City's code, the lot is too small to build on. If grass and weeds become an ordinance violation; the City may incur some costs of maintaining the lot, Mayor Mohr suggested the city just purchase the land. Alderman Cole discussed the possibility of the council making an exception and allowing

someone to build a small home on the lot. Mayor Mohr disagreed siting that with the easements for the railroad, fiber optics, streets, and the size of any potential home and yard would not be attractive to families with children or enhance the value of the neighborhood. The question will be carried over for the entire council to consider.

Lateral sewer connection charges for multi-dwelling parcels-This item was not discussed and will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Mobile home park sewer connection proposal-This item was not discussed and will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

Mayor:-None

Police-None

Building/Insurance- Alderman Miller spoke to Alderman Fiero after the last meeting about the draft of the Knox box ordinance. Because Alderman Fiero has more experience preparing ordinances, she will work on the draft.

Finance/TIF- Alderman Winterland noted that there is a TIF meeting scheduled for next Monday June 20th. The meeting will be Mayor Mohr, Alderman Winterland, Andy Schuler and Curt Nettles. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the progress of the TIF amendment and its impact on the school district.

Water-None

Sanitation-None

Streets/Allys-None

There being no further business, it was moved by Alderman Winterland and seconded by Alderman Miller to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Kunkel, City Clerk

Approved: 6/27/2011