

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL

September 26, 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, Alderman Brill, Alderman Fiero, Alderman Revelle and Alderman Winterland. Members of the staff and public present were: Melanie Kunkel, Ryan Rich, Candace Corkery, James Groth, Angela Groth, Becky Jacobs, Jason McKary, Mike Beard, Danny McDaniels, Pam McDaniels, Kevin Therien, and Ed Pyne.

It was moved by Alderman Brill and seconded by Alderman Fiero to accept the minutes of the September 12, 2011 Council Meeting minutes. 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 sum of \$200,257.61 of which \$172,000 was a payment to MidIllinois Mechanical for the sewer connections. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input-Members of the Lexington EMA were present to express their concerns regarding the rental of the old fire station. EMA offices are housed in the old fire station which has a backup generator for power EMA would need in case of an emergency. Angela Groth, Candace Corkery and Danny McDaniels argued that the city does not currently have a location as secure and readily equipped as the old fire station for EMA to operate from. They also indicated that residents of the trailer court use the old fire station for shelter during tornado alerts and severe weather situations.

Old Business:

1. Mobile homes/abandoned car ordinance-Alderman Fiero drafted an amendment to the code modifying the time frame and placement of abandoned or permanently parked vehicles. A motion by Alderman Miller to postpone any decision regarding the amendment until the October 10, 2011 council meeting was properly seconded. Motion carries unanimously.

2. Old Fire Station rental- Ryan Rich indicated that he does not need the back office in the old fire station and has offered for EMA to stay in their current location if he were to rent the building. He is unclear as to how rent and utilities would be divided between his business and the city if EMA does stay in the building. Mr. Rich asked the council to make a decision as soon as possible regarding the rental of the building as he is eager to get his sports enhancement business up and running. Mayor Mohr asked Mr. Rich for a two week extension on a final decision. Motion by Alderman Cole and second by Alderman Miller to postpone the rental decision until the October 10, 2011 meeting. Motion carries unanimously.

3. TIF Grant Program Administration and Application Review- Alderman Winterland spoke to Dan Walker and did some research on how other towns use TIF funds. Alderman Winterland explained that the Mayor and the Council are trying to use taxpayer money wisely. Becky

Jacobs, owner of the Shake Shack addressed the council regarding her TIF grant request to aid in the addition of a pizza oven. Motion by Alderman Winterland and second by Alderman Revelle to refer the TIF Grant Program Administration and Application review to the finance committee and setting a meeting for October 5, 2011 at 6:30pm. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

Curb in Southridge: Alderman Revelle explained to the council that over the years some homeowners have put asphalt in the curb in front of their driveway to make entry into the driveway more comfortable. Some of that asphalt was destroyed during the sewer installation and some of the homeowners are asking that the asphalt be put back. Because the city did not install the asphalt in the first place, Alderman Revelle and the Street Department recommend that the city not be responsible for putting it back. Council members are concerned with the effect of putting the asphalt back would have on road erosion and snow plowing. The other option would be for the homeowners to cut the curb and driveway down to lessen the bump into the driveway. This would be at the homeowner's expense. The council discussed several options. The Street committee recommends the city do nothing but allow the homeowners to put the asphalt back at their own expense. Motion by Alderman Revelle second by Alderman Brill resolving that the city will not cut the curbs down or provide the replacement asphalt patches to the Southridge driveways, but the city will allow the homeowners to replace the transition ramps at their own expense. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Mayor: - The city has received a lot of interest in the TIF program because of the publications regarding the TIF amendment. Two questions seem to be common. First, that the TIF is a tax increase. Anyone can go to the tax collector's website and compare the tax rate of a home in and out of the TIF district. They are the same. The second question has to do with the impact on the school district. State aid is a complicated formula that considers total EAV. If the City's TIF increment were considered in the state's aid formula then state aid to the school would be reduced from its current level. The real reduction in school funding from the City's Tax Increment Finance District is roughly 1.5% of the schools budget. School officials are on board with the TIF district amendment knowing that it will work to bring more development into the city thus potentially increasing the number of students enrolled in the school. Mayor reviewed the closeout of the sewer contracts with Farnsworth and the city is in a good position to possibly have a lower loan payment than original anticipated. The TIF amendment has become a little complicated and the Mayor is currently working with the landowners to negotiate the annexation petitions. Mayor asked Mike Beard and Don Revelle to make a note about the height of Rob White's mailbox as a part of sewer restoration work. It is buried too deep. Don has asked Mike to check with the post office regarding the height range for mailboxes. Regarding the Tropical Tan building next to the post office, Mayor feels there could be health hazard there. Tenants are not having any luck getting the necessary repairs from the landlord as the building is in foreclosure. Mayor met with Dave Jenkins regarding the building permit processes. Dave has promised to get an electronic building permit application that could be added to the website. Mayor feels the code should be clearer regarding how long a building permit remains valid and a timeline for the construction to be complete. Andy Schuler has videotaped the drainage of water around his property. He has found a footer tile that could be plugged out by the street. Mayor has asked the Street department to look into this.

Police-None

Building/Insurance-Alderman Miller is trying to get in contact with the health insurance company to get some questions answered.

Finance/TIF- None

Water- None

Sanitation-None

Streets/Allys- In his absence, Bill Elias asked Mike Beard to relay to the council that 172 of the high visibility street signs have installed and the old street signs have been removed. Bill has 7 left to install.

There being no further business, it was moved by Alderman Winterland and seconded by Alderman Miller to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Kunkel, City Clerk

Approved: 10/10/2011