

MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL
June 23, 2014

The meeting of the Lexington City Council was called to order at 7:50 p.m. by Mayor John 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 Johansen, Alderman Revelle, Alderman Phelps and Alderman Fosen. Members of the staff and public present were: Melanie Kunkel, Lucinda Gresham, Carol Hardman, Amy Hardman, Matt Hardman, Jeannie Cox, Ted Cox, Danny McDaniels, Jennifer Wagher, Mike Richard, Don Cavallini, Steve Whaley, Laurie Sleeter, Cody Bird, Dennis Pignotti and Brad Fraher.

It was moved by Alderman Fosen and seconded by Alderman Johansen to approve the minutes from the June 7, 2014 council meeting, the June 13, 2014 council meeting and the June 16, 2014 emergency council meeting. City Clerk, Melanie Kunkel, noted that she deleted a paragraph off the bottom of the June 7, 2014 minutes that pertained to a comment by Alderman Revelle. After reviewing the closed session minutes, it was discovered that that comment was actually made in closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Alderman Fosen and seconded by Alderman Revelle to approve the treasurer's report and pay bills in the amount of \$169,707.35. Of that amount, \$104,767.19 was a payment to Stark Excavating for PJ Keller Highway/Wirtz Way road work. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input: Members of the public in attendance voiced concern regarding the council overturning the decision to appoint a part time officer as an interim acting police chief as well the details of correspondence from the city's attorneys. **Rick Barkes:** Would like the council and the public to know that he is not interested in the police chief's position and asked the council's help in dispelling that rumor. he would like any rumors pertaining to such to be squashed by council members if they hear same.

Alderman Johansen would like the community to know he does not have a problem with the Sheriff's office patrolling the streets of Lexington as he has complete faith that they will do a good job. He is not happy with the way the council handled the situation.

New Business:

Appropriation Ordinance: Motion by Alderman Miller and second by Alderman Phelps to approve Appropriation Ordinance 2014-6. Motion carried unanimously.

Prevailing Wage Ordinance: Motion by Alderman Phelps and second by Alderman Cole to approve the Prevailing Wage Ordinance 2014-5. Motion carried unanimously

Anticipated Revenues Resolution: Motion by Alderman Cole and second by Alderman Miller to approve the Anticipated Revenues Resolution 2014-1. Motion carried unanimously.

Fireside Façade: Mark Kudrys was not present to address this item. It will be moved to a future meeting.

Police Department Investigation: Alderman Johansen believes the review should include a review of the actions taken to ensure that codes and state laws were followed. Alderman Johansen believes having the McLean County Sheriff's Department conduct this review raises a conflict of interest as the Mayor has family ties to the Sheriff's office. Motion by Alderman Johansen and second by Alderman Cole to ask the Illinois State Police to conduct a review of the allegations made against the Lexington Police Department concerning performance issues. Alderman Miller asked about the benefit of an investigation? Alderman Johansen noted that his goal is to prevent the issue with the part time police officers from coming up again. He feels that the vote taken on June 13th to appoint a current part time officer as the interim acting chief should have stuck and should not have been overturned. He feels the council should focus more on finding a new chief and reinstating the part time officers. Alderman Fosen feels the city can obtain a fair review from the Sheriff's office. Rick Barkes asked Alderman Johansen to consider what he is asking for from the Illinois State Police. He noted that if they would agree to conduct a review on behalf of the city, the State Police would open a criminal investigation if any wrongdoing is found. He noted that the scope of such a criminal investigation could go back farther than 2008 and could include more than just the current police staff. He also noted that the expense to the city for that investigation would be outrageous. Rick asked if the council could reach out to Chenoa and tap into a possible intergovernmental agreement and use their chief on a temporary basis to oversee the part time officers. That way Alderman Johansen and the town can feel better about having the part time officers that they know patrolling the streets. Alderman Johansen asked to withdraw his motion based on the information Rick provided regarding a review by the Illinois State Police. He would like some time to investigate the option of using the Chenoa chief.

Committee Reports:

Mayor: None

Police: Alderman Phelps handed out a sheet to the Alderman containing a job description for the police chief's position. He is asking for feedback from council members. Alderman Phelps read the job description to the audience in attendance at the request of Rick Barkes. Alderman Phelps is encouraging council members to get back with him if they want to add to the description.

Building/Insurance: None

Finance/TIF: Alderman Fosen commented that he has looked back through the city's revenue history and noted that the city takes conservative approach to estimating yearly revenues.

Water: None

Sanitation: None

Streets/Alleys: Alderman Revelle noted that bids were obtained for the demolition of the city's house located at 115 Parkway. Alderman Johansen asked that the city employees keep the property mowed.

Alderman Fosen presented a letter to council members written by Denni Pignotti who polled about 30 houses in his subdivision regarding the proposed playground and basketball court in Meadowridge. Most of those polled were in favor of the park. The majority of those opposed live close to the proposed location. Alderman Fosen addressed the question about lights at the park. He noted that park hours will be posted but there will not be any lights installed. Alderman Cole referenced an email received by the council members from Laura Miller who voiced her opposition to the park. Denni Pignotti noted that the Houston's are also against it and they live in that area.

There being no further business, it was moved by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Phelps to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Kunkel, City Clerk

Approved: 7/14/2014