

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL
March 30, 2015

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

Mayor led the council in the pledge of allegiance.

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, Mike Beard, Dave Belvery, Katie Adams, Walker Adams, Jason Thomas, Bruce Klein, Dwight Stricklin, Donna Williams.

Minutes from the March 9, 2015 meeting were not available for approval. This item will be forwarded to the next meeting.

It was moved by Alderman Fosen and seconded by Alderman Revelle to approve the treasurer's report and pay bills in the amount of \$25,473.99 Alderman Fosen asked Chief Belvery to confirm that the electrical problem with the squad car has been resolved. He confirmed but noted that there may be several bills coming to the city regarding same but that the total will be less than what was originally approved. Motion carries unanimously.

Public Input: Donna Williams addressed the board with regard to her dad, Charles Koch. Donna produced a signed petition pertaining to the closed sidewalks around the auction house. She noted that the ropes have been taken down but they would like to see the broken sidewalks replaced this summer. She noted that they did have a few falls this year due to the unevenness of the broken sidewalks and the grounds around the auction house. They are doing their part to sure up the ground as best they can but would like to see the city take care of their part. She also indicated that the city's zoning code requires a 5' setback at the property line and feels some of the area around the auction house was left without that setback after the city made some repairs. She would also like this taken care of. Mayor noted that Alderman Revelle is the chairman of the Street Committee and he asked Alderman Revelle to handle it.

Old Business:

Red Carpet Corridor: Katie Adams provided the council with an update on the Red Carpet Corridor and noted that they have registered 50 vendors, are bringing the tractor show back and will have a drive in car show as well. It is scheduled for May 2nd and 3rd and will be located around the town square and down Main Street. Motion by Alderman Phelps and second by Alderman Fosen to close Main Street from Vine around the square from 7:00 pm on Friday, May 1st until Sunday, May 3rd at 3:00 pm. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business:

Ordinance 2015-2 Modifying Water Rates: Motion by Alderman Phelps and second by Alderman Miller to approve Ordinance 2015-2 an Ordinance Amending Chapter 63 and Chapter 251 of the Code of the City of Lexington for the Purpose of Modifying Water Rates and for the Purpose of amending Certain Other Water Regulations. Motion carries unanimously.

City Advertising Presentation by Business Builders: Dick Eikenberg provided a presentation for the council regarding communications and advertising for the city. The motto for the campaign is Picture Yourself in Lexington.

Lexington Finer Foods Equipment Repair: The condensers in one of their coolers went bad compromising 1/3 of his square footage for cold storage and display. Mr. Patel called and asked if the city could assist him with the \$6,000 repairs. Mayor spoke to three Aldermen individually prior to the meeting who agreed it is important to help keep the grocery store going and gave their verbal approval to provide this financial assistance on an emergent basis. A one-time grant is being provided not to exceed \$6,000. Motion by Alderman Cole and second by Alderman Johansen to approve a general fund grant in aid of up to \$6,000 to pay for repairs to the equipment at Lexington Finer Foods. Alderman Fosen asked why the grant money would be pulled out of the general fund and not TIF. Mayor noted that TIF grants for inside repairs are limited. Motion carries unanimously.

Naming Meadow Ridge Park Chuck Wright Memorial Park: The Jaycees approached the Mayor indicating that the new structure has been installed but they still have some pea gravel and landscaping to install. It is close to being finished. The Jaycees wanted to name that park and because of the contribution Chuck Wright has made to the community over the years while he was still alive, the Jaycees felt it appropriate to name it the Chuck Wright Memorial Park. Motion by Alderman Miller and second by Alderman Revelle to enact a verbal resolution authorizing the naming of the Meadow Ridge Park as the Chuck Wright Memorial Park.

Setting Budget Workshop Date: Saturday, April 18th at 9:00 am will be the budget workshop.

Closed Session Section 2(c) of the Open Meetings Act Pertaining to Property Acquisition: Motion by Alderman Revelle and second Alderman Miller to go into closed session at 8:30 pm. Motion carries unanimously.

Regular session resumed at 8:50 pm.

Committee Reports:

Mayor: None

Police: Chief Belvery has found that some of the training expenses for the new police officer's are reimbursable.

Building/Insurance: Alderman Miller noted that the tenants of the old Wooden Hare building have been unable to pay their rent. They are currently renting month to month with no set contract. Alderman Miller feels it is time to sever the month to month contract. Mayor will work on and serve an eviction notice.

Finance/TIF: Alderman Fosen noted that part of the Governor's agenda is to cut back on the income tax reimbursement to the communities up to potentially half which yields about \$190,000-200,000 per year for Lexington. These cuts may cause some serious belt tightening during the budget process for the city. Mayor indicated that he attended a meeting with Governor Rauner at Normal City Hall and asked, with this proposed cut, what was he going to do to help offset such a large cut. The Governor indicated to Mayor Mohr that he is going to try to alleviate the prevailing wage and collective bargaining requirement for cities.

Water: None

Sanitation: None

Streets/Alleys: Alderman Revelle noted that he is happy the Governor is considering doing away with prevailing wage for cities.

Clerk, Melanie Kunkel, noted that she has been approached by several parents from last year's 7th grade boys track team asking when the city would put up a sign at the end of PJ Keller Highway acknowledging their State accomplishment. Mayor noted that he would speak with Bill Elias to get the sign ordered.

Alderman Phelps asked about some different lighting and landscaping in front of Kemp's new building. Mayor noted there are some long standing issues in the past that prevented installation of additional Main Street lighting in the past. Alderman Phelps asked if it is possible for the city to provide an incentive to the business owner to make it possible. Mayor noted that he would do some research on the history of that type of project.

There being no further business, it was moved by Alderman Miller and seconded by Alderman Johansen to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Kunkel, City Clerk

Approved: 4/13/2015