

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL****SEPTEMBER 11, 2017****7:00 P. M.**

The regular meeting of the Lexington City Council was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Spencer Johansen in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

A moment of silence was observed in recognition of the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11, 2001.

Mayor Johansen led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken to find the following physically present: Mayor Johansen, Alderman Schreiber, Alderwoman Wilson, Alderman Colclasure, Alderman Richard, Alderman Stover and Alderman Fosen. Members of the staff and public present were: Don Cavallini, David Belvery, Kelly Turner, Paul Deters, Ariana Martino (Invenergy), Teresa Trella (Invenergy), Jason Thomas, Dwight Stricklan, John Mohr and Billy Dubois.

It was moved by Alderman Colclasure and seconded by Alderwoman Wilson to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2017 regular City Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Alderman Fosen and seconded by Alderman Stover to approve the Treasurer's Report and pay bills in the amount of \$283,886.24. This includes \$240,933 water plant payment and \$28,000 street repair payment. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Input:** Kelly Turner wanted to introduce herself. She is Community Relations Coordinator with Ameren, Division 3, which includes Bloomington, Springfield, Decatur and surrounding areas. She is also the provider of gas and electric safety classes for the school. She handed out "A Guide for Municipal Leaders" for everyone in attendance. She wanted everyone to know that Ameren is there not only in a crisis but we can reach out to her for educational purposes as well.

This letter was presented by a concerned citizen, John Mohr: I'd like to comment on the decision to take down the dedication plaque for the new water treatment plant because it's inscribed with Philippians 4:19-20. The decision to include that text was not made lightly but only after considering all the ways that God met our needs to make the project possible.

First, God met our needs by delivering the Wirtz Beverage site selectin decision. Their decision required successfully addressing more than 50 due diligence questions, across multiple government agencies, in less than 45 days, during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The Army Corps of Engineers gave us an important answer on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, unbelievable! Our work

on the Wirtz Beverage deal was covered in prayer from many friends and now the distribution center will contribute 20% of the WTP loan payments.

Next, God met our needs through land acquisition challenges. Who moves the heart of a land owner to sell just 4 acres off of a much larger parcel? I don't think McLean County Zoning even allows that. Who moves the heart of a land owner to compromise the agriculture configuration of their farmland? Who moves the heart of a land owner to disrupt his existing leases? Who moves the heart of a land owner to expose themselves to unnecessary capital gains taxes? Who moves the heart of a land owner to sell commercial development property at farmland valuation? I can tell you, I'm not that good of a salesman. Many communities are completely landlocked and would never have an opportunity like that.

Please consider next the probability that a private investor would spend \$500,000 of his hard-earned money to build a subdivision in Lexington. Until Trail Ridge Subdivision was created it hadn't happened in almost 20 years. More incredible, one-third of the lots in Trail Ridge sold in the first year are contributing enough incremental revenue to cover 10% of the WTP loan payments. I know for a fact the developer prayerfully considered the opportunity before making his investment and he was less concerned with ROI than he was in growing the community.

Finally, please consider that we purchased the WTP site with limited information about the quality and quantity of water there. And God met our needs once again, with a test well that delivers more than 750 gallons per minute...and on the first drilling!

Take any of these items away and there wouldn't be enough cash flow to make the loan payments and we couldn't afford the water rates to pay out of pocket for the treatment plant. These few words don't do enough to describe the many circumstances, more accurately – the God incidents that led to the existence of the WTP. Please help me to give credit where credit is due and reinstall the plaque inscribed with Philippians 4:19-20. Thank you.

**Old Business:** Ongoing Discussion on Invenergy: Where are the turbines going to be located and the numbers on a pre-term basis? They were at \$360,000K per megawatt in 2007. We will not give out locations until they are locked down.

Whether Invenergy is granted a setback or not they are still going to build 100 turbines altogether. Twenty of these are proposed in the School District and 11 are in the city set back. They do not have their County permits yet and the 11 could change to 10-20. If the City knows where it is thinking of expanding, it will take the turbines out of that area. They want to know what criteria is important to the city for placement of the windmills. They would like to have their permits by the end of the year and start construction by the following year. We would like to be operational by 2020.

The Council feels a public hearing is necessary to see how the voters feel about this project. Tom Shields, the city attorney, is checking on the procedure for this.

**New Business:** Dwight Stricklan from Lexington School discussion of Invenergy Proposal: Dwight Stricklan wanted to speak to the Council whether they were for or against the windmills. Dwight Stricklan stated that the biggest impact on the School District from the 20 turbines proposed going in the School District would be \$620,000 the first year. The next year they would lose the same amount in their state aid but they would be guaranteed the money from the turbines per year. The \$620,000 from the turbines is more money than they receive from the referendum that the voters passed that is only for four years.

The question was asked "How was the money going to be spent?" Mr. Stricklan said he can guarantee the money will be spent wisely. He wants to get the district out of debt or on technology. It is important to keep up to date in technology. Whatever we can do to help the student. Our student base is growing. We want to improve everything and we would be able to do this with the windmill farm.

Jason Thomas also stated this also impacts all people in the community and the school district by paying down the school referendum and lowering the tax rate. And there will be no need for an additional referendum in the future.

**Consideration/Vote on Sign "Welcome to Lexington":** This will complete the RT 66 Park for a cost of \$398. We will put the sign that is there on the back side of the sign and the "Welcome to Lexington" will be on the front. Motion was made by Alderman Richard and seconded by Alderman Stover to approve the purchase of the new "Welcome Sign". Motion carried with 5 yes and 1 no vote.

**Discussion on Cameras for City Hall:** For a few years we have been talking about putting cameras up on the outside of City Hall. Our current insurance company wants to see cameras installed on the outside of the City Hall building. By doing so we may be able to get a cheaper insurance rate. The Chief has been looking at 7 cameras that crisscross for \$1700-\$1800. It was suggested that we purchase a good DVR and put in less expensive cameras, then budget for better quality cameras that we can put in in the future. Better quality cameras have facial recognition, so you are able to actually see a face or a license plate. We can put the infrastructure in now and replace the cameras later. The cameras will be quality cameras just not top of the line cameras. Cameras are a deterrent to criminal activities.

City Hall has had windows broken twice in 18 months at a cost of \$1200 and multiple thefts in parking lots. The small towns around all have cameras on the City halls. The Chief has some reserve funds in the drug accounts that he can justify using toward the cameras by saying those cameras cover our bars. By saying that, if we ever got audited by the State, that would be the purpose of purchasing the cameras with those funds. The Chief is comfortable with the low light level of the cameras. The Part time officer has agreed to install the cameras and Stinde Electric to install the cabling. The question was asked about putting one in the lobby area as well and that was not included in the estimate. The only interior one was in the Police

Department but Chief will get an estimate for one in the lobby by next meeting.  
 Consideration/vote will be on the agenda of the next meeting September 25, 2017.

**Committee Reports:**

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Johansen reported that he talked with an individual regarding the property behind Barkers. He spoke with Larry Reese about the property where the detention base is.

He had another call from the governor's team regarding the governor's visit on September 23, 2017. Everything is on schedule. They will be here around 11:55 A.M. and will be making a presentation in front of the Memorial.

He has heard nothing more from Casey's. He expects to hear by the end of the week.

**Police:** None

**Building/Insurance:** None

**Finance/TIF:** None

**Water/Sewer/Sanitation:** All the flooring is in and the building is completed. Water lines and other equipment will soon be tested. All employees will take training the week of the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Street/Alley:** Patch resurfacing starting this Friday, streets and sidewalks, and more in October. The County is just about done with their work at the end of Main Street. We need to get an address of where to contact the Rail Road about the tracks going thru the City.

There being no further business motion was made Alderwoman Wilson to adjourn at 7:49 P.M.  
 Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Pati Pease

City Clerk

Approved: September 25, 2017

