

THE CORUNNA CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
April 7, 2014

Present: Horton, Johnson, Rodriguez, Hess.

Absent: Sliwa, Bennett

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Merilee Lawson, City Planner/Assessor; Arnie Dunchock; Bob Morehouse; Doug Haskins; Frank Rodriguez; Jodi Green; Dennis Johnson; Gordon Pennington and Nicholas Pidek, SCRC; Jess Robison, Argus Press.

The meeting was called to order in council chambers in the lower level of the Community Center by Mayor Kerridge at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: Johnson moved, Hess seconded, to approve the minutes of the 03-17-2014 regular council meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Johnson, Rodriguez, Hess, Horton.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

Councilperson Bennett arrived at 7:07 p.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Johnson moved, Horton seconded, to approve the agenda with the following changes and additions: Move #6 Consider Participation in Trail/Bike Map with SCRC and City of Owosso to #1, add #2A Consider Excusing Councilperson Sliwa from the April 7, 2014 Meeting Due to Spring Break, add #7 Consider Resignation of Thomas Flagg from the Corunna Historical Commission, add #8 Consider Resignation of Dawn Johnson from the Corunna Area Ambulance Board Due to Job Conflict, and add #9 Consider Appointment of Mayor Charles Kerridge to the Corunna Area Ambulance Board.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Bennett, Hess, Horton, Johnson, Rodriguez.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Johnson moved, Horton seconded, to approve vendor disbursements from 03-14-2014 through 03-27-2014 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Bennett, Hess, Horton, Johnson, Rodriguez.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE: Arnold Dunchock, 223/225 N. Shiawassee, stated that he has only heard one side of the story, but from that side, he understood that Gene Sanderson was being removed because he was exercising his first amendment rights. That was very troubling to him and felt he needed to speak out on his behalf. He wanted to know if he was notified that this was going to happen tonight or given a chance to resign. Jodi Green, 106 St. Mary St., stated that she was at council meeting last month because of the sewer bill issue and wondered what was decided. Bennett stated that two meetings ago, when her husband spoke, Bennett asked to get a clarification of the issue from him at the next meeting and he did not show up. He stated that what was discussed can be explained by the manager at city hall. Green stated that she did not know anything about going to the meeting. Bennett stated that Mr. Green was told. Sawyer stated that if she came to city hall she could get a history of the account. Then, council would be prepared if she wants to come back to council. Doug Haskins, 415 W. Mack St., wanted an explanation

for the removal of Mr. Sanderson and how many boards a person may participate in. Mayor Kerridge stated that he did not remove Mr. Sanderson and he did not sign the request. Johnson and Bennett stated it will be discussed when they get to it on the agenda.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Nothing to report.

PARTICIPATION IN TRAIL/BIKE MAP WITH SHIAWASSEE COUNTY RECREATION

COMMISSION (SCRC) AND THE CITY OF OWOSSO: Gordon Pennington and Nicholas Pidek, representatives from the SCRC, presented the Rails to Trails areas that are being developed. The goal is to get a trail system completed this summer through Clinton, Ionia and Shiawassee (CIS) Counties. The five segments of this trail will make the fifth largest hiking/biking trail in the U.S. and Pennington stated that Shiawassee County's trails are some of the best in the state. This development would also include a wayfinding sign system along the trail providing directions and information as to what is available in the area. They want to include Corunna in this venture. Pennington showed where the CIS trail goes through the Corunna area and stated that Corunna events and attractions could be featured as a part of signage, on an interactive website and maps. Corunna was being asked to be a partner by contributing \$1,600 to the project. Kerridge stated that there is money from the Labor Day T-shirt sales that could be used for this project too. Bennett moved, Johnson seconded, to get involved with the CIS trail project, as presented, with an expenditure of \$1,600.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Hess, Horton, Johnson, Bennett, Rodriguez.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

EXCUSE COUNCILPERSON SLIWA FROM THE APRIL 7, 2014 COUNCIL MEETING DUE TO SPRING BREAK: Johnson moved, Horton seconded, to excuse Councilperson Sliwa from the April 7, 2014 council meeting due to spring break.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Bennett, Johnson, Horton, Rodriguez, Hess

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER DISMISSAL OF GENE SANDERSON FROM THE CORUNNA AREA AMBULANCE SERVICE BOARD:

Bennett explained that it has been made apparent that Sanderson is using his appointment as a soapbox to voice his dislike of council, the mayor, and the city. If someone is appointed to serve the city as an at-large member, it is expected that he serve the city as it pertains to the ambulance board. Bennett understood that Sanderson has been disruptive and controlling at meetings and he is not serving in the best interests of the residents. Bennett stated that is why he requested his removal. Bennett stated that he cannot stop Sanderson from voicing his opinion but, when he takes the ambulance board's agenda and turns it to a disapproval of how downtown issues are handled, he is not keeping his focus on ambulance board issues. Rodriguez stated that she was concerned that Sanderson was not notified and was not here to defend himself. Johnson stated that obviously he did know about it because two people in the audience brought it up. Rodriguez stated it was on the agenda. Horton stated that she heard Sanderson say that he hoped Sawyer, who was at the board meeting to explain some issues to the board, never came back to another meeting. According to Horton, Sanderson was livid. She stated that Sanderson has done the same thing before and it was not his place to say those things. She stated that Sanderson also stated that he did not want the mayor on the board. Bennett stated that his information about Sanderson came from someone else, not Sawyer, Kerridge or Horton. He stated that he would fight for anyone's right to voice his opinion on city issues. But, when you serve on the Ambulance Board, you stick to the issues about the ambulance service and not use it to spew his dislike of the city manager, council or the mayor. That takes away from the residents representation on that board. Rodriguez asked if Sanderson would be notified by letter, and she was told yes. Johnson stated that the rules of procedure say that any two elected officials can bring an issue to council and board members serve at the pleasure of council. She stated that, at the last board meeting she attended, Sanderson and his wife were not very friendly toward her. Sawyer stated that with Johnson leaving the board due to a work conflict, there is a

vacancy that needs to be filled by an elected official. The only official who can attend a 9 a.m. meeting is the mayor. However, the mayor is unwilling to serve with Sanderson. Kerridge stated that Sanderson told him, "If you don't have a person on that council that can make this meeting, you need to get rid of the council". Kerridge stated that the board was asked if they would move the time of the meeting and they voted no. Bennett stated it looked to him that they are making the window so small that no one from our council can attend. Rodriguez stated that it was sad that someone who used to be a viable part of the community has changed his legacy to one of anger. Bennett moved, Horton seconded, to remove Gene Sanderson from the Corunna Area Ambulance Board.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Rodriguez, Horton, Johnson, Hess, Bennett.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF SHERYL FRAZIER TO THE CORUNNA AREA AMBULANCE BOARD: Kerridge stated that it was his job to fill vacancies and he knew that there would probably be one on the ambulance board that night. He stated that Mrs. Frazier is a member of the Corunna Rotary and recently lost her husband. She wrote a letter to the board and department expressing her appreciation to the ambulance department in trying to save him. Kerridge felt that she was the right person for this position and that is why he made this recommendation. Johnson moved, Rodriguez seconded, to appoint Sheryl Frazier to the Corunna Area Ambulance Board, to serve at the pleasure of council.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Hess, Horton, Rodriguez, Bennett, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUDGET WORK SESSION DATES: Sawyer stated that he is requesting the alternate dates be left on the calendar because the Pamar mediation will be in May and that will conflict with one of those dates. As soon as he knows what day the mediation is, the unneeded dates can be canceled. Johnson moved, Horton seconded, to approve the dates for the budget work sessions and the alternate dates.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Bennett, Johnson, Rodriguez, Hess, Horton.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION #04072014-01, ESTABLISHMENT OF A RECEIVING BOARD FOR ELECTIONS HELD IN THE CITY OF CORUNNA: Bennett moved, Rodriguez seconded, to approve Resolution #04072014-01, Establishment of a Receiving Board for Elections held in the City of Corunna.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Bennett, Rodriguez, Horton, Johnson, Hess.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

**RESOLUTION #04072014-01
ESTABLISHMENT OF A RECEIVING BOARD FOR ELECTIONS HELD IN THE CITY OF
CORUNA**

From the minutes of a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Corunna, Shiawassee County, Michigan, held in the Community Center, Corunna, Michigan 48817, on April 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. local time.

PRESENT: Bennett, Rodriguez, Horton, Johnson, Hess.

ABSENT: Sliwa

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER RESIGNATION OF DAWN JOHNSON FROM CORUNNA AREA AMBULANCE

BOARD: Johnson moved, Rodriguez seconded, to accept the resignation of Dawn Johnson from the Corunna Area Ambulance Board due to job conflict. Bennett added with regrets.

Roll Call:

Yes: Johnson, Hess, Rodriguez, Bennett, Horton.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR CHARLES KERRIDGE TO THE CORUNNA AREA

AMBULANCE BOARD: Bennett moved, Rodriguez seconded, to approve the appointment of Mayor Charles Kerridge to the Corunna Area Ambulance Board.

Roll Call:

Yes: Rodriguez, Hess, Horton, Bennett, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE: Bob Morehouse, Converse St., stated that he felt that the school crossing guard in Corunna is very good and is doing a fine job. Doug Haskings thanked council for explaining about the Sanderson situation. He was curious about what was going on. He also stated that the MML has ethics classes available and felt that they would be useful to council.

ROUNDTABLE:

Councilperson Bennett: He stated that the Owosso's Planes, Trains and Rails Event in June. The Japanese lantern launch will be in May at the airport. He asked about scheduling a brush pick up in the cemetery and park on a Saturday. Sawyer stated that the DPW is picking up wreaths in the cemetery, but he will check on a volunteer clean-up day for both. Bennett stated that a lot has already been picked up, but there is still a lot to do. Sawyer stated that the residents are the priority and the park will be last, so any help would be appreciated.

Councilperson Rodriguez: The DPW is working very hard and any help would be welcomed.

Councilperson Johnson: Nothing to report.

Councilperson Horton: The plastic eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt are at Pleasant View for the residents to fill.

Councilperson Hess: Liked Bennett's idea and would be willing to help. Also went to C2AE's dinner and it was very nice.

Mayor Kerridge: Has been working on the city hall remodeling and is putting the old cabinets from city hall in the kitchen in the Community Center.

ADJOURN: Bennett moved, Johnson seconded, to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Bennett, Hess, Horton, Johnson, Rodriguez.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED. Time was 8:40 p.m.

Charles Kerridge, Mayor

Nichole Cowdrey, City Clerk