

THE CORUNNA CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
June 16, 2014

Present: Horton, Johnson, Rodriguez, Sliwa, Bennett, Hess.

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Merilee Lawson, City Planner/Assessor; Tim Crawford, Superintendent of Public Works; Chief Kim Williams, Corunna Police; Shauna Bayless, Deputy City Clerk; Sherry Reichert, City Administrative Assistant; Rick Croteau, Manager, Corunna Area Ambulance Service; Lt. Jim Wolfe, MI State Police; Matt Stewart; Karen Johnson; Bob Morehouse; Diane Johnson; Bill Lulham; Rex Menzer.

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, Sliwa seconded, to approve the minutes of the 06-02-2014 regular council meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Johnson moved, Sliwa seconded, to approve the agenda with the following additions and changes: Change #5 Ambulance Assessment to #1; change #1 2015 SATA Funding to #2; change #2 City Master Plan to #3; change #3 DPW Barn Concrete Approach to #4; change #4 Gibbs Planning Group Proposal to #5; add # 9 Pamar Litigation Settlement, #10 USDA-RD Pay Application, and #11 Community Center Parking Improvements; and change #9 Final 2013/2014 Budget Amendments to #12.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Johnson moved, Horton seconded, to approve vendor disbursements from 05-23-2014 through 06-05-2014, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Matt Stewart announced he was a candidate for Circuit Court Judge and gave his qualifications.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Nothing to report.

PRESENTATION FROM M.A.G.N.E.T.: Lt. Jim Wolfe from Mid-Michigan Area Group Narcotics Enforcement Team (M.A.G.N.E.T.) gave an update on the program and some stories from recent arrests. Chief Williams stated that he did not know what they would do without the team.

CONSIDER AMBULANCE ASSESSMENT INCREASE FROM 25 TO \$45: Rick Croteau, manager of the CAAS department asked to clarify some of the information discussed at the last council meeting. The papers called the workers because it was stated that they are not being paid. He stated that his employees

all get paid. The new ambulance that was purchased with insurance money from the ambulance that was totaled over a year ago. Johnson stated that she was one of those who voted no. She stated that the mayor said that Caledonia Township gave \$61,000 so they could make payroll and she was told by employees that the cots are not liked by some of them. That was what she voted on. Croteau stated that Caledonia Township has paid some of the money due. Johnson stated that the ambulance base they live in is a hell hole. She used to work there and something needs to be done. Bill Lulham, 309 S. Norton, asked if there was an audit done and Mayor Kerridge stated yes, every year. Lulham asked if he thought the increase was justified. Kerridge stated yes. Lulham stated that it is a business and how many other businesses do we pay an assessment to keep them open. Lulham stated that when they first started, people got a reduced fee if they contributed to the ambulance department. Croteau stated that all ambulance departments in Michigan are either assessed or they pay by millage and a \$45 assessment is on the low end. The reduced rate that he knew about was from MMR who allowed residents to pay extra to their ambulance department and they would get a reduced rate if they needed to use an ambulance. Rodriguez stated that there was some question about the collection company. The public made it clear that they did not want an increase until the ambulance department got its house in order. Croteau stated that he agreed that the collection company has not performed well and there was a mix-up between the billing company and the collection company. That is being worked out now. Lulham stated that the city should hold off on increasing the assessment until they get everything cleaned up. Karen Johnson, 215 W. State, stated that the power cots that were mentioned have prevented back injuries and they have not had to call the fire department for lift assists. That is saving the city money. Croteau stated that he got almost \$22,000 worth of equipment and the new ambulance for under the budgeted \$150,000. They did purchase the loaner ambulance, but that replaced the 1993 rig that did not run. The power cot that was in the rig that was totaled had to be replaced according to the Stryker Co. Johnson moved, Bennett seconded, to increase the ambulance assessment from \$25 to \$45.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: Rodriguez.

Motion CARRIED.

#### **RESOLUTION 061614-01**

#### **A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE CURRENT AMBULANCE ASSESSMENTS FROM \$25.00 PER UNIT AND OR HOUSEHOLD TO \$45.00 PER UNIT AND OR HOUSEHOLD**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Coruna, Shiawassee County, Michigan recognizes the need to increase the current ambulance assessment of \$25.00 per unit and or household to \$45.00 per unit and or household to properly fund the cost of ambulance service to the City of Corunna.

**WHEREAS**, said proposal was presented at a Public Hearing held on June 16, 2014 and all public comments have been considered and addressed;

**WHEREAS**, a motion was made by Councilperson Johnson and supported by Councilperson Bennett to increase the ambulance assessment from \$25.00 per unit and or household to \$45.00 per unit or household.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Corunna formally adopts said resolution.

Yeas: Sliwa, Hess, Horton, Johnson, Bennett.

Nays: Rodriguez.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

I certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the City of Corunna on June 16, 2014.

BY: Nichole Cowdrey, City Clerk and Treasurer

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Signature

Date

CONSIDER 2015 SATA FUNDING REQUEST: Bennett moved, Johnson seconded, to approve the 201/2016 SATA funding request.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER CITY MASTER PLAN UPDATE: Lawson went through the reasons for a city master plan. The current master plan was written in 2005 and the zoning maps were done in 1994. Both are very out of date. She is recommending an entirely new master plan and needs help from an engineering firm. Some of it will be done in house, but she does not know how much. Johnson asked if this would help with the park plan. Lawson stated that parts of it will be incorporated into the park plan. Sawyer stated that this is budgeted for in the 2014/2015 budget. Rodriguez moved, Bennett seconded, to approve the city master plan, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER DPW BARN CONCRETE APPROACH: Bennett moved, Hess seconded, to approve the DPW barn concrete approach.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER GIBBS PLANNING GROUP PROPOSAL: Sawyer went through the need for a group like this to come into the city and provide a consultation for the City Center, which is now gutted, and the Shiawassee St. School that the Corunna Public Schools will be selling. Gibbs will provide a document that potential business will have access to and will help them get business financing. The cost of the study, which would provide housing and retail studies, is \$15,000 which would be divided by the City of Corunna, the Corunna DDA and the Corunna School System. The DDA has approved their cost and Superintendent Moore has indicated that the school's cost would be approved. The study would take about 30 days to do. Johnson moved, Hess seconded, to approve the Gibbs Planning Group proposal as presented.

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER FERRY STREET PUMP STATION REPAIRS: Crawford stated that the pumps were installed in 2006 and they currently have 32,000 hours average use on each pump. Sawyer stated that the output has dropped to 300 gallons a minute less than we should be pumping. If we would have had old pumping output, we would not have overflowed during the last rain event. The repairs would cost \$7,787.00 for each pump. To upgrade to chrome, would increase the price \$5,540 more for each. The total cost would be \$28, 754. Rodriguez moved, Horton seconded, to approve the Ferry Street pump station repairs to include the upgrade to chrome in the amount of \$28,754

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: Sliwa.

Motion CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ON 2014/2015 MOTOR POOL PURCHASE: Sawyer stated that a grader was considered for purchase as well as a leaf vacuum and a roller, but there really was not a need for those. There is about \$25,000 in motor pool that can be used for equipment. The tank on the vactor recently went bad and Crawford got the company to repair it under warranty at no cost. Crawford stated that there is a need for a bucket truck for projects like tree trimming, putting up signs and banners, light bulbs, and getting on roofs. Mark Agnew recommended a company that refurbishes bucket trucks. The truck could also be used as a water truck if it had a generator and air compressor. Sawyer stated that if council is interested, they would start watching the website and look for a truck with the equipment we want on it. Johnson asked if during last year's ice storm would the truck have been useful and Crawford answered yes. Kerridge asked if there was interest from council and consensus was to pursue it. No action taken.

CONSIDER YOUTH BALL FIELD IMPROVEMENTS: This request comes from Gary Jacobs who is the chairperson of the Youth Sports and Recreation Commission. Jacob contacted Mike Neimeth and Ron Jackson for help in dozing a new parking lot area and putting in crushed concrete. They are asking that the city purchase the materials and they would provide the labor. Jacobs is requesting 6" of crushed concrete, but Bennett thought 4" would be enough. The money could come from the Parks and Recreation Fund and the Parks Improvement Fund. Bennett stated that we need to do something to stop people from parking in the cemetery during games. Sawyer stated that they have not been parking in the cemetery lately, but the wet weather caused problems with parking in the field. Bennett moved, Hess seconded, to approve the Youth Ball field improvements using the Parks and Recreation Fund in the amount \$10,120 for the purchase of crushed concrete at 4" for the parking area and 6" of crushed concrete for along the side of the road and an additional \$1,552 for crushed concrete for the parking area across the street from the Community Center with donated labor for a total of \$11,672.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER PAMAR LITIGATION: Sawyer went over the arbitration that he and Crawford attended for eight hours last Friday. Pamar filed a \$2.1 million lawsuit against the city, and others. The city went through \$215,000 in legal fees in the last two years which insurance will not cover. During this mediation session, Sawyer felt that the mediator understood the case and he was happy with the result. The mediated payment of \$525,000 to Pamar will be paid by \$75,000 from SME; \$300,000 from C2AE and \$150,000 from the city. The city also brought up the delaminating of N. Shiawassee St. issue with Pamar. There is an estimate repair cost of \$70,000 plus engineering to do a full mill and surface. Sawyer stated that the city should get 80% financing from a small urban grant for the west side of N. Shiawassee curb and gutter replacement in 2016. So the plan was to resurface the east side at that time. That should cost another \$25,000. Pamar will be sending a check for \$35,000 to the city as a part of the settlement, so that will take care of the extra cost. Bennett asked if the city has to pay the \$150,000 in a lump sum and Sawyer said yes, that was the plan. That money will come from a budget amendment when he gets the final legal documents. Bennett moved, Rodriguez seconded, authorizes the city to pay Paymar the settlement agreement of \$150,000 to settle the claim, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER USDA-RD PAY APPLICATION: Bennett moved, Rodriguez seconded, to approve the USDA-RD water pay application #9 in the amount of \$50,085.95 and to approve the USDA-RD sewer pay application #9 in the amount of \$77,557.87 for a total of \$127,643.81 for project completion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER COMMUNITY CENTER PARKING IMPROVEMENTS: This is to do the asphalt paving in the parking lot north of the building. The proposal eliminates the circle drive and a drop off lane added instead. The parking lot will create about 20 parking spaces with curb and gutter. The cost is estimated at \$41,414.42, depending on how much the city wants to add to the project. There is money in the Park Improvement Fund, Parks and Recreation Fund, and Municipal Building. Sawyer recommended budgeting \$50,000, \$25,000 from Park Improvement and \$25,000 from Municipal Building. Bennett asked about using concrete instead because it would last longer, but it would cost more money. Crawford stated that it would also take a longer drying time. Sliwa moved, Rodriguez seconded, to approve the Community Center parking improvements not to exceed \$50,000, with \$25,000 coming out of the Parks and Recreation Fund and \$25,000 coming out of the Municipal Building Fund.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER FINAL 2013/2014 BUDGET AMENDMENTS: Johnson moved, Rodriguez seconded, to approve Resolution #061614-01, Amending the 2014/015 Budget.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Shauna Bayless, 201 Oak St. and Deputy Clerk, asked that they check the city calendar when planning the Community Center paving so as not to interfere with already scheduled rentals. Crawford stated that they are not going to be able to park on it for a long time.

ROUNDTABLE:

Councilperson Bennett: The Locomotive, Planes and Wheels is this weekend in Owosso.

Councilperson Rodriguez: Stated that the city did a great job with the mediation with Pamar.

Councilperson Sliwa: Stated that the city looked very nice and that the new Hometown Variety store is now open in the old Fairway building.

Councilperson Johnson: Nothing to report.

Councilperson Horton: Nothing to report.

Councilperson Hess: Nothing to report

Mayor Kerridge: He asked Diane Johnson to please thank her husband, Keith, for painting the benches.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Johnson moved, Rodriguez seconded, to leave regular council session and enter into an executive session for undisclosed reasons.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED. Time was 9:08 p.m.

Rodriguez moved, Bennett seconded, to leave executive session and enter back into regular council session.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED. Time was 9:51 p.m.

No action was taken.

ADJOURN: Sliwa moved, Johnson seconded, to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED. Time was 9:51 p.m.

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Charles Kerridge, Mayor

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Nichole Cowdrey, Clerk