

THE CORUNNA CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
March 17, 2014

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

Absent: Hess.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Merilee Lawson, City Planner/Assessor; Arnie Dunchock; Diane Johnson; Bob Morehouse.

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: Rodriguez moved, Johnson seconded, to approve the minutes of the 03-03-2014 regular council meeting with the following corrections: Change Johnson moved to Bennett moved to approve vendor disbursements and, under the ambulance agreement, add the following: They would like it noted that they would like to be apprised of Caledonia Township making equal payments on a regular basis.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Bennett moved, Johnson seconded, to approve the agenda with the following additions: 1a. Consider Excusing Councilperson Hess from the March 17, 2014 council meeting due to illness; 5. Consider pump/lift station maintenance agreement; 6. Consider 2014 fireworks state permit.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Johnson moved, Bennett seconded, to approve vendor disbursements from 02-27-2014 through 03-13-2014 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE: No comments.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Sawyer mentioned that the Corunna Rotary 75th Anniversary dinner is on March 25, 2014. Dinner is at 6 p.m. and tickets are \$15. The MML conference and preconference are the next two days. The C2AE dinner is Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at Champs. Because of the MML conference taking up two days, he is canceling the Committee of the Whole meeting for next week.

CONSIDER EXCUSING COUNCILPERSON HESS FROM THE MARCH 17, 2014 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DUE TO ILLNESS: Johnson moved, Bennett seconded, to excuse Councilperson Hess from the March 17, 2014 regular council meeting due to illness.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER COMPUTER/SOFTWARE UPGRADES: Sawyer stated that it came to the city's attention last year that Windows XP will no longer be supported after April 8. ITRight was hired to look over the city's computers and with the exception of the police department, who is connected to the Sheriff's Department who have already made the upgrades, there are 14 workstations throughout the city that use XP. Four systems will need to be completely replaced. Five existing computer stations will get the Windows 7 upgrade. The building inspector's computer is not used, so that will be upgraded and moved to the front office. At the DPW, the supervisor's computer will be moved to the cemetery office and he will get a new computer. The fire department at station two will also get a new computer. The city assessor is requesting a laptop for her office, which will cost more, but that is a reasonable request since it will make her job easier. One additional laptop will be purchased for use during council meetings. The total cost is \$6,102. This was not budgeted for, since the need was not realized until after the budget was passed, so a budget amendment may be needed later on. Johnson moved, Sliwa seconded, to approve the computer/software upgrades to ITRight for \$6,102.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER SUPPORT FOR INVESTING IN MANUFACTURING COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP (IMCP) PROGRAM: Bennett moved, Sliwa seconded, to support the IMCP program.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER 106 ST. MARY UTILITY CREDIT: Bennett stated that he asked for information regarding the bill from the owner and felt that council was clear about this being on the agenda for this meeting. Since the resident did not contact city hall or come to this meeting, Bennett requested that the consideration be struck. Sawyer stated that he gave council the history of the billing for this property in their packets. The resident has a well meter. The question was, if there is a total loss of property in the case of a fire, is there a reprieve on the bill while they rebuild the house? The city does not give credit to people who go to Florida, vacant houses or even demolished houses unless they completely disconnect from the system. Then they would then have to pay the tap fee or the total what it would have cost if they had paid the utility bill, to reconnect. In this case, after going back several years, this bill always goes on property taxes. It has never been paid on time. One bill for the year would amount to about \$500 and the owner is paying over \$556 in delinquency fees. Sawyer stated that, clearly, the usage charge cannot not be waived, and the improvement charges should not be waived since that pays for things like the water tower. He could recommend half of the base charge be waived, which would be about \$60, however, the resident could have saved over \$360 if he had just paid it on time. For seven months, a \$60 waiver does not seem to be worth the cost of the city investigating it. Sawyer stated that the policies of the city are not friendly to those who do not pay their bills on time. If we were, we could not pay our bills to Owosso. Issue died for lack of a motion.

CONSIDER AWARD OF PHASE II CITY HALL REMODEL: Sawyer stated that he got an updated breakdown of the cost. The updated proposal comes to about \$75,000 for Phase II without the bathroom upgrades. Kulhanik's did the first phase and were awarded the Phase II work, which was amended to the original project, but postponed. This proposal has more demolition needed than was in the original plan. The proposed flooring is also costing more to upgrade to carpet squares. The electrical plan is estimated at \$3,000, but subcontractors will need to look at what is needed after the wiring is exposed. We have some furniture from the city center that can be used in the police department and Sawyer is getting estimates from furniture companies to compare with the cost of furniture actually being constructed. Mayor Kerridge said he would get prices on insulated window glass. The changes made to the bathroom upgrades will save some on the total cost of that. The total now is estimated at about \$19,560. The budget amendment for this project will be \$100,000 from the general fund and will go into the municipal building fund. Chances are that some of the work may come out of next year's budget. To recover the

money, the city will not budget any projects next year. By doing that, \$75,000 will be added back into the fund. Lawson asked about fans in the bathroom and Sawyer stated that there are fans, but they are not sure where the motors are located. Rodriguez asked if the bathrooms will still be handicapped accessible and Sawyer stated yes. Bennett moved, Rodriguez seconded, to accept the proposal of JD Kulhanek and Sons for the city hall improvements Phase II.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER PUMP STATION/LIFT STATION MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT: This is the Brady St. and Sleseman Dr. pump station service agreement. They gave a quote for a year contract in the amount of \$2,604. The Ferry St. station is not included in the agreement because it is on a different time line. They also sent a three year proposal for \$7,881.56. The three year contract assumes that the price will go up slightly, but will lock in that price for the three years which will make budgeting easier. Rodriguez moved, Horton seconded, to approve the three year maintenance agreement for the lift stations with Bridgeway.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER 2014 FIREWORKS STATE PERMIT: Sawyer stated that Wolverine Fireworks is giving us the same show as last year for \$10,000. Bennett asked about a rainout day. Sawyer stated that since the 4th of July Celebration is only one day, if the fireworks were rained out, there would not be a makeup day. The money for the show would be retained for the following year, but the cost of set up, about \$1,000, would have to be paid to Wolverine. Johnson moved, Rodriguez seconded, to approve the 2014 fireworks state permit through the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs for the 4th of July fireworks.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Robert Morehouse, Converse St., asked if residents are to continue to run their water. Sawyer answered yes. Bennett stated that the frost is still in the ground. Sawyer added that hopefully it will be lifted soon. The water use in the city is up and there are enough people running water to protect the mains. Morehouse stated that there was a water leak at the 401 Restaurant. Lawson stated that if we could get the frozen stone off the roof, we could fix the leak. Lawson stated there is a lot of ice flowing down the river by her house. Sawyer stated that the river is above flood stage, but because the weather keeps cooling off, we have not had a drastic melt off. However, we could still get ice jams that could cause flooding.

ROUNDTABLE:

Councilperson Bennett: He asked if the city was still tracking emergency expenses. Sawyer stated yes and he just received mail from the emergency manager about that. The county has not gotten any money yet from the federal government. That will depend on the total amount of damage. The damage assessment will continue until the clean-up is done.

Councilperson Rodriguez: Stated that her Hotmail account no longer exists and not to use that account. Please use her work account.

Councilperson Sliwa: Stated that the VFW dinner was very nice. She was disappointed that a lot of people who earned awards that night did not attend. She felt that these programs are important. She also

stated that her husband has been working on the Community Center for about six months now and people should be more careful what they say to the volunteers. They should thank them instead.

Councilperson Johnson: Nothing to report.

Councilperson Horton: She stated that there was a bride getting changed in the Community Center last Saturday and workers could have walked in on her if they had been earlier. Sawyer stated that there is a “gap” in the calendar information for volunteers. He will look into getting city calendar access to Rick Sliwa so he will know when the Community Center is being rented.

Mayor Kerridge: He was at a Rotary conference for chairpersons over the weekend and learned a lot.

ADJOURN: Sliwa moved, Rodriguez seconded, to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED. Time was 8:11 p.m.

Charles Kerridge, Mayor

Nichole Cowdrey, City Clerk