

THE CORUNNA CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
May 5, 2014

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

Absent: Bennett.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Merilee Lawson, City Planner/Assessor; Kim Williams, Police Chief; Officer Duane Saylor; Angie Fernetto, Fourth of July Commission; Gary Holzhausen, County Commissioner; Brad Breiler, VFW Post 4005 Commander; Sharon Hickmott, VFW Auxiliary President; Sarah Buffa, VFW Poppy Queen; Rex Menzer; Arnie Dunchock; Bob Morehouse; Diane Johnson; Connie Lake; John and Jennifer Lawson; Helen Granger, Independent.

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, Horton seconded, to approve the minutes of the 04-21-2014 regular council meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Johnson moved, Rodriguez seconded, to approve the agenda as presented with the following addition: #7. Set Public Hearing for May 19, 2014, at 7:30 p.m., for the 2014/2015 Budget.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Johnson moved, Sliwa seconded, to approve vendor disbursements from 04-11-2014 through 04-24-2014, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE: Connie Lake, 459 E. McNeil St., stated that her property is clay and drains poorly. It will take 12 years for the sewage to get out of her ground. Then she stated that she tried to talk to the city manager on August 21, 2012 about her neighbor not mowing part of their yard. She was told that they did not need to because they have an acre of land. She stated that they have .83 of an acre, not an acre. Then, she stated, in September and October she had diarrhea and the neighbor to her west had pneumonia. Four children lived in that raw sewage for a year and nine months while their sewer line was broken. She watched one of the residents use a pickax to try and dig out a metal pole. That, she thinks, was when the sewer line was broken. On Labor Day of 2013, her brother had to repair her sump pump because it was sucking out all of that sewage. She contacted the assessor about the lawn not being mowed. The DPW superintendent checked on the property and nothing was done. On May 4, 2004 was the wettest May in history and her basement was wet, which the previous owner never told her about. The neighbors never pumped out their basement for days. Then that fall, other neighbors called the city and complained about the smell. Lake stated that she has had to buy water and will not even let her dog drink out of the toilet any more. She stated that Crawford came out and blew out the hydrant behind her house and did not even check the sewage. Finally, she wrote it all down and took it to the city and they finally did something. She said she takes the blame for not calling the health department a year ago about

this, but she spends a lot of time out of town. So, for one year and nine months, this raw sewage has been coming out. It was not until the spring thaw that you could really smell it when the wind comes from the northwest. Her daughter, who is a nurse, said not to work out there when the wind is from the west. Lake made copies of an article of what can happen when you breathe in raw sewage. She plans to hold elected officials accountable so they act accountable to all citizens. She quoted someone, she did not know who, if good citizens sit and do nothing then the motives of greed, power, control and politics will reign. Gary Holzhausen, gave an update on county issues. He stated that they approved the Byron brownfield so they can start doing some work cleaning up after the fire, the new administrator is settling in, and there will be a new millage on the ballot this year to raise the Headlee Amendment to raise money for the county.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Nothing to report.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2014 VFW POPPY QUEEN: Brad Breiler, Commander of the VFW Post 4005, gave the history of the poppy and its meaning to veterans. He then presented Sarah Buffa, the 2014 Corunna VFW Poppy Queen, who is a senior at Corunna High School, to council. Johnson moved, Horton seconded, to approve the poppy sales in Corunna on May 8, 9, and 10.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

PRESENTATION OF THE ARGUS PRESS "BEST OF THE BEST" AWARDS TO CHIEF KIM WILLIAMS AND TO THE CORUNNA FOURTH OF JULY COMMISSION: Mayor Kerridge presented the awards to Chief Kim Williams as the "Best of the Best" Law Enforcement Officer and to Angie Fernetto, Chairperson of the Corunna Fourth of July Commission for "Best of the Best" County Attraction.

CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF SHERYL FRAZIER TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION FOR AN INDEFINITE TERM OF OFFICE.: Johnson moved, Hess seconded, to approve Sheryl Frazier to the Parks and Recreation Commission for an indefinite term of office.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER RESIGNATION OF SARAH BARTON FROM THE FOURTH OF JULY COMMISSION: Johnson moved, Hess seconded, to accept the resignation of Sarah Barton from the Fourth of July Commission with thanks for her service.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER NEW RENTAL CONTRACT AGREEMENTS WITH CORUNNA DANCE AND

JAZZERCISE: Sawyer stated that these rentals do not fall under the normal rate schedule for rentals. They have paid 10% of their net income for their use of the Community Center for about the past 15 years. For the last 22 months, Corunna Dance has paid about \$8.45 an hour and Jazzercise has paid about \$6.32. They are required to accommodate special events and other rentals to the building. The city is not recommending an increase in rates at this time. However, the staff has recommended that all rental contracts be changed so that renters not allow bouncing, tumbling, tap-dancing, loud music or the like. There have been occasions that the noise level upstairs has been disturbing to downstairs users. The city would like to encourage these groups to jump and tap on the stage where they do not cause a noise problem. Another addition is telling renters to expect a certain amount of noise from the other level. The last addition is, in the case of a declared emergency called by the Mayor, the rental may be cancelled. Johnson asked if their rates had increased and Sawyer said no. Rodriguez asked who tracks the

enrollment. Cowdrey stated they turn in a detailed sheet with the number of clients and what they owe. She takes their word for what they owe. Rodriguez stated that she thought that \$8.45 an hour and \$6.32 an hour was low and she felt it was reasonable to raise the rate. Sawyer stated that it is difficult dealing with these renters expectations, like emptying trash and janitorial work, because we cannot afford to clean up after them at those rates. Johnson asked, since we had tried to raise the rent on the district library area, the city could raise rates on other renters. Even a little increase would help. Sawyer stated that we could increase it by a percentage or a minimum per hour. Sawyer stated that he did not want to put a restriction on Monday use of the upper level because of council meetings. Sawyer suggested that they table the issue until more research could be done and additional language added regarding city events cancelling the renter's classes, with a reasonable notice, or if a full or ½ rate rental interferes with class, the renter must move their day or cancel class with reasonable notice. Sawyer stated that the Shiawassee Medical Care Facility is looking for a location for an immediate evacuation site, maybe for two or three days at most. He is already working with them on that. They are offering to pay for the use of the building and even a monthly fee for the right to bump in during an emergency. Rodriguez moved, Johnson seconded, to table the discussion on the contracts for Corunna Dance and Jazzercise until the next meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CONSIDER AUDITING FIRM CONTRACT: Sawyer stated that the city has been with Yeo and Yeo for the last two years. The city recently went out for bids for a five year contract and got five bids back: Abraham & Gaffney, Berthiaume & Co., Demis & Wenzlick, Rehmann, and Vogl & Meder. Berthiaume and Co. was the low bidder. Sawyer stated that he and the treasurer would both be comfortable with them. Rodriguez asked about the single audit cost and Sawyer explained that was triggered if the city got a certain amount of federal money. Berthiaume & Co. was the highest for the single audit cost. Sliwa stated that we went with Yeo and Yeo because Sawyer and Cowdrey thought they could learn something from them. She asked if they thought this was true with this company. They stated yes. Johnson stated that the city had a good relationship with Abraham and Gaffney for many years and cheaper is not always better. Sawyer stated that Demis and Wenzlick are local but they are the auditors for Owosso Township and that might be a conflict in the future with the Utility Authority. Johnson asked about the \$100 per journal entry over ten for Abraham and Gaffney and Sawyer explained that was when they have to enter journal entries for us. Horton asked if maybe a discussion with Abraham and Gaffney and Berthiaume would help and Johnson stated that she was not even interested in hiring Berthiaume. Johnson moved, Sliwa seconded, to give the auditing bid to Abraham and Gaffney.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR MAY 19, 2014 AT 7:30 P.M. FOR THE 2014/2015 BUDGET: Johnson moved, Hess seconded, to set the public hearing for May 19, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. for the 2014/2015 Budget.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE: Connie Lake, 459 E. McNeil, showed pictures on her phone of where her neighbors have not mowed and of the pole that the neighbor was trying to take out. She said they put out 12-15 bags of garbage to try to cover up the sewage. She also showed water on her driveway that was not there before.

ROUNDTABLE:

Councilperson Hess: Congratulated Chief Williams and the Fourth of July for their awards and thanked the volunteers for coming out to clean up the cemetery on Saturday.

Councilperson Horton: Nothing to report.

Councilperson Johnson: Stated that we always knew that we had the “Best of the Best” in Chief Williams and the Fourth of July. She told Connie Lake that she had no idea of what she was trying to get across tonight, but she will read the statement Lake gave council and investigate it further.

Councilperson Sliwa: Thanked the VFW for coming.

Councilperson Rodriguez: Congratulations to Chief Williams and the Fourth of July Commission and was sorry that she did not make the clean-up in the park and cemetery, but thanked those who came out.

Mayor Kerridge: Stated he had Meijer cards to sell for the fireworks and was notified that the Argus Press will no longer donate to the fireworks. The reason given was that the city did not give the Argus the contract to post notices in their paper. That did not make any sense to him and he will be looking for another sponsor, but thanked them for the years they did donate.

ADJOURN: Sliwa moved, Johnson seconded, to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED. Time was 8:10 p.m.

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Charles Kerridge, Mayor

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Nichole Cowdrey, Clerk