

City of Corunna  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, May 4, 1998

Present: Bendall, Greiger, Dumond, Reid, Williams.

Absent: None.

Guests: Lisa Hitchcock, City Manager; Tom Svrcek, Director of Public Works; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Chief Jeff Hetfield, Fire Department; Trisha Hendricks, The Independent; Natalie Kribs; Elwin Fowler; Judy Horton; Bob & Faye Lutz; Mike Sarrazin; Bill Striggow; Bill & Barb Otto; Tom Sawyer; Barbara Linabury; Thelma Vincent; Clayton Cook; Mick & Betty Kribs; Janet Washburn; Janice Mallory; William & Virginia Runyan, Sr.; Bruce Morris; Bill & Bernice Lulham; Emma Merrill; Dick & Pat Sanderson; Jerry Gavin; Christine Hauk; Tony & Margaret Cibula; Ed & Fran Haynes; LeVerne & Marion Morel; Howard & Laura Brands; Bob Striggow; Greg Brichan; Kelly Kuechman; Don Runyan; Sandra Reid; Edythe Reineke; Bill Runyan, Jr.; Bernie & Pat Yott; Lisa Mahoney; Kitty Lyon; Dennis Aschenbrenner; Roger Rathbun; James Davis, Jr.; Larry Friess; Nina Hall; Kathy Hetfield; Loren & Dorothy Hetfield; Norman & Millie Scott; Dave & Judy Dopps; Leonard & Elaine Klatt; Fred Barton; Keith & Diane Johnson; Jeff Fagan; Jane Ritter; Betty Carland; Don Gorte; Nancy Bemis; Larry Runyan; Jeff Bemis; Brian Gay; Don Washburn; Harold & June Coon; Wanda Apsey; Jeff Wolf; Todd Walton; Jeri Runyan; Don Mehig; Art VanWagoner; Paul & Joan Warner; Jack Gerhold; Robert Sprague; Herb & Sally Jenkins; Larry & Sue Sanderson; Mitchell Koyne; Chris Howard; John & Pat Sinnott; Jim & Faye Garrison; Robert & Sandy Martin; Otis Little; Sally Dorn; Todd Brewer; Alvin Horton; Sandie Weaver; Chris & Patricia Coady; Mr. & Mrs. Ray Ade; Wilma Walworth; Marlene Fick; Douglas Albrant; James & Dorothy Davis, Sr.; Dick & Sheila Dvorak; Steve Corey; John & Rhonda Ardelean; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the Owosso-Corunna Room located in the Shiawassee Regional Education Service District building by Mayor Weaver at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Bendall moved, Williams seconded to approve the April 20, 1998 Regular Council Minutes as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Greiger, Reid, Bendall, Dumond, Williams.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Dumond moved, Bendall seconded to approve the agenda as printed.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Williams, Bendall, Dumond, Greiger, Reid.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Reid moved, Greiger seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Williams, Reid, Greiger, Bendall.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Don Runyan stated a relative told him that when an ambulance is called that person would be billed twice. Councilperson Williams advised that was not true. The only time A.L.S. would bill someone would be if they do any work at the scene. Mr. Runyan stated you could bet they would find something to do. Councilperson Dumond advised he understood that the patient could decline their services. Councilperson Williams stated that was correct. Elwin Fowler stated the fee charged by Corunna Ambulance is the highest in the county. He further stated Owosso will pick up a patient in Corunna and take the person to the hospital for \$75. Durand charges \$170 for the same trip, Perry charges \$100 but Corunna charges \$200 without A.L.S. He also stated the ambulance service is supposed to be non-profit. Councilperson Williams advised the Ambulance Board meets every third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and asked Mr. Fowler to bring his information to the meeting. Mr. Fowler stated he wanted the city to look into why the ambulance building was taken off the tax roll when they do not qualify as a non-profit organization.

Faye Lutz stated she was concerned that Mack Street was being used as a racetrack. She asked to have 25 mph speed limit signs posted. Councilperson Dumond advised the speed limit is 25 mph throughout the city. Mayor Weaver asked if making Mack Street a one-way street would help the situation. Mrs. Lutz advised no. Christine Hauk stated Kingsley Street was also a racetrack at 2:30 p.m. She asked why the kids had to drive 70 mph when school lets out. Bill Lulham stated the problem is all over town. He suggested putting two patrol cars on the streets. Ms. Hitchcock advised there are two cars on the streets during the day. Dick Sanderson stated the same problem occurs on W. McNeil Street. He asked to have speed limit signs placed. He stated the city should use his tax money and put them up. Greg Brichan stated he has the same problem on W. Mack Street and suggested rearranging the stop signs. Edythe Reineke suggested enforcing the speed limit laws more aggressively.

Bob Evans, Commander of VFW Post 4005, advised the annual Poppy Days was scheduled for May 14 and 15. He further advised the Poppy Days kickoff has been a city council tradition for a number of years. Mr. Evans introduced Ruby Crammer from the Ladies Auxiliary and the Poppy Queen, Holly Bates, who sold the first poppy to Mayor Weaver.

PLAYSCAPE PRESENTATION: Kathy Hetfield advised \$69,000 has been raised towards the \$80,000 goal. She further advised the playscape would be built May 27 through May 31. She also advised pickets and equipment were still available to purchase. Ms. Hetfield thanked the City of Corunna for helping with the project and stated she hoped to see everyone down at the park on May 27. Janet Washburn advised the Knights of Columbus were having a fish fry on Friday night with the proceeds going to the playscape. She

further advised there would be a swiss steak dinner at the Casino on May 17 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Ms. Washburn stated the city would be asked for a donation at the next council meeting. Mayor Weaver asked how many volunteers could be used all at once. Ms. Hetfield advised 250-300 each day, but most of the volunteers would be needed on Wednesday and Thursday.

7:15 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 98-03 BURNING

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: Dumond moved, Greiger seconded to leave regular session and go into public hearing for adoption of Ordinance 98-03 Burning Ordinance Amendment.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Williams, Bendall, Reid, Greiger.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:24 p.m.

Faye Lutz, 209 E. Mack, stated she was not at the meeting to yell at anybody. She was at the meeting to help council see the resident's side of view who do not want the ordinance to pass. She further stated she did not want her free choice taken away. There are retirees who cannot afford to have another charge added to their bill. She also stated she and her husband do not build big fires, but they do burn their papers. She did not like the idea of having her personal papers going out in the public, and was against the burning ordinance.

Sandy Reid, 112 Ferry, stated she was for the burning ordinance, and asked if the burning ordinance would go hand in hand with the waste collection proposal. Mayor Weaver stated if the burning ordinance was adopted it would be up to council to come up with an alternative for the disposing of materials.

Brian Gay, 440 E. Oliver, stated he did not know how council could discuss one issue without discussing the other. He further stated he was against the ordinance. The burning issue is a problem from the middle of September to the first of October when people are cleaning up their property. He also stated if everyone decides to ignore the ordinance, it would be impossible to enforce.

Jim Davis, 1225 E. King, stated two weeks ago he had nine boys over and had a campfire. An officer came to the house and told him to put it out. He further stated he did not think it was right not to be able to have a campfire. Councilperson Bendall advised the ordinance would allow recreational fires.

Rick Sleseman, 202 Ferry, stated he was against the ordinance. The problem is what people burn. If someone could enforce what is burned, there would not be a problem. He further stated if the police are called when the fire was smoldering, they could look in the barrel to see what is being burned and enforce the ordinance. He also stated burning barrels should have a cover.

Dave Best, 319 W. State, stated he was totally opposed to the ordinance and was opposed to the ordinance change two years ago.

Dennis Aschenbrenner, 535 Park Lane, stated he was totally against the burning ordinance. He burns three bags of paper three times a week because he does not want his mail to go out to a landfill where someone could go through it.

Roger Rathbun, 917 E. King, stated he was against the burning ordinance. He uses and appreciates the city dump. He asked why recreational burning would be okay if burning was ruining the atmosphere. He further asked if a fireplace ban would be next. Mr. Rathbun stated the residents should be able to decide who they want to pick up their refuse.

Keith Johnson, 211 Hastings, stated he agreed with Mr. Rathbun. The city should look at where the real problems are.

Mayor Weaver advised the burning issue was brought to council to be reconsidered, and a citizens advisory committee was established to look at the burning issue. The results from this committee were presented to council for consideration.

Norm Scott, 2250 E. Main, stated the city has never picked up leaves from his property. He further stated he gets permission from the fire department to burn the drainage ditch that runs through his property.

Mitch Koyné, 611 W. Corunna, stated he moved to Corunna two years ago. The first year he collected all of his leaves, and placed them by the edge of the road. The city had to use two dump trucks and a backhoe to pick up the leaves. He further stated he has the same amount every year. He also stated the residents would be limited to the amount of garbage that could be set out.

Mike Sarrazin, 1291 Louise, stated he does not want to see a burning ban. He further stated he agrees that the burning of rubbish needs to be eliminated, but people should be able to burn yard waste when it is practical to burn. He also stated the city streets would not be able to handle the packer-type garbage trucks.

Chris Howard, 210 Lyman, stated he was against the burning ban. You hear all the time about scam artists getting social security numbers from garbage. He further stated he was against the mandatory garbage pickup.

Kitty Lyons, 200 W. Oliver, stated she has five walnut trees that drop their leaves before the city starts picking them up. She further stated if she bags the leaves, her garbage service will not take them so she has to burn them.

Councilperson Dumond stated he is a senior citizen who draws social security. He was told the other day on the phone since he owns a company he does not care about anybody else, and it was not true. He also stated his son is a registered landscape architect and he informed him that leaves, brush and other things from Mother Nature are non-toxic. Councilperson Dumond stated he did agree that garbage and diapers should not be burned, and the ordinance should say no garbage and rubbish burning.

Councilperson Greiger stated she was concerned about enforcing the ordinance. It was not going to be easy. The police department would not have the time to respond to every burning complaint. Nina Hall stated it might only take one or two tickets to cure the problem.

Councilperson Reid stated he did not have a problem with the burning barrels, but he did have a problem with burning leaves that smolder. He further stated most of the time the leaves do not burn and when nightfall comes people go in their houses and the leaves continue to smolder.

Councilperson Williams stated he was very opposed to the ordinance. He did not understand why it was brought back to be debated. He further stated council should listen to what the constituents say and continue with the current ordinance, but change the hours so they are consistent throughout the year. He suggested setting the hours from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. He also stated the proposed ordinance allows a campfire to burn 24 hours a day seven days a week. It was not right for a neighbor to be able to burn a campfire and he could not burn brush. Councilperson Williams advised the current ordinance is enforceable. If the smell is a nuisance, there is an ordinance that protects this. If the fire stinks, utilize the police department by notifying them of the nuisance, and they will take care of it.

Councilperson Bendall advised she was the city council representative on the Burning Ordinance Committee. The consensus of the entire committee was that a burning ban would be a good thing. She further advised people tend to ignore or do not utilize the city dump in a good way. People have this idea that there is an area at the edge of the city where they can throw things. She also advised complaints have been brought to council that the city dump was not being used for brush or yard waste, it was being used to dispose refrigerators, dryers, washers, furniture, etc. The taxpayers pay to clean up the area. Councilperson Bendall stated the committee's recommendation was to find a way to handle the yard waste; and that recommendation was to have one service provider who would also haul away the yard waste.

Mayor Weaver asked how many people in the audience would vote in favor of the proposed burning ordinance (four people in the audience raised their hand). He then asked how many people would vote against the ordinance (everyone else in the audience raised their hand).

Larry Runyan, 409 Cherry, asked if the proposed ordinance would prevent him from using cement blocks or bricks for a fire pit. Mayor Weaver advised the ordinance does say an approved container or utensil manufacturer. Mr. Runyan asked if a ring of rocks would be an approved container. Councilperson Greiger advised yes.

Judy Horton, 315 N. Dutcher, asked how many senior citizens in the audience would volunteer to police the city dump (two hands were raised).

Steve Corey, 315 W. Mack, stated it appeared that everyone on the committee had a preconceived idea that burning should be banned. He asked if anyone on the committee was in favor of burning. Councilperson Bendall advised no, but she reminded Mr. Corey that the issue was discussed before he left the council. She further advised the people who served on the committee were the only ones who came forward. Bill Otto advised he was a member of the committee and he was for burning.

Bob Sprague, 502 Pine, stated the biggest problem with the dump is the outside people who use it.

Ed Haynes, 1540 S. Parmenter Rd., stated he burns the drainage ditch every year and was against the ordinance.

Peg Apsey, 217 Oak St., stated she recycles her newspapers, cans, plastic, and glass, and would not appreciate having another bill every month.

William Runyan, 316 E. McNeil, stated he is gone five months out of the year, and would have to pay for trash pickup when he was gone.

Councilperson Williams asked if anyone had any opposition with allowing a burn pit to burn until midnight. Councilperson Bendall stated she had a problem with the midnight time limit. It would effect the person who does not get out of work until 11:30 p.m.

Larry Friess, 302 E. McArthur, stated he agreed with the midnight time limit. Corunna is a city not a state park. He further stated it did not make sense to have a burning ban if a campfire could burn all day long.

Loren Hetfield, 460 E. Oliver, asked if he would be billed the \$500 fire run fee if he had a fire and the fire department was called. Chief Hetfield advised yes, the person who has the fire would get the bill.

Dick Dvorak, 408 E. Oliver, stated all burning should be banned if there is a burning ordinance.

Jeff Hetfield stated he volunteered to serve on the committee due to the refuse that is burned. He further stated he has neighbors who do burn, but they never burn when the wind is blowing towards their house. He also stated he has gotten calls at 1:30 a.m. because somebody has a garbage fire burning. Mr. Hetfield advised he was not against having recreational fires and agreed with the midnight time limit.

Bendall moved, Greiger seconded to leave the public hearing and return to regular session.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Reid, Greiger, Williams, Bendall, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:20 p.m.

Mayor Weaver stated the adoption of Ordinance No. 98-03 Burning Ordinance Amendment was before council and asked what council wanted to do. He further stated the burning issue would die if there was no motion. Mayor Weaver advised the burning issue had died due to the lack of a motion.

Mayor Weaver thanked the audience for their interaction and turnout. He encouraged the audience to come before city council more often.

Bill Runyan asked if the refuse pickup issue would be dropped since the ordinance failed. Mayor Weaver advised yes.

Councilperson Greiger stated she thought the burning ordinance should be revisited. Otis Little stated when the issue is revisited, council needs to keep in mind that the city used to have a problem with Friday night burning and asked council to keep the asthmatic children in mind. Councilperson Bendall stated people are not concerned with asthmatic children.

ADJOURN: Dumond moved, Williams seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Greiger, Reid, Bendall, Dumond, Williams.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:30 p.m.

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AVERY WEAVER, MAYOR

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YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK