

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, August 3, 1998

Present: Weaver, Bendall, Dumond, Ockerman, Reid, Williams.

Absent: Greiger.

Guests: Lisa Hitchcock, City Manager; Tom Svrcek, Director of Public Works; Gary Schooley, Parks & Recreation Director; Bill Lulham; Bill Pearsall; Larry Friess; Al Fowler; Judy Horton; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Karl Bashi; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Weaver at 7:00 p.m.

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

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

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

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

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

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Larry Friess stated when the fire run fee ordinance was approved a year or so ago, people were told that their insurance company would pay the fire run fee. Ms. Hitchcock advised the fire board contacted several insurance companies in the area and the fire board found that as long as someone had homeowner's insurance the fee would be covered. Mr. Friess advised his insurance company told him that since he was not in peril they would not pay the fee. Ms. Hitchcock advised residents could appeal the billing through the fire board of appeals.

Al Fowler asked why \$45,000 was budgeted for wages when the firemen are volunteers. Ms. Hitchcock advised the firemen are part-time employees and are paid fifteen dollars for the first hour and ten dollars per hour thereafter for each fire run they respond to. She further advised the \$500 fire run fee goes specifically for fire truck purchases and could only be used for capital acquisitions.

Judy Horton thanked Mr. Svrcek for removing the tree on Cary Street. She asked how the house on Mack Street was coming along. Ms. Hitchcock advised the 60-day time limit was up and the situation has been turned over to the city attorney. Mrs. Horton stated she has noticed that a councilperson does not attend every council meeting. This same councilperson has only showed up at the historical commission meeting a couple of times and has left twice within a half hour after arriving. She further stated she did not know if the councilperson was supposed to attend the meetings, but she did feel the councilperson should attend the council meetings. Mayor Weaver advised he would address the issue with the councilperson.

Al Fowler asked how the city taxpayers could find out in advance what was being negotiated with the city employees before they read it in the newspaper. Last year, the Flint Journal reported that Yvonne Long got a 22 percent raise, the police chief got a \$6,000 raise, and Tom Svrcek got a raise and a city vehicle to drive home because it was part of his contract. Mr. Fowler further asked how the city residents could voice their opinions ahead of time whether the residents like the contract negotiations or not. Mayor Weaver advised only discussion could take place during closed session. Any action that needs to be taken has to be taken in an official council meeting. Mr. Fowler asked who has the final say about the negotiations. Ms. Hitchcock advised the residents could file a referendum if they do not agree with a council decision. The residents would then vote on the issue. She further advised all of the contracts are public information. Mr. Fowler asked how a resident could find out how much money was in the water and sewer improvement accounts. Ms. Hitchcock advised the accounts are audited every year. The auditors come in and make sure the interest and funds are in the right place. Mr. Fowler asked to have the account balances included in the minutes twice a year so the residents would know how much money was in the accounts. Councilperson Dumond advised Mr. Fowler he could come to the city manager's office anytime and the city manager would show him how much money was received and spent. He further advised it would be quite expensive to publish a 25 to 30 page report every month. Mr. Fowler stated the money was suppose to go towards savings. Ms. Hitchcock advised the money is used to make improvements to the water mains, sewer and streets. Mayor Weaver invited Mr. Fowler to come to city hall to review the budget & audit with Ms. Hitchcock.

PROCLAMATION IN RECOGNITION OF THE 1998 CORUNNA VARSITY TRACK AND FIELD STATE CHAMPION TEAM: Mayor Weaver read the following proclamation:

A Proclamation
Of the City Council of the City of Corunna, Michigan
Recognizing

THE 1998 CORUNNA VARSITY BOYS TRACK AND FIELD TEAM

WHEREAS, The Corunna Public Schools does sponsor a Boy's Track and Field Program, and said team had an over all record of 6-0 in dual meets; and

WHEREAS, Said team placed first at the MSU Relay, first at the Wyoming Park Relays, first at the Corunna Relays, first at the Alma Scottie Classic, second at the Mansfield Relays, and fifth at the St. Louis Relays; and

WHEREAS, Said team won the 1998 MITCA State Championship, the 1998 Regional Championship, and 1998 MMB Championship; and

WHEREAS, Said team successfully gained the recognition of being the 1998 Class B State Champions; and

WHEREAS, Because of these accomplishments, these superior athletes and coaches serve as an inspiration to us all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the City of Corunna, the Mayor, City Council, City Administration and Staff wish to join the Corunna Public Schools, and the community in recognizing the 1998 Corunna Varsity Boys Track and Field Team and their coaches Chris Curtiss, Gordon Aldrich and Steve Herrick

Proclaimed this 3rd Day of August, 1998.

CONSIDER HISTORICAL VILLAGE NAME CHANGE: Judy Horton advised the historical commission wanted to change the name of the historical village to the Corunna Historical Village of Shiawassee County. The commission hopes the name change will bring residents from throughout Shiawassee County into the village. Dumond moved, Williams seconded to change the name of the historical village to the Corunna Historical Village of Shiawassee County.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CHAPTER #63 TO SELL "FORGET-ME-NOTS" ON THE STREETS OF CORUNNA ON SEPTEMBER 10 THRU 12, 1998: Williams moved, Bendall seconded to grant the request from the Disabled American Veterans Chapter #63 to sell "Forget-Me-Nots" on the sidewalks of Corunna on September 10 through 12, 1998.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CLOSED SESSION – LABOR NEGOTIATIONS & CITY MANAGER'S EVALUATION:

Dumond moved, Bendall seconded to leave regular session and go into closed session for labor negotiations and city manager's evaluation.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:35 p.m.

Dumond moved, Bendall seconded to leave closed session and return to regular session.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 9:50 p.m.

Bendall moved, Williams seconded to ratify the AFSCME union contract as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

PRE-COUNCIL: Mayor Weaver asked if any reconstruction or repair work could be done to the dam since the water was low. Tom Svrcek stated it would be an excellent time to do some repair work if the city had the proper permits and paperwork from the Department of Natural Resources. The last time the water was low, the city tried to repair the dam but ran into a hornet's nest with the Department of Natural Resources. The dam has to be repaired by their specifications and they are in the process of putting together a total evaluation on what has to be done to the dam. Councilperson Dumond asked when the wooden planks on the dam were replaced. Mr. Svrcek advised the planks were replaced around 1981.

Councilperson Dumond asked what was transpiring with the fire chief. Councilperson Ockerman advised the fire chief position has a 30-day see how it works thing. He further advised the former chief was asked to reconsider his resignation, but he did not. He also advised there were quite a few people interested in the chief's position.

Mayor Weaver advised the joint meeting with all of the boards and commissions had not been forgotten. He further advised a date in September was being looked at. Councilperson Dumond stated the meeting would be a good opportunity for all of the boards and commissions to inform each other what is going on at their meetings.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Councilperson Dumond stated he ran into Joe & Betty Lezovich two weeks ago and they advised him they had heard positive reports about how the city's meetings are held. He advised the airport board was meeting at the airport on Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. to review the contract with the architect and the board will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday to vote on the contract.

Ms. Hitchcock reminded council about the meeting with the auditors on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Casino. She stated the final approval of the Crestview Heights Subdivision would be on the next agenda. She further stated she has had discussions with Capital Consultants and council should not approve the subdivision until the paving is done and the city has a retainer. She also stated a geo grid mat had to be placed in the road because the road was not done properly the first time. Ms. Hitchcock advised the city's engineers would be doing the subdivision inspections. Capital Consultants will bill the city and the city will then bill the Eyde Company for the inspections. She further advised Mr. Eyde originally had his own inspectors but none of the errors were caught until the city's inspectors came in and checked out the situation. Councilperson Ockerman asked what kind of terms Mr. Eyde would get when the city bills him for the inspections. Ms. Hitchcock stated there would be no terms. He either pays them or an assessment would be made on the property and then placed on the property taxes. She further stated the city has been successful in making sure this is a quality subdivision. Ms. Hitchcock stated she spoke with Gary Arnold today about the Williams Street project and Capital Consultants would be sending the city a letter based on the engineer's inspection. She further stated she told Gary Arnold she did not feel the final grade was adequate and needed to be improved.

Mayor Weaver reminded council about the Primary Election on Tuesday and encouraged everyone to vote.

Councilperson Bendall advised council all of the boards and commissions were mailed letters about renaming the Casino. The Parks and Recreation Commission requested the name change because people residing outside of the city do not realize what the Casino building

is. Councilperson Reid asked if there was anything in the will that states the building has to be called the Casino. Ms. Hitchcock advised no, the will states the city has to have a casino building. The definition for casino in the dictionary is a community building.

Ms. Hitchcock advised Tom Wiegel was still upset about the noise at Machine Tool and Gear. Ms. Hitchcock stated she asked Mr. Wiegel if they were dumping in the gondola and he stated no because they had not been working for three weeks. She further stated she told Mr. Wiegel she could not do anything if they were not making any noise, and advised him to call when the noise occurs. Mr. Wiegel stated he wanted something in writing about what has been done, and he was told a letter would be written. Ms. Hitchcock advised the Shiawassee County Solid Waste Management Committee meet on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the county commissioner's building. She further advised Phil Hathaway told her that there might be an environmental seat vacancy ,and asked council to contact her if someone was interested in serving on the committee.

ADJOURN: Reid moved, Bendall seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 10:10 p.m.

AVERY WEAVER, MAYOR

LINDA M. LECUREUX, DEPUTY CLERK