

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 1998

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

Absent: Greiger.

Guests: Lisa Hitchcock, City Manager; Tom Svrcek, Director of Public Works; Judy Horton; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Kathy Hetfield; Larry Runyan; 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 August 17, 1998 Regular Council Minutes as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

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

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

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

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Mayor Weaver publicly thanked Jackie Leone for attending the council meetings faithfully and for giving the City of Corunna good coverage.

Tom Svrcek showed council the new banners and advised them the banner brackets were almost finished. He further advised Mike Sarrazin was making the brackets and the brackets were a lot cheaper than what was quoted previously. Mayor Weaver asked when the brackets would be installed. Mr. Svrcek advised the brackets should be installed by the end of next week. Ms. Hitchcock advised the banners would be in place before the Corunna-Owosso football game. Councilperson Ockerman asked how high the banners would be hung. Mr. Svrcek advised the bottom of the banner would be seven feet from the ground.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF LARRY RUNYAN TO THE PINE TREE CEMETERY

BOARD, TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2001: Dumond moved, Williams seconded to appoint Larry Runyan to the Pine Tree Cemetery Board, term to expire December 31, 2001.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Mr. Runyan thanked council for his appointment.

CONSIDER CASINO NAME CHANGE: Kathy Hetfield explained the park and recreation

director sent a survey out to all of the board and commission members asking them what they thought about changing the name of the Casino. She then passed out the survey results. She further explained the director received seventeen responses with two responses against the name change. Ms. Hetfield advised the Park and Recreation Commission has recommended changing the name of the Casino to the McCurdy Park Community Center. She also advised the Owosso-Corunna Chamber of Commerce has offered to do a ribbon cutting ceremony, which would be very good press for the city. Ms. Hetfield stated there are people who believe that the word "casino" means gambling and the commission was trying to get away from that perception. Bendall moved, Williams seconded to authorize the name change from the Casino to the McCurdy Park Community Center. Ms. Hitchcock advised the name change was a positive move. She further advised the park lease states there has to be a casino building in McCurdy Park. If you look up the word casino in the dictionary, it is a community center. Ms. Hetfield advised discussion has taken place about renaming the commercial building also. Judy Horton stated when the playscape was built, she heard that someone was going to paint the McCurdy Park Community Center. Ms. Hitchcock advised the paint has been purchased and the painting was going to be donated by a community service person. Ms. Hetfield advised she would revisit the painting issue at the next Park and Recreation Commission meeting.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

PRE-COUNCIL: Ms. Hitchcock advised Richard Burlingame has advised city hall to refer any communication pertaining to Machine Tool and Gear between city hall and Tom Wiegel to his office because Mr. Wiegel has obtained an attorney.

Mayor Weaver passed out a tentative schedule for the joint meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 10. Ms. Hitchcock advised volunteers are needed to serve on the forest management commission. Councilperson Ockerman asked how often the commission met. Ms. Hitchcock advised the city charter states the commission has to have one yearly meeting. Councilperson Ockerman advised he would be willing to sit on the Forest Management Commission. Ms. Hitchcock advised she would provide Councilperson Ockerman with a copy of the ordinance.

Mayor Weaver stated he had a chance to speak with Councilperson Ockerman about looking at the ordinance that reinforces what was discussed in the last paragraph on page four of the August 17 minutes. Councilperson Ockerman stated it was his understanding that Ms. Hitchcock had the authority to change each line item within the budget. He further stated he wanted to know by what authority the city manager has to change the items. He asked if the authority was granted by ordinance, job description, council, etc. Ms. Hitchcock advised she would provide council with the information. Mayor Weaver agreed with Councilperson Ockerman.

Mayor Weaver asked council if they had any questions on the vendor disbursements. Councilperson Ockerman asked what the top soil was for. Tom Svrcek advised the top soil was for the cemetery and park. Councilperson Ockerman questioned the payment for the vactor truck. Mr. Svrcek advised the vactor truck payment was paid semi-annually.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Yvonne Long brought council up-to-date on the election recount.

Mayor Weaver asked how the new machines stood up during the recount situation. Ms. Long advised wards one and three passed with flying colors but ward two was challenged because there was one ballot missing and it could not be recounted.

Councilperson Ockerman asked how the computer problem was coming along. Ms. Hitchcock advised not good. She stated she contacted Fundbalance again last week and told them to quit solving today's problem and solve the whole problem. She further stated she spoke with the auditors about the situation and they informed her there was only one other software company, but they did not recommend them. Councilperson Ockerman asked if other municipalities were having the same problem. Ms. Hitchcock advised no. Councilperson Bendall asked if the problem was software or hardware related. Ms. Hitchcock advised the software worked very well on the old computer, and she felt the software does not work with a pentium processor. She further advised she hopes the problems will be eliminated when Fundbalance finishes their new programs. Mayor Weaver asked if council backing would help the situation. Ms. Hitchcock advised she could not get through to anybody except customer service. She further advised things were working well until July and all of a sudden there were more problems. Councilperson Ockerman asked if Fundbalance was paid monthly. Ms. Hitchcock advised the Fundbalance contract was paid yearly. She further advised she felt Fundbalance was tired of the city's problems. They try to say the city is not operating the program properly, but Ms. Long has worked with the program for four years without any problems. She also advised Fundbalance keeps telling Ms. Long to do the same thing over and over again but it does not fix the real problem. Mayor Weaver asked where the management of the company was located and suggested getting them involved. Ms. Hitchcock stated she had tried to contact them but management referred her back to customer service. She further stated her next plan was to write to the president of the company, but has been unable to find an address.

Councilperson Ockerman stated he was disappointed with the fire board not supporting him.

Councilperson Bendall asked if an assessment of the city facilities had been received. Ms. Hitchcock advised the appraisal company has completed their work and has forwarded the appraisals to the city's insurance company, but the city has not gotten anything back from the insurance company yet.

Councilperson Williams advised the ambulance board is in negotiations with the Crane's realtors to purchase the house for future development.

Councilperson Reid asked if the fire chief's job description had been posted yet. Ms. Hitchcock stated she did not know if the position had been posted. She further stated the job description was probably posted upstairs in the fire hall. Ms. Hitchcock asked if only firefighters could apply for the position. Councilperson Reid advised no, anyone could apply for the position.

Councilperson Dumond advised the airport board was looking at selling some of their property located in front of the airport on M-21. He further advised the entrance may need to be changed and the board was discussing everything with their attorney.

Tom Svrcek advised the city received a payment from F.E.M.A. for the storm damage.

Larry Runyan stated he has listened to all of the computer problems the city has had, he suggested having the mayor call Fundbalance and tell them the city wants a representative from the company to come before council. Councilperson Ockerman stated Mr. Runyan's suggestion was a great idea, and suggested sending something in writing to Fundbalance with a carbon copy sent to the city's attorney. Mayor Weaver asked Ms. Hitchcock to pursue it.

Mayor Weaver stated he was looking forward to the joint meeting on Thursday night. He further stated he met with the Downtown Development Authority and sensed that the Downtown Development Authority had some interest in promoting the downtown area. Councilperson Ockerman stated council had discussed forgiving some money and asked if that was brought to their attention. Ms. Hitchcock advised she needed to discuss the situation with the auditors.

ADJOURN: Dumond moved, Bendall seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:36 p.m.

AVERY WEAVER, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK