

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, March 6, 2000

Present: Billis, Bayless, Bendall, Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman, Runyan.

Absent: None.

Guests: Lisa Hitchcock, City Manager; Tim Crawford, Superintendent of Public Works; Bill Lulham; Dick Sanderson; Gene & Shirley Sanderson; Don Runyon; Marlene Fick; Doug Albrant; Larry LeCureux; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Judy Horton; Officers Craig Lawson and Kevin Clark, Police Department; Barbara Parks; Stephanie Wuttke, The Independent; and other concerned citizens.

Mayor Billis read and presented a proclamation to the Lupus Foundation of America representative, Bill Lulham, in recognition of Lupus Alert Day on April 1, 2000.

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

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Bayless, Bendall.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Hornus moved, Ockerman seconded to approve the agenda as presented and to suspend the rules on agenda Item No. 3 and allow the candidates to speak.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Runyan, Bendall, Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

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

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Bayless, Hornus, Bendall, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Dick Sanderson advised there are four trees hanging in the river and asked who was responsible for removing them. Ms. Hitchcock advised if the trees are located in the park, it is the city's responsibility to remove them.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF GENE SANDERSON TO THE PLANNING

COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2001: Ockerman moved, Hornus seconded to appoint Gene Sanderson to the Planning Commission, term to expire December 31, 2001. Councilperson Bayless advised Ordinance 99-09 states the commission should be made up of different occupations and professions. He asked Mayor Billis what criteria he used to select Mr. Sanderson and how he came to his conclusion. Councilperson Bayless stated he believed the other commission members are from similar occupations. Mayor Billis stated it was a tough decision to make when there are two people in the community who want to be involved on the same commission. He further stated he spoke with a third individual, but this person's schedule would not allow him to participate as often as is required. He also stated he looked at the two candidates instead of soliciting another party. Both candidates are highly qualified for the position and either person would be an asset to the planning commission. Mayor Billis advised since there were two qualified people, he did not want to tell one person that they were not going to be appointed and then express the reason why they were not appointed to the public and the press because he did not know if that individual wanted to be taken through the public eye. Mayor Billis stated he would be glad to explain his decision after the meeting, but he did not think it would have an impact on the way council would vote on the issue. He further stated unless he heard from the other candidate that they did not have a problem going through the public eye as far as why they were not nominated for the appointment, he felt he owed them that respect.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hornus, Bendall, Dumond, Bayless, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF JAN SCOTT (PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE), TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND DON BUTCHER (PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE-ALTERNATE), TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2000, TO THE PARKS & RECREATION

COMMISSION: Hornus moved, Bendall seconded to appoint Jan Scott (Planning Commission Representative), term to expire December 31, 2000 and Don Butcher (Planning Commission Representative-Alternate), term to expire December 31, 2000, to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bendall, Bayless, Runyan, Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (MEMBER AT LARGE-NON CITY RESIDENT), TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2001:

Mayor Billis advised the rules were suspended so council could ask the candidates questions. He further advised Rob Thayer was not able to be present. Ms. Parks advised she has worked with the Festival of Trees for the last four to five years and described her involvement. Councilperson Bendall thanked her for her efforts. Councilperson Dumond stated it sounds like she has done a good job. Mayor Billis asked Ms. Parks if she was currently involved with the Parks and Recreation Commission. Ms. Parks

advised no, she was not. Mayor Billis asked if she was involved with the Historical Village. Ms. Parks advised she attends the meetings and promotes the village in other areas. Councilperson Ockerman asked Mayor Billis if he knew Mr. Thayer. Mayor Billis advised yes. He is a corrections officer and is sports minded. Mr. Thayer has voiced his desire to be on the Softball Commission. Mayor Billis stated there are still several positions on other commissions that need to be filled. Councilperson Runyan stated it appeared Mr. Thayer's occupation was a lot different than what is on the commission at this time. Councilperson Bayless stated the city is very fortunate to have two qualified candidates, but he was not familiar with either one. He further stated there are people on other commissions who have a hard time showing up for the meetings, and the commissions need people to attend the meetings. Mayor Billis stated he has noticed that some documents indicate Tom Petersen is the Downtown Development Authority alternate to the Parks and Recreation Commission. He advised Bus Spaniola replaced Mr. Petersen years ago. Ms. Long advised she would contact Mr. Petersen. Councilperson Bendall stated when council is faced with a situation where there are two qualified people for a position, a no vote does not necessarily mean council is voting against someone, it means council really wants to vote for the other person. She further stated she wanted to clarify her position prior to her vote. Mayor Billis stated council might want to postpone their decision until they can meet Mr. Thayer. Judy Horton asked if the appointment would fill the Parks and Recreation Commission. Ms. Hitchcock advised no, there is a vacant city resident position. Councilperson Ockerman stated he wanted to make a choice at this meeting. He further stated both candidates are very qualified. Runyan moved, Ockerman seconded to appoint Rob Thayer to the Parks & Recreation Commission (Member at Large-Non City Resident), term to expire December 31, 2001.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Runyan.

No: Dumond, Hornus, Bendall, Bayless.

Motion DEFEATED

Bendall moved, Dumond seconded to appoint Barbara Parks to the Parks & Recreation Commission (Member at Large-Non City Resident), term to expire December 31, 2001.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Bayless, Bendall.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF DON MEHIGH TO THE BOARD OF REVIEW, TERM TO

EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2002: Hornus moved, Bendall seconded to appoint Don Mehig to the Board of Review, term to expire December 31, 2002.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Runyan, Bendall, Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER SEWER TELEVISIONING AND REPAIRS: Tim Crawford advised he has not received a cost yet for the sewer televising and repairs. He further advised his department has been working on the sewer line located at W. McNeil Street and S. Bachus Street since Friday. He showed council several pictures taken of the area. Mayor Billis shared the pictures with the audience members. Councilperson Runyan asked if it would be to the city's advantage to purchase its own televising camera and what the cost would be. Mr. Crawford advised a portable camera would cost \$100,000. Councilperson Ockerman stated the city does not need to purchase a camera. It is a lot of money. Councilperson Runyan asked if the camera could extend a city block. Mr. Crawford advised the camera had a 600-foot cord. Councilperson Dumond stated the city could fix several breaks with that money. Councilperson Ockerman stated the city needs to keep the sewers clean, and the city has a vactor truck to do this type of work. Mr. Crawford stated two full-time employees need to go through the whole city with the vactor truck and clean out all the sewer lines. He further stated it would be a full-time position for approximately six to eight months a year. Councilperson Ockerman asked how long it would take to clog the area again once it is cleaned out. Mr. Crawford advised about a year. Councilperson Dumond suggested drafting a 15 to 20 year plan detailing what would be done each year. Mr. Crawford advised it could be done, but the city needs to know where the worst areas in the city are located and to start that area first. Councilperson Dumond stated he must have some idea where the areas are. Councilperson Runyan stated the worst areas would probably be at the end of the lines. Councilperson Runyan asked if the city lost the original maps. Ms. Hitchcock advised in 1984, all of the maps were combined into one set. Councilperson Runyan advised there were two companies in town at the same time when the sewers were installed. One company did the west side of Shiawassee Street and the other did the east side. Councilperson Dumond suggested contacting Jim Hasselback who was the city's water and sewer superintendent in the 1940's. Councilperson Runyan advised Brewer Engineering in Owosso was the engineering company, but he was not sure if they transferred their records to the company that took over their business. Mr. Crawford stated the sewer lines need something done to them. Councilperson Hornus asked how much training it would take someone to run the vactor truck and suggested hiring a couple of people to run it. Councilperson Dumond stated the city would probably run into trouble with the union. Councilperson Runyan asked if the city could get someone from the General Motors job bank. Mr. Crawford advised it was his understanding most of them took retirement. Mayor Billis asked if other communities have sewer vacs. Mr. Crawford advised Owosso does. Mayor Billis asked who else besides Owosso has a sewer vac. Mr. Crawford advised he was not sure. Mayor Billis stated the city's infiltration problem is his number one priority. He further stated the city needs to establish a program and tap the job bank to get this program going. Mayor Billis advised the department of public works needs more manpower and it makes sense to increase the manpower if the benefit will go back to the taxpayer by bringing their sewer rates down and by solving the infiltration problem. Councilperson Ockerman stated it would be difficult to borrow a vac from another city. Mayor Billis stated leave that up to him. Councilperson Runyan stated people were encouraged to put their downspouts and sump pumps into the sewer system when the sewer system was installed because there was not enough water to take care of the sediment going through the system. Now, the city is

paying for something that was encouraged years ago. Mayor Billis asked Mr. Crawford if he had any expenses for council to approve tonight. Mr. Crawford advised no, he has not received a cost yet. Councilperson Ockerman suggested tabling the issue until the next meeting. Councilperson Ockerman asked if the main could be moved. Mr. Crawford advised he is checking with Capital Consultants to see what can be done. Councilperson Ockerman stated normally, the property owner is responsible for running a pipe from the house to the sewer but in this case, he is opposed to charging the property owner because it is the city's main. Councilperson Bendall advised there have been instances like this in the past and the city paid. Councilperson Ockerman stated the men who work for Mr. Crawford really like him. He further stated he was impressed with the department of public works and council should be proud of Mr. Crawford. Mayor Billis asked how many employees the department of public works has. Mr. Crawford advised four. Mayor Billis asked if the employees were full-time. Mr. Crawford advised yes. Mayor Billis asked Mr. Crawford if the reason he is spending so much time in the field was due to a lack of manpower. Mr. Crawford advised yes.

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Marlene Fick asked if anything was being done to put a bathroom closer to the playscape. She stated she had hoped some organization would take that on as a project. Councilperson Hornus advised he has been trying to put something together and is waiting for some drawings before it can be presented to anyone. He further advised donations will be asked for and he hopes to get something done shortly. Councilperson Ockerman stated he was interested in the issue over a year ago and the city is trying to do something. In addition, the city applied for a grant over a year ago, but it is still in the process. Mayor Billis stated he would like to see four restrooms in the park; one by the Historical Village, playscape, softball field and refurbish the existing facility. Judy Horton stated fifteen people have asked her when the bathrooms would be opened. Ms. Hitchcock advised the bathrooms are usually opened before the Home Show, which is the last weekend in April. Mr. Crawford advised it would depend on the weather.

Dick Sanderson stated he was glad to see Councilperson Ockerman down at the sewer problem on Saturday. It shows he is interested in his ward and the people of Corunna. He further stated another big truck went down the alley today and he feels he is getting white washed by the city manager. Ms. Hitchcock explained what she found out from the garbage companies. Mayor Billis asked if the truck was a garbage truck. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes. Mayor Billis stated there was a council meeting quite a while ago where council made the decision to handle that problem. Ms. Hitchcock advised council requested the garbage companies not to use the alley and the companies were contacted. She further advised she finally received a call from the area representative and she was told they would run their smaller trucks for about a month until the ground hardens up. After that, they would go back to using their normal trucks. She also advised the garbage company was also looking at increasing rates because they cannot afford to do the back door service our city requires. Councilperson Ockerman stated the trucks are not only tearing up part of Mr. Sanderson's yard when they turn the corner, they are also putting mud into the drain.

Larry LeCureux asked who sweeps the city streets. Mayor Billis advised it is the city's responsibility and the city is looking for volunteers. Councilperson Ockerman advised the department of public works has had one employee off for over two months. He further advised the city has to wait until spring to run the sweeper.

Gene Sanderson asked if there was any more consideration on what will be done to the property across the street from his house and if the city would plant grass there. He stated Mr. Svrcek made a verbal agreement to do plant something in the area. Mayor Billis stated Mr. Svrcek's verbal promise does not apply here. Mr. Sanderson asked if it was the city's or property owner's responsibility to plant grass there and keep it mowed. Ms. Hitchcock advised it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain the area even though it is a city right-of-way. Mr. Sanderson asked how someone could make him do that. Mayor Billis asked if the property owner would allow Mr. Sanderson to plant some seed on the area. Mr. Sanderson advised he probably would but asked who would mow it because he was getting to old to crawl down the side of the hill.

Dick Sanderson asked how long a junk car could sit in a yard. Mayor Billis advised the same as it was the last time he asked. Officer Clark asked where the car was located. Mr. Sanderson advised where Chester Fugate used to live. The car has been there for eight months. Officer Clark advised he would notify the officer who is responsible for that area to look into the situation. He further advised a 10-day notice could have already been issued.

ADJOURN: Dumond moved to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Bayless, Hornus, Bendall, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:30 p.m.

DR. JAMES BILLIS, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK