

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, July 3, 2000

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

Absent: Bendall (excused).

Guests: Lisa Hitchcock, City Manager; Cheryl Kribs; Bill Lulham; Gene & Shirley Sanderson; Keith & Diane Johnson; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Bernie & Pat Yott; Richard Sanderson; Don Runyon; Judy Horton; Larry LeCureux; Stephanie Wuttke, The Independent; and other concerned citizens.

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.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Hornus moved, Ockerman seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

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

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Bill Lulham, 305 S. Norton Street, advised he came down to city hall to

get a copy of the budget and was told he could borrow one or buy one if he wanted one for himself. In the past, he never recalled the city charging for a budget and he was told the cost was \$12.50. He further advised if this was a council policy then council should reconsider it because he did not agree with it. He also advised he did not think the average citizen should have to buy a copy of the budget. Mr. Lulham stated it was mentioned at a council meeting that sixteen blocks of city streets would be resurfaced. He asked if there would be any special assessments because he has not heard anything

about a public hearing. Councilperson Hornus advised the money was budgeted. Ms. Hitchcock advised there would be a recommendation at the next council meeting on which streets to do first. Councilperson Hornus asked Mr. Lulham if he heard what Ms. Hitchcock said. Mr. Lulham advised no. Councilperson Hornus advised him that Tim Crawford is evaluating the streets to see which one should be done first and the information would be presented to council at the next meeting. Mr. Lulham stated usually street work is done in the middle of summer. Councilperson Ockerman advised the new budget started on July 1st and nothing could be done before the new budget began. Mr. Lulham stated no one goes out for bids in the middle of summer. Ms. Hitchcock advised the city is looking at going in with the county since they get a better pricing. Mr. Lulham asked if the city had considered stopping heavy trucks from going down the secondary streets. He suggested asking the garbage trucks to use lighter trucks since the heavy trucks tear up the streets. Councilperson Hornus stated he wanted to respond to Mr. Lulham's question about charging for the budget. There is a lot of paperwork that goes into a budget and if there is no charge then there could be 500 people walking into city hall to get a copy of the budget. If the city charges for a budget, someone who is really interested in the budget will pay for it. Mr. Lulham stated in years past only a half dozen copies were made. Mayor Billis asked if it was a council policy to charge someone for a budget. Councilperson Hornus stated this was the first time he has heard of anyone even wanting to get a copy and he did not recall this issue ever coming up before. He further stated Ms. Hitchcock would know what is involved with making copies of the budget. Ms. Hitchcock advised the charge is based on the per copy fee that was just adopted by council a month or so ago. She further advised as far as she remembered the city has always charged someone for a copy of the budget. She also advised city hall has allowed people to check out a copy of the budget to look over and if the person wanted something copied, the person would be charged for the page they want copied.

Keith Johnson, 211 Hastings Street, thanked whoever was responsible for taking care of his neighborhood problem. He stated when he was down to the Heritage Park a few weeks ago, there was an elderly lady sitting in her wheelchair watching her husband fish. He asked this lady if she wanted him to push her down the hill to where her husband was at and this lady stated someone would need to get her back up the hill. Mr. Johnson stated Councilperson Runyan stopped by and he was informed the committee who worked on the sidewalk program has been disbanded. Mr. Johnson further stated it was his feeling there are enough people around who would like to get back into the program of buying a sidewalk square in memory of someone. It was done before without any cost to the city and it could still be done that way. Mr. Johnson also stated if he could find out what a plaque and sidewalk square would cost then maybe he could get a committee together again to put a sidewalk down the hill so a wheelchair could get down there. Ms. Hitchcock advised the city has a file on the situation. Mr. Johnson asked if the city has any money for a project like this. Ms. Hitchcock advised there was an original concept for putting a sidewalk down there. The city has advertised for sidewalk bids and this might

give the city an idea on what the sidewalk cost would be. Councilperson Runyan advised he drives by the Heritage Park everyday and there are five to six cars in the parking lot all of the time. He stated putting something there so the handicapped can get down to the river would be a good idea.

CONSIDER MACK STREET SEWER REHABILITATION DESIGN: Hornus moved, Bayless seconded to accept the Mack Street sewer rehabilitation design contract in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR:

Hornus moved, Bayless seconded to appoint Cheryl Kribs as the interim Parks and Recreation Director at \$1,000.00 per month or \$250.00 per week. Ms. Hitchcock advised she spoke with Ms. Kribs and Ms. Kribs would be willing to accept the position and would be willing to do the work for \$1,000 per month or as a weekly amount. Councilperson Hornus stated it was his understanding the position would be advertised. Councilperson Runyan suggested setting up a workshop to discuss the Parks and Recreation Director position. Councilperson Hornus asked when Councilperson Runyan wanted to set up the workshop. Councilperson Runyan stated anytime. Ms. Hitchcock stated it was her understanding that Councilperson Runyan wanted to set up a workshop before someone else is hired to determine what the director's responsibility would be. Councilperson Runyan advised that was correct. Ms. Hitchcock stated a workshop needs to be scheduled as soon as possible and recommended Monday, July 10. Council agreed. Ms. Hitchcock advised council on what Mr. Schooley's original contract was in 1997. Mr. Schooley was paid \$300 per week for sixteen weeks; it was a temporary position to see if the position would work out. She further advised, in October 1997 Mr. Schooley offered to do the job for \$1,200 per month from April through September and \$600 per month from October through March, which totaled \$10,800 per year. In October, 1998, the compensation changed to \$1,000 per month, which totaled \$12,000. She also advised the items covered under the Parks and Recreation Director's position included working with the Parks and Recreation Commission, ordering supplies for events, arranging the Easter egg hunt, the French Voyageur Encampment, the Civil War Days, the Relay for Life, the summer softball/baseball program, the park concerts, the Halloween party, the Festival of Trees, the Punt, Pass and Kick program, the Home builder and Home and Garden Show, and the pancake breakfasts, which are fundraisers. Ms. Hitchcock stated there is a camping trailer rally scheduled for next year. She further stated there are gazebo, community center, and commercial building rentals. Mayor Billis asked which functions the Parks and Recreation Commission could not do as a commission. Ms. Hitchcock advised she could not see the commission running the summer softball/baseball program. The program takes between 50 to 60 hours per week and it was not something that could be handed off to the next person. She further advised she did not see where the program could be dispersed between different members. She also advised someone with regular hours needs to be at city hall to coordinate things.

Councilperson Ockerman stated he was opposed to the position. The bulk of the work used to be done in the front office and he feels it still could be done there. He further stated some of the things Ms. Hitchcock mentioned could be done by the commission. It was just a matter of where the money could be spread. He also stated this was his personal feeling and it was nothing personal towards Ms. Kribs. Councilperson Dumond stated a few weeks ago the city applied for a grant for restroom facilities in the park and it was his understanding a Parks and Recreation Director was needed to obtain grants. Mayor Billis asked if there was any documentation supporting that. Ms. Hitchcock advised she has heard a Parks and Recreation Director was needed but she has not seen any documentation. Councilperson Bayless advised he believed the information came from a seminar he attended in Frankenmuth. He further advised it might be worth a call to the Michigan Municipal League to get clarification. Ms. Hitchcock stated she assumed a director would be needed if the city applied for any kind of program. Councilperson Bayless stated he believed the state is looking for a contact person who is responsible for spending the money and who is accountable. Councilperson Hornus advised his wife has run the Fourth of July Celebration for many years. Last year, she was going to resign because she had no committees set up and she was told if she stayed on for another year there would be committees set up and committees have been set up. He further advised his wife is still called when a question comes up. He also advised Mayor Billis might feel the commission could do it, but the job would not be done right until there is someone to account to. Mayor Billis stated he did not have enough information to know what the Parks and Recreation Director is responsible for. Councilperson Runyan stated the questions raised by council was the reason he asked for a workshop. Ms. Hitchcock advised exactly. Councilperson Hornus stated he was on the council when Mr. Schooley was appointed and he has seen many things happen in the park that have not happened in the park before. He further stated the summer baseball/softball program used to be run by the school and it is now run by the city. He also stated Mr. Schooley did an excellent job and a lot of work for the money he made. Councilperson Bayless stated the community center, commercial building and gazebos rentals have increased because there is someone to call. If someone was not on call to do this, it would not get done and the city might as well lock the doors and close up shop. He further stated someone is needed to schedule an event, collect the deposit and fees, inspect the facility after the event to make sure the facility is clean, return the deposit if it is clean or keep the deposit if the facility is not clean and explain to the person who rented the facility why they are not getting their deposit back, and clean the facility. He also stated the city is starting to get some real revenues from the facility but if there is no one to do the work nothing will happen. Councilperson Hornus advised council the appointment was only temporary.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Runyan, Dumond, Hornus.

No: Ockerman.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Mayor Billis stated he was real excited about the July 4th activities.

Keith Johnson, 211 Hastings Street, stated he was glad to see a letter in the Argus Press from a citizen-at-large thanking Meijers and the Argus Press for the fireworks. Mayor Billis stated it was his intention to present Meijers and the Argus Press with a plaque. He further stated the city would also present them with a proclamation recognizing them for their contribution. Councilperson Hornus advised his wife spends two weeks after the festival sending out thank you letters. He agreed with Mr. Johnson that Meijers and the Argus Press should get something special.

ADJOURN: Runyan moved to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman, Runyan, Bayless

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:50 p.m.

DR. JAMES BILLIS, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK