

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

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

Absent: Billis (arrived at 7:25 p.m.).

Guests: Lisa Hitchcock, City Manager; Chief Mark Hetfield, Police Department; Tim Crawford, Superintendent of Public Works; Cheryl Kribs; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Gene Sanderson; Officer Mike O'Leary, Police Department; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Judy Horton; Larry LeCureux; Stephanie Wuttke, The Independent; Fred & Betty Bates; James Wright; Dean Johnson; David Gravelle; Robert Gilman; and other concerned citizens.

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

Chief Mark Hetfield presented citizen commendation awards to James E. Wright, David A. Gravelle, and Dean R. Johnson for coming to the assistance of Officer Mike O'Leary during an incident, which occurred on August 20, 2000.

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, Bendall.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to approve the agenda as presented with the deletion of Item No. 7) Closed Session - City Manager's Evaluation.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Councilperson Ockerman thanked Mr. Crawford and Ms. Hitchcock for

the wonderful job done on the street and alley paving, and the sidewalk replacement. He advised he looked at everything but Park Lane and everyone involved did an outstanding job. He further advised the citizens he spoke with were ecstatic.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO THE SHIAWASSEE AREA TRANSPORTATION

AGENCY: Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to appoint Larry Runyan to the Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency, term to expire October 31, 2003.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER ELECTION INSPECTOR PAY INCREASE: Councilperson Ockerman advised he spoke with Ms. Long and the last pay increase was in 1997. At that time, the election chairperson's pay was increased from \$5.50 to \$6.50 and the election inspector's pay was increased from \$5.00 to \$6.00. He further advised he did not agree with what was being proposed, but he would go along with a fifty-cent increase for each item. Councilperson Hornus stated the election workers in the City of Owosso and Caledonia Township just received increases. The workers put in a long day and they should be compensated. Councilperson Runyan asked if the proposed increase for schooling was per hour. Ms. Long advised no, it was a flat rate. She further advised the election inspectors have to attend schooling every two years because the laws change that frequently. Councilperson Bayless asked how many election inspectors there were. Ms. Long advised twelve. Councilperson Bayless asked how many hours an election inspector works. Ms. Long advised the election inspectors arrive at 6:00 a.m. and leave between 11:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m. (Mayor Billis arrived at 7:25 p.m.) Mayor Billis asked if this item was something that needed to be tackled tonight. When he read the proposal, he did not think it would look too good the night before an election. Councilperson Dumond advised no one on council was getting elected. Mayor Billis stated he was, but it was a council decision. Hornus moved, Bayless seconded to increase the election inspector's pay from \$6.00 to \$7.00, to increase the election chairperson's pay from \$6.50 to \$7.50 and to increase the schooling pay from \$8.50 to \$10.00.

Roll call vote:

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

No: Ockerman.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER TRENCH SHORING BIDS: Dumond moved, Bendall seconded to accept the bid from Comcore Utilities Products, Inc. for trench shoring equipment in the amount of 10,270. Tim Crawford explained how the Comcore trench shoring equipment would work. Councilperson Ockerman stated he trusted Mr. Crawford to recommend the equipment he wanted and which equipment would be best. Councilperson Ockerman further stated the equipment looked complicated. Mr. Crawford stated the equipment was not complicated. Councilperson Ockerman asked if the equipment was something

his men could handle. Mr. Crawford advised yes, they were present during the demonstration. Councilperson Ockerman asked if the equipment would be easy to put together. Mr. Crawford advised yes. Councilperson Runyan asked how high the equipment could go. Mr. Crawford advised one section is six feet tall. Councilperson Runyan asked if it would cost more money if the city wanted to go higher than six feet. Mr. Crawford advised yes. He further advised eight feet would be the maximum height. He also advised anything over five feet requires shoring. Councilperson Runyan asked why the city could not dig a trench deeper than eight feet and why the work would be contracted out. Mr. Crawford advised because the city does not have this kind of equipment. If the hole is deeper than the equipment, no one can legally be in the trench. Councilperson Runyan stated it might be to the city's advantage to purchase another section. Councilperson Hornus asked how many cases the city has had when a twelve to fifteen feet hole was needed and contracted out. Ms. Hitchcock advised there have been two since she has worked for the city.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER CORUNNA AVENUE ROADWAY UP-GRADE: Councilperson Ockerman asked if the roadway upgrade was budgeted. Ms. Hitchcock advised not yet, it is for the streetscape, which will be bonded in the spring. Councilperson Ockerman asked if the upgrade would affect this year's budget. Ms. Hitchcock advised no, but the only thing that might affect the budget would be the engineering design. Councilperson Ockerman asked if there was a cost yet. Ms. Hitchcock advised no. She would bring all of the changes to the next council meeting. She further advised there would be money in the major street fund that the engineering costs could be taken from. Mayor Billis asked if there was an estimate on what the engineering costs would be. Ms. Hitchcock advised she would estimate a couple thousand dollars. Councilperson Ockerman stated council agreed at the workshop that the proposed work would be an enhancement to the streetscape project, and it would help with the traffic flow and with safety at that intersection. Councilperson Runyan asked if the item could be tabled until the next meeting. Mayor Billis stated if the engineering costs were more than a couple thousand dollars, council would have the option of not doing the work. Councilperson Ockerman stated council was not authorizing the expenditure of money anyway and Ms. Hitchcock would come back to council with a dollar amount at a later time. Bendall moved, Hornus seconded to approve the Corunna Avenue roadway up-grade.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER POST OFFICE MAILBOX LOCATION: Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to approve the post office mailbox location as presented in scenario number one. Councilperson Ockerman stated he liked scenario number one, as long the price of the property would not be excessive. Ms. Hitchcock stated she was asking council to

proceed with the concept and allow her to negotiate with the county. Mayor Billis stated the Downtown Development Authority looked at all of the scenarios and they gave their recommendation. Councilperson Ockerman stated he liked scenario number seven because it has less traffic congestion.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER PARKING LOT IN MCCURDY PARK: Ms. Hitchcock explained the proposed parking lot plans. She further explained approximately 30 cars would fit in the proposed area and the estimated cost is just under \$3,500. Mayor Billis asked if the Parks and Recreation Commission had discussed the issue. Councilperson Bayless advised yes. The proposed parking lot would be in a central location and it would be close to the commercial building, playscape and pavilion. He further advised the commission wants to put the parking lot in now so it can settle and compact over the winter. Councilperson Dumond asked if the parking lot would fit into the park's master plan. Councilperson Bayless advised yes. Councilperson Runyan asked if the barricade would be removed from the west end and if a berm would be placed on the east end. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes. Councilperson Runyan asked why the traffic would be funneled one way past the playscape and why both ends could not be left open to funnel traffic both ways. Ms. Hitchcock advised the commission did not want that area open. They want a barricade placed at one end or the other to keep cars from driving straight through. Councilperson Dumond asked if cars would be allowed to exit to the north. Ms. Hitchcock advised no, the only exit would be on the south side. Councilperson Runyan asked why cars would not be allowed to exit to the north. Ms. Hitchcock advised to keep the traffic slower. Councilperson Runyan stated there would be a traffic problem if everyone leaves the park at the same time and have to go one way. Councilperson Ockerman stated he did not understand Councilperson Runyan's thinking. It seemed logical there would be less chance of speeding if there is only one exit. Councilperson Runyan stated people would not be driving fast if they exit to the north. Councilperson Bayless advised the commission does not want the area to be a throughway. Councilperson Ockerman stated that was a logical answer. Councilperson Ockerman asked if the budgeted amount was \$3,500. Ms. Hitchcock advised no, there was nothing specifically budgeted for parking, but she has looked at the budget and the commission has money budgeted for trees, which they would not be able to plant this year. The thousand dollars that was budgeted for trees would be put into the parking lot. Councilperson Ockerman stated there is \$1,000 budgeted for trees but the commission is asking for \$3,500. Ms. Hitchcock advised there is money budgeted in the drive maintenance material, which could be used. Councilperson Ockerman stated he had no problem with taking money from one line item that is already there without increasing the budget. He asked how much rental time would be needed. Mr. Crawford advised about eight to ten hours. Councilperson Ockerman asked if the total amount would be less than \$4,000. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes. Councilperson Bendall asked if the proposed parking area would be a usable parking lot without catch basins there because it is very wet in that area. Mr. Crawford advised if the whole area is going to be done then some kind of a catch basin would be

needed, but if only the short part would be done then the grade could be adjusted so the water would run into the drive. Mayor Billis asked if the parking lot was a priority. Councilperson Bayless advised yes. Everyone has been complaining about cars parking on the grass and the only way to keep cars off the grass is to provide adequate parking. He further advised it was a good idea to do half of the parking area now and finish the rest of the area next year. Councilperson Runyan asked if the parking lot could be postponed until spring. Ms. Hitchcock advised the parking lot would not have time to settle and it would be a better parking lot if the work is done now. Councilperson Bayless stated the parking lot would be usable for the home show that is held in the spring. Councilperson Dumond suggested changing the driveway entrance so people have to drive in to a dead end area instead of designating traffic to an area where little kids are running back and forth. Mayor Billis agreed. Councilperson Bayless stated the driveway entrance was something the commission could look at but putting the gravel down was the main point right now.

Runyan moved, Hornus seconded to approve doing a portion of the parking lot on the west side, which will provide approximately thirty parking spaces at the price of \$3,500 plus labor, costs to be taken from the Parks and Recreation Department.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

ADJOURN: Hornus moved to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:29 p.m.

DR. JAMES BILLIS, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK