

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, March 19, 2001

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

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, Interim City Manager; Jan Scott; Gary Schooley; Keith & Diane Johnson; Dick Sanderson; Gene Sanderson; Don Runyon; Clark Long; Bill Lulham; Malcolm Sykes; Betty Bates; Karen Hornus; Sam Burwell; Judy Horton; Larry LeCureux; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Bob Striggow; Bob Morehouse; 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. Councilperson Bayless stated he had a correction to page four and five under Consider Request to Renovate the Storage Room in the Community Center. He recalled Councilperson Mehig asking that the shelves be screwed in and not nailed so they could be removed. Councilperson Bayless asked if that request was part of the motion because the minutes do not state that. Mayor Billis stated he believed it was part of the motion. Councilperson Bayless advised the shelves were put in with nails. Some of the wood used to attach the shelves to the floor is split and seems to be firmly attached, but he was not thrilled with the appearance. Councilperson Hornus asked why the shelves were nailed to the floor. Councilperson Bayless advised he did not know. The shelves were attached at the top of three floor joists and one of the shelves has a double set of blocks because they do line up perfectly. He further advised the shelves are firmly attached and would not fall on anybody. Mayor Billis asked Councilperson Bayless what he would like to see done with the minutes. Councilperson Bayless advised the motion should state that the shelves are to be attached with screws and not nails. He suggested adding "and require the shelves to be screwed in instead of nailed in so they can be removed" to the end of the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING: Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to approve the minutes of the special meeting.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

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

presented by changing Item No. 6) to Consider Resignation and Advertise for Position, and adding Item No. 8) Set Public Hearing for Ambulance, Item No. 9) Discussion on the City Manager's Position, and Item No. 10) Discussion on the Status of the Shelves in the Community Center.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

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

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Keith Johnson, 211 Hastings Street, stated he read an article in a newspaper whose headline was the city bought employees coffee at the tune of \$1,200 per year. He stated the city, who bought employees coffee, went to the attorney general for a ruling, and the attorney general ruled that as long as there was a policy adopted to buy the employees coffee then it was a legal thing to do. He further stated he hopes that Mr. Sawyer will look into that as a means of paying for the volunteer's party. He also stated it sounds like all the city has to do is to adopt a policy and make the public aware of the policy.

Gary Schooley, 301 Ferry Street, advised he thought he heard some comments made at the special meeting that he was concerned about so he came down to city hall to listen to the tape and God bless Linda for having to type those things. He requested a copy of the minutes and the first comment he read was the mayor stating that for the last several months he actively pursued Joe Sawyer and this has not been a secret and he has solicited all of the council members on this individual. Mr. Schooley asked if this was done at the same time he solicited council. Mr. Schooley advised the mayor also stated he did this over three months ago, and he was strongly swayed towards hiring Mr. Sawyer as an interim, full-time or whatever the picture might be. Mr. Schooley asked why the mayor would actively pursue somebody for a job that he did not know would be open and was not open since the city did not have a resignation until six weeks ago. Mayor Billis stated he appreciated Mr. Schooley's concern, and advised it was quite obvious that Mr. Schooley disagreed with the council's decision. Mr. Schooley stated he did not agree with the decision and wondered about the time frame. Mayor Billis advised he is in the phone book and Mr. Schooley could call him anytime because his number is public and he would answer any questions Mr. Schooley might have. Mayor Billis further advised Mr. Schooley he was going to tell him what would happen. Other city managers will see this and will understand that Corunna is very volatile, and it will be difficult for the city to get a city manager because job security will be very difficult. He further advised he would answer Mr. Schooley's questions. Mayor Billis stated he can be chastised for doing what he thinks is best for the city, in other words, when somebody has shown an

interest to go elsewhere to better themselves. The first time he sat back and said he was not sure if that is what the individual was going to do or not, but the second time he had to take it seriously after he was assured this was not the direction the individual wanted to go. He further stated it would be irresponsible for him to knowing somebody would eventually leave the community to not do anything. He also stated he chose not to be irresponsible and pursued Mr. Sawyer, and Mr. Sawyer did not say yes until the very last minute. Mayor Billis advised he felt he acted in a responsible manner and pursued the person he thought was the top candidate in this entire area for the position. He further advised he did not go through the Michigan Municipal League. He went with who he had available to him and who he felt the community needed. Mr. Schooley stated then the council is being irresponsible and they should be looking for a new mayor. He further stated the mayor indicated that he wanted out the year after he was elected when he threw his hat in the ring for state representative. It is rumored the mayor will run for Mr. Sawyer's position, which would be unethical if it was true. Mayor Billis advised what Mr. Schooley heard was a rumor. Mayor Billis further advised it is rather obvious that Mr. Schooley has a problem with him being the mayor. Mayor Billis stated publicly that he was not going to run for county commissioner. He further stated he sees an opportunity to accomplish a lot of things, which compelled him to become mayor of this city. Mr. Schooley stated he had one other question. Councilperson Hornus stated in the minutes that council was not meeting to hire a full-time city manager but then he read further that Councilperson Dumond stated Mr. Sawyer plans to stay on as county commissioner until such time he becomes a permanent city employee and that sounds like the city hired him. Mayor Billis advised Mr. Schooley the council hired Mr. Sawyer at the last meeting, he believed the motion was to hire Mr. Sawyer as permanent part-time. Mayor Billis further advised the council should readdress the issue because he does not believe the city can legally hire somebody as permanent part-time and pay the person 40 hours per week. He also advised council will have to decide whether they want to hire Mr. Sawyer as a full-time employee.

Sam Burwell, 314 W. Mack Street, stated he honestly did not plan to speak, but he wanted to address something that Mr. Schooley had said because he was at the same meeting as Mr. Schooley. Mr. Burwell further stated at the beginning of the last meeting, it was obvious that council was looking for an interim city manager but towards the end of the meeting he got the same impression from what was said that Mr. Sawyer would automatically become the top person for the permanent position. Mr. Burwell also stated he hopes that council will keep in mind that the city should hire a professional, and he does not see a problem with requiring a professional to have a college degree, which was kind of brushed aside at the last meeting. Mayor Billis stated he thought council indicated they would like to see the candidate have a degree, but not necessarily in that specific field. Mr. Burwell advised he believed council stated a degree was preferred but not required, but did not see a problem with requiring a degree. When a professional is hired to do a professional job, most businesses require a degree. He further advised the business might require experience, but the first and foremost requirement is a degree. Mayor Billis stated the key is to balance experience against what a person went to school for. Councilperson Dumond advised Mr. Sawyer has a military degree. Mr. Burwell stated he was not referring to Mr. Sawyer. Councilperson Dumond stated council had

discussed preferring education along with experience. Councilperson Bayless stated when council advertises the position, they should say preferred college degree instead of required because the city might get a wider range of applicants. Councilperson Runyan stated the words preferred and required could mean a lot financially. Mr. Burwell stated he is willing to spend a little bit of extra money to get a candidate who is very qualified. Mayor Billis made the point several times that he does not want to save pennies and cost the city dollars. Mayor Billis stated he did not think there was a disagreement there and asked Mr. Burwell if he wanted to see someone in the position with an education. Mr. Burwell advised yes. Councilperson Hornus stated when the city hired Ms. Hitchcock, she did not have a degree, but she went to school during the time she was with the city. He further stated the lack of degree when she started was not a roadblock because she did one great job for the city and those sitting on this council would have to admit that. He also stated she did go to school while she was running the city.

Bill Lulham, 305 S. Norton Street, asked why the city should take the time to search for a new manager. Mr. Sawyer would make an excellent manager because he has the education and has been around a long time. Mr. Lulham stated Mr. Sawyer has been a county commissioner and knows budgeting. Mr. Lulham asked if it would be possible for him to get trained to run the street sweeper so the city streets can be cleaned. He stated he knows the city is understaffed, but he thinks he can learn how to run the machine and clean the streets. The streets look like pigpens, and he thinks the city should have a cleaner city to live in. Mayor Billis stated council would look into the situation to see what can be done. He further stated Mr. Lulham was not the first person to say that because he has received some calls about that as well as the sidewalks downtown. Councilperson Dumond stated he has observed the workers cleaning the sewers. Mayor Billis stated he noticed after the snow melted that there was a lot of gravel in the gutters and on the roadway other than the plowed stuff that needs to be taken care of. He further stated it was something our guys probably need to get on. Mr. Lulham advised the main street looks terrible, and he did not know if the streets would have to be swept at night, but it is ridiculous and offered his services to run the machine. Mayor Billis asked Mr. Lulham if he was a union member. Mr. Lulham stated whatever it takes. Councilperson Hornus stated the city would get Mr. Lulham a push broom. Mr. Lulham stated he wanted to run the machine.

Dick Sanderson, 224 W. McNeil Street, stated the city should come up where he lives and clean up some of those stones out of the road that are going in the gutter. He further stated his yard was full of stones. Mayor Billis stated he has driven around the city, and the city is looking pretty rough. Mr. Sanderson stated the city has an ordinance about not being able to walk a dog in the park unless the dog is on a leash. He further stated if he was from out of town and took his dog to the park, he would not know what the rules are because there are no signs in the park stating that dogs must be on a leash. Councilperson Ockerman stated there should be. Mr. Sanderson stated there are signs with rules on them such as no alcohol or parking on the grass. Mr. Sanderson advised he used to see a person run his dog in the park but now he is running his dog in the cemetery. Mr. Sanderson asked if there was anything that states this person cannot run his dog in the cemetery. Councilperson Ockerman advised no.

Sam Burwell, 314 W. Mack Street, asked Mr. Sawyer if there was anyway the city could replace the ugly wall going down Bachus Street right off of Mack Street. A brand new wall would sure look nice and he offered to paint it.

Don Runyon, 563 Cary Street, stated he believed there is a state law that requires all dogs to be maintained on a leash under the owner's control so there is no need for a city law. Mayor Billis advised state law supersedes a city law. The Home Rule Act gives the city the ability through the people to run their government the way they see fit and to make ordinances. He further stated some ordinances supersede on the state level and some of them do not.

CONSIDER YOUNG CHILDREN'S FUN FAIR REQUEST FOR MCCURDY PARK: Hornus moved, Bayless seconded to approve the use of the commercial building taking and returning tables and chairs from the community center which are to be moved by the Michigan State University Extension people and volunteers. Councilperson Bayless referred to page 44 of the Park and Recreation Commission's minutes. He advised there was an additional request to move 25 tables and 50 chairs from the community center to the commercial building. The Parks and Recreation Commission could not address the request since it was a department of public works issue. He further advised the commission did recommend that council approve the fun fair request, but it could not address the table and chair issue. Councilperson Hornus asked if the Michigan State University Extension expected the city to move the tables and chairs for them. Councilperson Bayless advised yes. Councilperson Hornus stated they also want free use of the park. Councilperson Bayless advised that is the way he understood the request. He further advised there is a wish list to get new tables and chairs in the community center and move the old ones to the commercial building so they can be available to those who lease that facility, but the city is not there yet. He also advised he did not know if the wear and tear on the equipment plus the labor to move the equipment was something the city wanted to do or not. Councilperson Ockerman asked if this was the first time the Michigan State University Extension has come to the city. Cathy Newkirk from the Michigan State University Extension advised she could answer that question. Mayor Billis asked council if they wanted to allow Ms. Newkirk to answer the question. Council advised yes. Ms. Newkirk stated the Michigan State University Extension has had the event in the park for the past two years. She further stated if there is a problem with moving the tables and chairs she would find volunteers to move them. Councilperson Ockerman stated if the city does for them then the city is not only giving away the building but is also paying its employees to set up and take down. He further stated the city would be expanding its services beyond what would be fair to the citizens in general. He asked Ms. Newkirk why her volunteers could not move the tables and chairs. Ms. Newkirk advised she would find people to move them. Councilperson Dumond stated two weeks ago council wanted the Relay for Life to pay for using the park and now council is turning around and giving it away. He further stated council is not being consistent. Mayor Billis asked Ms. Newkirk if her organization had used the tables and chairs before. Ms. Newkirk advised they did two years ago. Last year, they could not use them because the community building was rented out. Gary Schooley

advised two years ago, he supervised a group of 4-H boys who took the tables and chairs from the community center to the commercial building and back again. He further advised last year the community center was rented so the tables and chairs could not be loaned out. He also advised the city needs to make sure the community center is not rented that day before loaning out the tables and chairs. Councilperson Bayless advised the date is fine. Councilperson Ockerman asked if the motion included the use of city help to move the tables and chairs. Councilperson Hornus advised no. Councilperson Bayless stated he wanted to address the comment made about the Relay for Life. There is a big difference between a Young Children's Fun Fair and the Relay for Life, which is a fundraiser. Councilperson Hornus advised the city has let the Michigan State University Extension use the facility for two years now and felt the city was being consistent with allowing them to use the facility again. Joe Sawyer advised the Michigan State University Extension is not a non-profit organization. They are almost a government entity. He further advised they provide many educational experiences to the community at no cost. Councilperson Runyan asked to have the motion repeated so council could understand what is being done. Ms. Long advised the motion is to approve the use of the commercial building and the tables and chairs from the community center, which are to be moved by the Michigan State University Extension people. Councilperson Ockerman stated if they can move them there they can move them back. Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER CONTRACT FROM THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF

TRANSPORTATION: Joe Sawyer stated he received the initial contract back from Dick Burlingame on March 15 and Mr. Burlingame sees no problem with the contract as proposed subject to Gary Arnold's approval. Mr. Sawyer further stated the Michigan Department of Transportation made some changes to the contract and the good news is the dollar amount has been lowered. He advised he reviewed the text and nothing else changed so if council wants to act on this it would be consistent with Mr. Burlingame's approval. The dollar amount in the original contract as reviewed by Mr. Burlingame was \$311,600 and now there is a decrease of \$21,100 in the overall contract. Mr. Sawyer stated item number seven on page three of the proposal has also been reduced by \$4,000. He further stated Capital Consultants determined the city was being double billed for something the city paid for last year. Councilperson Ockerman asked Mr. Sawyer if the total amount council was looking at was \$290,500. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Councilperson Ockerman asked which fund the monies would be taken from. Mr. Sawyer advised he has a meeting set with the bonding attorney on Thursday at 2:00 p.m. to review this particular issue. He further advised the assessment issue would also be reviewed for the part of the project that will be assessed out. There are several funds to look at and a decision will have to be made if the city wants to look at bonding for all or a portion of the project. He also advised there is money in the sewer and water fund and in the capital improvements fund, which could be used since this is a project in the capital improvement plan. Mr. Sawyer stated the city has enough adequate dollars to deal with the project, but the question is how the breakdown will take place. The city is

looking at the long-term capital improvements plan to make sure the city does not deplete the current funds to a point where the city will miss out doing some future projects the city has planned. He further stated there will be approximately \$100,000 assessed on the streetscape project, but the city needs to determine if the assessment should be set for five or ten years and what interest rate to charge. Councilperson Ockerman suggested postponing a decision until after Mr. Sawyer meets with the bonding attorney and auditors so council can get the proper answers. Mayor Billis asked if postponing a decision would delay what the city needs to accomplish. Mr. Sawyer advised it should not. He further advised the Michigan Department of Transportation reviewed some of the recommendations the contractor was making, which included closing the bridge down for two weeks. The Michigan Department of Transportation has rejected that request so the bridge will stay open during the streetscape project. Mr. Sawyer stated he made it clear to the Michigan Department of Transportation that the city would not be sympathetic to any changes to the project that makes the contractor's job easier or more profitable at the expense of the residents, and the Michigan Department of Transportation seemed to be fully on board with that. He further stated a preliminary information meeting has been tentatively scheduled for April 10 between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., which will be similar to the one held a year ago. Mr. Sawyer asked if there was anything else he needs to look into regarding the streetscape. Councilperson Runyan asked where the city was at with its bonding power. Mr. Sawyer advised that issue would be discussed at the meeting on Thursday. He further advised he anticipates his recommendation will be to bond those monies that will be assessed out and received back over time. A decision was made to postpone action on the issue until the next meeting.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENT TO THE CORUNNA PLANNING COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2003: Mayor Billis submitted the name of Robert Gilman as the mayor's appointment to the Corunna Planning Commission. Runyan moved, Hornus seconded to appoint Robert Gilman to the Corunna Planning Commission, term to expire December 31, 2003.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO THE DAM REVIEW COMMITTEE: Ockerman moved, Hornus seconded to appoint Don Runyon to the Dam Review Committee. Councilperson Bayless stated in reviewing Mr. Runyon's application it appears he has a preconceived notion of what he would like to see done with the dam. He asked Mr. Runyon if he had an open mind to consider all aspects of the investigation. Mr. Runyon advised yes, but he has an opinion also. He further advised he is not going to spend \$100,000 to fix a \$10 dollar dam.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER PURCHASE FOR EASTER EGG HUNT: Bayless moved, Hornus seconded to approve the purchase of four cases of plastic eggs with prizes and six cases of plastic eggs with candy for a total of ten cases at \$95 per case for a total amount of \$950.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER RESIGNATION AND ADVERTISE FOR POSITION: Mr. Sawyer advised

Ms. Pierce was leaving the city to take a full-time position and was not leaving with a disgruntled attitude. He further advised he was not afraid of the city's streetscape project, but this issue concerned him. There are a lot of issues regarding the summer recreation program that needs to be done at this point of time. He also advised the parks five-year plan expired this past December. Mr. Sawyer stated the city should look for someone right now. He further stated he would like to see someone hired as quickly as possible to attend to the current issues that are on the table. Councilperson Ockerman stated six months ago the city had several applicants and suggested contacting those applicants to see if anyone was still interested. Mr. Sawyer advised he would try to have someone present at the next meeting. He further advised he would also do a cost effective advertisement. Ockerman moved, Hornus seconded to accept the resignation from Kathleen Pierce as Parks and Recreation Director effective March 28, 2001.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehig, Bayless with regrets, Runyan with regrets, Dumond, Hornus with regrets, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Sawyer gave his report verbally to council. He asked council to contact him if they had certain things they would like to see from him. Councilperson Runyan asked where the streetscape project would begin. Mr. Sawyer advised the project would begin at the bridge and move south through town beginning with the east lane. Once that lane is completed, construction on the west lane will begin at the bridge. He further advised he has begun working on the budget and expects to have most of the department budgets in by Wednesday of this week. He also advised he is aware that a proposed budget is due to council by the last regular meeting in April. Councilperson Ockerman asked Mr. Sawyer what he has been doing. Mr. Sawyer asked council if they had any questions. Councilperson Bayless asked if there would be any budget workshops scheduled. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Mr. Sawyer informed council that on March 14 he contacted Mark Nottley at the Michigan Municipal League and was told the Michigan Municipal League has two consultants who do searches and the person who would work with Corunna was currently out of town until April 1. He further informed council that once the city contracts with the Michigan Municipal League to do a search, the city would have to pay the ten-percent fee plus \$500 maximum expense no matter who is hired. Mr. Sawyer stated he received an opinion from the county prosecutor just before the meeting regarding the compatibility issue. According to the attorney general, a person can be a city manager and a county commissioner until a conflict occurs then the

person has to make a choice. He further stated he did not see any reason where he not make it three months without running into a problem. Mr. Sawyer advised the planning commission instituted a classification study on the work release facility and non-secure juvenile detention facility on their own. The county did not request the study nor was it done at the direction of the city council. He further advised the jail issue is an ongoing process, which presents a conflict right now. He also advised he met with the prosecutor today and was told the prosecutor has some concerns with that particular conflict so he will have to make a decision very soon.

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR AMBULANCE: Councilperson Dumond asked Councilperson Bayless to give a brief update on the ambulance meeting that was held Friday night. Councilperson Bayless advised Glenda Dolahanty from Region 2 EMS was there and gave insight on all of the requirements and training that the ambulance personnel have to go through to stay certified and licensed. He also advised a report was presented, which included the history of the ambulance service. Councilperson Bayless stated the ambulance board has agreements with the City of Corunna and four townships, which defines the 911-service area. The ambulance board is looking for more government support. He further stated the ambulance board has proposed increasing the yearly fee from \$10 per household to \$30. The \$10 fee per household has been in effect for 20 years. He also stated the ambulance service's revenues are based on the number of billings and government support. When the service first began, the revenues were split 50/50 between the numbers of billings and government support, but today, the government support is not even one-fifth of the total budget. Councilperson Bayless advised the ambulance board is having a big problem with Medicare billing. This problem has been ongoing for some time and the ambulance board has Dave Camp's office involved in an effort to resolve the issue. Councilperson Ockerman stated the other government entities who were present recognize there is a problem. Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to set a public hearing for April 2, 2001 at 7:15 p.m. on the ambulance service. Councilperson Runyan asked if the ambulance service was an agency or an authority. Councilperson Bayless advised the ambulance service is a non-profit corporation. Councilperson Runyan stated an agency can ask cities for money and an authority has to go to the people for a vote. Councilperson Dumond stated that was something that needed to be clarified before the public hearing. Councilperson Bayless stated Caledonia Township pays their portion from the General Fund and everybody else assesses their portion. He further stated he did not know if a vote was needed if there is an assessment increase.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY MANAGER'S POSITION: Councilperson Ockerman advised he wanted to present eight questions he had to the rest of the council and would then offer a solution that council may or may not like. He stated the following: it was time to clean up the legal conflict between Mr. Sawyer's position as a county

commissioner and as city manager; council has had time to read Mr. Sawyer's resume; Mr. Sawyer's credentials are impeccable and he was on the Dean's list at West Point; Mr. Sawyer meets the qualifications the city is looking for; Mr. Sawyer gives the city a full-time and qualified person that the majority wanted; an extensive and expensive search might not provide the city with an individual the city currently has and council now knows it will cost the city \$5,500 if the city contacts the Michigan Municipal League to do a search even if the city selects Mr. Sawyer; most people work at-will and when contracts are given, the contract only benefits the individual; and council wanted someone full-time with experience because of the number of things going on this summer in the community. Councilperson Ockerman suggested giving Mr. Sawyer a one-year contract and at the first council meeting in December, council could be surveyed to see if they still want to look for another individual. Councilperson Ockerman advised Mr. Sawyer has full-time benefits at the county and if he has to leave then he will lose them. He further advised if Mr. Sawyer is going to work here and stick his neck out the way he has, then he is entitled to full-time benefits. Mr. Sawyer is sitting in limbo right now. Councilperson Hornus stated he was not ready to make a decision at this time. Councilperson Bayless stated not enough time has gone by for him to really know what he thinks. He would like a chance to interact with Mr. Sawyer. Councilperson Bayless further stated a search would give the city a chance to ask the candidates questions so he was not ready to make a decision because of those reasons. Councilperson Dumond asked if this was something that needed to be decided right now. Councilperson Hornus advised no. Councilperson Dumond stated the city has a 90-day time frame. Councilperson Ockerman stated there is a current conflict between the city and the county and Mr. Sawyer is going to have to make a choice if council does not make one. Councilperson Dumond stated then let him make it. Councilperson Runyan stated he did not see how Mr. Sawyer could make a choice if the city council does not make one. Mr. Sawyer stated he spoke with his fellow county commissioners and employees and they would like him to stay, but if he is given a choice, his choice is clear; he would like to stay at the city. Ockerman moved, Dumond seconded to hire Joseph Sawyer for one year effective March 26 at an annual salary of \$45,000 with full benefits and to be reviewed by council at the first meeting in December. Councilperson Ockerman stated if Mr. Sawyer accepts the position then he would have to resign from the county commission. Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Runyan, Mehigh.

No: Hornus, Bayless.

Motion CARRIED

DISCUSSION ON STATUS OF SHELVES IN COMMUNITY CENTER: Councilperson

Bayless stated he got the chance to look at the shelves during the pancake breakfast, and it was his understanding that Pastor Hoskins was in Florida at the time the shelves were constructed. Councilperson Bayless further stated he did not know if there was a failure of communications regarding the request to have the shelves screwed in instead of nailed in. He understands that Mr. Palmer did inspect the shelves but did not know what the result of his report was. Councilperson Bayless suggested asking the city manager to check with Mr. Palmer and Mr. Crawford to see if they had any problems with the way the shelves were constructed and anchored and to charge Pastor Hoskins for any repairs.

Councilperson Mehigh stated if the nails are removed then more damage could be created. Councilperson Dumond asked if the nails have damaged the city's facility. Councilperson Bayless advised he believes there has been some damage to the facility because there are hammer dents in the overhead floor structure. Councilperson Dumond stated there is equipment such as angle brackets that could have been used to anchor the shelves. Councilperson Bayless stated he would have rather seen the shelves screwed in with brackets instead of toe nailed. Councilperson Ockerman asked who spoke to the people after the council meeting. Councilperson Bayless advised he did not know. Councilperson Ockerman stated someone would have had to talk to them. Ms. Long advised she would assume that Ms. Pierce did. Councilperson Bayless asked if Pastor Hoskins was present at the meeting when council voted on his request. Ms. Long advised yes. Councilperson Ockerman stated Pastor Hoskins heard the entire discussion and now he was more upset. Councilperson Ockerman suggested sending Pastor Hoskins a bill. Councilperson Bayless stated council has to know what the experts think the damages are before that can be done. He further stated there were screws sitting on the shelves that looked like they were purchased for that purpose, but the person who installed them nailed them in. Mayor Billis stated he believes the city has learned a lesson, and he does not have a problem with correcting the situation by installing the shelves the way they were supposed to be installed. Councilperson Bayless stated he would not have the church repair the shelves. Councilperson Mehigh suggested having the city employees do the work and charge the church the cost of the labor. Bayless moved, Runyan seconded to instruct the city manager to inspect the shelving installed by the church in the community center for safety, workmanship, and damages to the facility and take appropriate action.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Sam Burwell, 314 W. Mack Street, stated he was a little outraged that there was nothing on the agenda this evening about council hiring a permanent city manager. He further stated at the last meeting it was understood this was an interim hiring. He was not making the claim that it was underhanded, but he felt it appears that way. This was done without giving the public the opportunity to have a say in the decision before the meeting because what was placed on the agenda at the last minute tonight was not to permanently hire a city manager. Mr. Burwell advised there are several people in this audience that are very unhappy about how council made their decision. He further advised an item of this importance should have been put on the agenda and published in the paper beforehand so people could be here. He felt the city council made a mistake by doing this and was very disappointed.

Don Runyon, 563 Cary Street, stated he heard that people get two ambulance bills. Joe Williams has stated a person would only get one bill. Mr. Runyon stated the way it sounded earlier a person would have to pay for both of them. Councilperson Bayless stated if Lansing-Mason goes out on a call and they transport a patient in a Corunna ambulance then they bill the Corunna Area Ambulance for their services. Corunna Area

Ambulance then bills the patient or insurance company for the basic and advance life support services. He further stated the patient or insurance company would only get one bill. If advanced life support is waived off or if service is refused, the advanced life support cannot bill Corunna ambulance. Councilperson Dumond advised the patient has the choice of saying no. Mr. Runyon advised Mr. Burwell the council people were elected for what they did tonight and if Mr. Burwell does not like what they did then he should run for their office.

Keith Johnson, 211 Hastings Street, stated he was satisfied with what Mr. Bayless has been doing with the ambulance service. The billing problem has been going on for over twenty years. Mr. Johnson further stated council and the community has to remember that volunteers, as they use to be, are gone.

Jan Scott, 414 W. State Street, stated two years ago she made her first 911 call and thanked Councilperson Bayless for everything he has done. She further stated she knows what the difference 911 makes. It took less than 15 seconds for the ambulance to leave the barn and arrive at her residence to save her husband. She also stated she did not care what it cost; she cared there was an ambulance close by when she needed one.

Dick Sanderson, 224 W. McNeil Street, thanked the councilmen who voted to hire Mr. Sawyer.

ADJOURN: Hornus moved to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 9:05 p.m.

DR. JAMES BILLIS, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK