

City of Corunna  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, July 2, 2001

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

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Shirley & Gary Schooley; Chris Taute; Dave Harvey; Judy Horton; Sam Burwell; Judie Strauch; Gene Sanderson; Dick Sanderson; Clark Long; Pat & Bernie Yott; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Larry LeCureux; Janet Washburn, Parks and Recreation Director; Chief Scott Johnson, Fire Department; Courtney Christian, The Argus Press; Kurt Christ; 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, Ockerman seconded to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

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

Councilperson Ockerman stated he had requested that Item No. 9 be removed from the agenda as an action item.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to approve the agenda as amended by removing Item No. 9) Consider Adopting Parks and Recreation Director's Job Description.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Ockerman moved, Mehig seconded to remove Items No. 7 Baker & Taylor Company, No. 29 Ebsco Subscription Services, No. 40 Ingram Library Services, and No. 56 Michigan Library Association on page one of the Vendor Approval Summary Report, and Items No. 3 Mideastern Michigan Library Co., No. 11 On Cue, No. 37 Thomas T. Beeler, Publisher, and No. 46 Wheeler Publishing, Inc. on page two of the Vendor Approval Summary Report from the vendor disbursements. Councilperson Ockerman stated he noticed in the library board minutes that there was a motion and second to approve payment for items purchased, but he felt there should have been a roll call since the motion

approved dollars. Mayor Billis asked if the approval was made pertaining to state law. Councilperson Ockerman stated a roll call has always been made on money issues on the commissions he has sat on. He further stated council is approving these bills. Councilperson Hornus stated there was a motion and the motion carried so that should mean something.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Bayless, Mehigh.

No: Hornus, Dumond.

Motion CARRIED

Mayor Billis asked if there was any further discussion on the vendor disbursements. Councilperson Ockerman questioned Item No. 23 Custom Fiberglass Products. He asked what department that item was for. Councilperson Bayless advised the fire department. Councilperson Ockerman stated he did not recall that approval was given from the fire board. Ockerman moved, Mehigh seconded to remove Item No. 23 Custom Fiberglass Products on page one of the Vendor Approval Summary Report from the vendor disbursements until clarification is obtained from the fire board.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to approve the remaining vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Runyan advised the Fourth of July plans were going smoothly, but volunteers are still needed. Councilperson Hornus advised there are over 50 craft show vendors.

Councilperson Mehigh advised he was starting to see a pattern develop regarding the streetscape.

Councilperson Bayless advised the ambulance board has approved the addition of Don Mehigh as a member-at-large. He further advised Karen Johnson was hired as the operations manager to replace Ross Stanley effective July 1, 2001.

Janet Washburn advised council they needed to set some workshop dates to discuss the Odyssey of the Mind proposal and the roller rink contract. Mr. Sawyer advised the tent revival was the only item on the council agenda. Ms. Washburn advised she did not know she had to put the item on the agenda and she wanted to know what council wanted to do. Mr. Sawyer advised an item that does not require action should be put in a report. Ms. Washburn advised all council had to do was agree to a date. The roller rink people are waiting for the city. Mr. Sawyer asked council if there were any dates that would work best for them. Ms. Washburn

suggested July 11 or July 12. Mayor Billis suggested July 23 or July 24 and asked how long the meeting would take. Ms. Washburn advised the Odyssey of the Mind want to bring their presentation to council. Mr. Sawyer asked how long the presentation would take. Ms. Washburn advised she did not know. Mr. Sawyer advised the presentation could be done either at the July 16 or August 6 council meeting. Ms. Washburn advised the roller rink issue was something that council needed to get involved with. Mr. Sawyer asked if the parks and recreation commission took any action on the roller rink contract. Ms. Washburn advised the issue was brought up, but she felt the issue was something that needed a council decision. The roller rink is located on park property and is a legal issue. Mayor Billis advised Ms. Washburn to go ahead and work with Mr. Sawyer. Ms. Washburn advised she has worked with Mr. Sawyer. Councilperson Ockerman stated Ms. Washburn seemed to be disturbed. Ms. Washburn advised she did not have a problem working with Mr. Sawyer, but she felt that council should know what is going on. She further advised she has gone over the contract with Mr. Sawyer, but the buck stops with council. Councilperson Ockerman suggested bringing the contract to council. Councilperson Dumond suggested having the city attorney look over the contract. Mr. Sawyer advised the issue could be placed on the July 16 council agenda. Mayor Billis stated the roller rink issue was very important, and it does need to come to council, but suggested to Ms. Washburn that she bring the information to Mr. Sawyer so he put the issue on the agenda. Ms. Washburn stated she would give council the facts before they left the meeting, and if council had any questions, they could contact her or Mr. Sawyer. Mayor Billis advised the proper chain of command needed to be followed. Ms. Washburn advised she has had conversations with Mr. Sawyer, and she was not going over his head. She further advised she works very well with Mr. Sawyer, but the roller rink people have a list of things they want to do at the rink that council should be aware of. Mr. Sawyer advised the roller rink issue was something that the parks and recreation commission should be dealing with the city manager on, but the commission works for the city council. He asked council who they wanted to work on the roller rink issue. He also stated the chain of command issue needed to be resolved when there are issues like this because the roller rink issue has been suffering for well over a year. Ms. Washburn advised the roller rink issue was brought to the parks and recreation commission, and she has played devil's advocate since there are some things in the contract she has a real problem with. The parks and recreation commission can make all the recommendations they want, but if the recommendations do not fly with the city council then they do not fly.

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Sam Burwell stated he and his wife have held a Fourth of July open house for

four years now. He further stated lemonade and coffee has been served until after the fireworks. He invited everyone to stop by anytime during the day to have a cold glass of lemonade. Mr. Burwell advised the Christ Episcopal Church in Owosso supplies the lemonade and coffee. He further advised there is plenty of space to sit and relax, and he has clean bathrooms.

Gary Schooley advised there would be 19 Class D qualifier softball teams playing softball on Saturday and Sunday.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Sawyer reviewed his manager's report with council and with those in the audience. He went through the meetings and events he planned to attend. Mr. Sawyer advised Ms. Washburn has provided council with a parks and recreation director's job description revision, but he would also like a copy of the old job description. He further advised there was a fire down at the city brush dump today, and the fire department put out a valiant effort to extinguish the brush fire. He also advised there would be approximately 10 kids from Baker College to help during the Fourth of July and approximately 15 kids on Thursday and Friday to help clean up the park.

CONSIDER SUNDAY BOARD & COMMISSION MEETINGS: Councilperson Hornus after reading the city charter he does not see a problem with Sunday meetings. He asked why the issue was on the agenda and what was council supposed to do with it. Mr. Sawyer advised there was a question on whether or not Sunday meetings violated Section 8.10 on page 61 of the city charter, and it was his interpretation that the city charter does not restrict Sunday meetings. Councilperson Hornus suggested dropping the issue. Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to adhere to the city charter with council meetings only being affected. Councilperson Ockerman stated to adhere to the city charter depends on a person's interpretation. He further stated he does not think any commission or anyone should meet on Sunday since it is the Sabbath day. He further stated he had to drop the softball commission for that very reason. He also stated he also read the city charter, and it was his interpretation that it is wrong to have meetings on Sunday. He also stated he was adamantly opposed to any meeting on Sunday for the reasons he just gave. Councilperson Hornus stated any commission or board has the option to decide whether or not to hold a meeting on Sunday. When he was on the softball commission, he had no problem with meeting on Sunday. Councilperson Mehig stated Councilperson Hornus might not have a problem, but there are some people that hold Sunday very sacred. Councilperson Mehig further stated the other boards and commissions get their work done during the week. Councilperson Runyan stated he does not believe there should be meetings on Sunday and suggested sending the issue to the city attorney. Councilperson Bayless stated he did some research this afternoon on the issue, and he agreed with the city manager that the commission is not prohibited from meeting on Sunday. He further stated he does not believe the city council can prohibit anyone from meeting on Sunday without an ordinance change, which would require a public hearing. He also stated there are two steps that council might want to consider; getting a legal opinion of what the charter is stating since there is a disagreement or do an ordinance change with a public hearing. Mayor Billis reminded council there was a motion on the table and suggested withdrawing the motion and support. Councilperson Dumond withdrew his motion and Councilperson Hornus withdrew his support on the original motion. Ockerman moved, Mehig seconded to not allow any Sunday business meetings from any commission.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Mehig, Ockerman.

No: Bayless, Dumond, Hornus, Billis.

Motion DENIED

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE LIABILITY BILLING: Bayless moved, Hornus seconded to approve payment to the Michigan Municipal League Liability & Property Pool in the amount of \$33,289 for a renewal less annual adjustments of the city's liability and property insurance policy to be paid from accounts 888.000 (premium payments/all risk).

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER ENGINEERING AMENDMENT FOR KING/KINGSLEY/MCARTHUR PROJECT:

Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to approve amendment number four for Engineering Services Contract 2000 Utilities Improvements Project King/Kingsley/McArthur in the amount of \$4,523.68 to be paid from line item 517.550.821.000 and authorize the mayor to sign the amendment.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF 2000 MICHIGAN BUILDING, MECHANICAL AND PLUMBING CODES: Ockerman moved, Hornus seconded to adopt and administer the 2000 Michigan Building, Mechanical & Plumbing Codes effective July 31, 2001 and authorize the mayor to sign the Notice of Adoption.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPROVING AGGREGATE SUBLIMIT FOR SEWER & STORM DRAIN

LIABILITY: Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to purchase the \$75,000 annual aggregate sublimit for sewer & storm drain liability in the amount of \$773.00 to be paid from line item 590.584.888.000.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR JULY 16, 2001 AT 7:15 P.M. TO CONSIDER CHARTER

AMENDMENTS: Bayless moved, Hornus seconded to set a public hearing for July 16, 2001 at 7:15 p.m. to consider charter amendments.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE

DECEMBER 31, 2002: Dumond moved, Bayless seconded to appoint Dennis Loynes to the Corunna Parks and Recreation Commission as a member-at-large (non-city resident) to replace the vacancy created by the resignation of Cheryl Kribs for a term beginning upon the Taking of Oath and continuing until December 31, 2002 or until a successor is appointed. Councilperson Bayless advised the parks and recreation commission has recommended that the city council approve the appointment. Mr. Loynes is involved with the roller hockey and he has attended commission meetings for several months. Councilperson Bayless further advised the commission has received very good input for the park in general from Mr. Loynes. Councilperson Bayless also advised the commission is looking forward to working with Mr. Loynes, and he would be a good addition to the parks and recreation commission. Councilperson Runyan asked if the appointment would be a conflict of interest since Mr. Loynes is the person who Ms. Washburn is negotiating the roller rink contract with. Ms. Washburn advised the appointment would change the complexion of the commission and Mr. Loynes would have to put on a different hat. Councilperson Bayless stated the appointment had nothing to do with the roller hockey. This is an appointment to the parks and recreation commission in general. Mr. Sawyer stated the appointment would change the dynamics, but he did not believe it would pose a conflict of interest. A conflict of interest would occur when there is an issue that is negotiated on both sides and since council is the other side of the agreement then it would not pose a conflict because Mr. Loynes is not joining the city council. Mr. Sawyer further stated he needed to know if council wanted him to negotiate the roller rink contract with Mr. Loynes or if council wanted the parks and recreation commission, Ms. Washburn or a combination of all three to negotiate the contract. Ms. Washburn stated Mr. Loynes is really negotiating for the roller hockey organization and not for the parks and recreation commission. Councilperson Bayless stated the parks and recreation commission wanted to involve the roller hockey group so they would be more involved. He further stated Mr. Loynes is negotiating a contract with the city for the use of the roller rink for his group, but that is something that is outside the parks and recreation commission. Councilperson Bayless also stated the parks and recreation commission was very close in negotiating a contract but some of the contract language had to be worked out since the roller hockey group wanted more than the commission wanted to give them. Councilperson Bayless advised he wants the roller hockey group to be more involved with the parks and recreation commission, but everyone needs to work together and having a representative from the roller hockey group on the commission would bring everyone together. Ms. Washburn stated she believes the roller hockey group should have a seat at the table, but the city needs to remember that the parks and recreation commission is a chartered commission of the city and the roller hockey organization is not. The roller hockey organization has no affiliation with the city at all, and they do not have a vested interest in the city other than the roller rink. She further stated the roller hockey group has no organization because Mr. Loynes is the organization. She also stated she had no problem with Mr. Loynes, and he would be an asset to the parks and recreation commission, but he should not have nothing to do with anything other than working for the same goals the commission is working for. Mr. Loynes should not have two voices if he is a member-at-large. Councilperson Ockerman stated he did not agree with Ms. Washburn. If the roller rink contract were done then he would have a different view, but until the contract is done, Mr. Loynes can not answer to two masters and that is what he would be doing. Councilperson Ockerman further stated he could not support Mr. Loynes at this time. Mr. Sawyer advised the parks and

recreation commission by-laws require seven affirmative votes to take any action so attendance is very important. Councilperson Bayless stated the parks and recreation commission went through the same thing with the building association with the commercial building contract. Terry Hayes is a member of the building association and a member-at-large on the parks and recreation commission, but Mr. Hayes looked out for the benefit of the park and the citizens of Corunna and not for his organization. Councilperson Bayless further stated one additional voice would be good for the commission and for the city. He further stated he would hate to lose Mr. Loynes. Councilperson Hornus reminded council that Mr. Loynes was only one vote.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Dumond, Hornus.

No: Runyan, Mehig, Ockerman, Billis.

Motion DENIED

Mayor Billis stated he hoped the appointment would be brought back to the city council once the contract is settled, and he hoped Mr. Loynes was not offended by the city council's action this evening.

CONSIDER RENTAL REQUEST FOR TENT REVIVAL MEETING: Councilperson Ockerman asked to have discussion before a motion was made if council had no objections. Mayor Billis stated he would prefer to have a motion on the floor because council could either approve or deny the motion, and he would get a little bit more control of the meeting by putting the motion on the table. He asked Councilperson Ockerman to make a motion. Councilperson Ockerman stated he objected because he asked if there were any objections and there were none. Mayor Billis asked council if they were in agreement. Council agreed to discuss the request without a motion on the floor. Councilperson Ockerman stated it was his understanding that the tent revival request approved earlier this year wanted a three-day time frame but he could be wrong. He further stated he was a little concerned because he did not think the city should have a tent revival in the park for 10 days at a time. Pretty soon the entire park will be a tent revival. He asked council how long the other tent revival was approved for. Councilperson Bayless advised six or seven days. Councilperson Ockerman stated he was concerned what the real costs were. He asked Mr. Sawyer if he had a chance to get the real costs. Mr. Sawyer advised he spoke with Tim Crawford, and it is very hard to come up with a cost. Basically, the major cost would be electricity, and the cost of the electricity would depend on the usage. Mr. Sawyer further advised the city should not pay more for electric than what the city receives in a fee. He also advised there should not be substantial clean-up costs assuming that no ruts or no other damage occur in the park. Councilperson Ockerman stated he did not think this was the intent of the park. He further stated he does not feel the city has a local park anymore; it has become a county park. He also stated the park is being occupied by a great deal of people other than the citizens of this community. Councilperson Ockerman advised he takes his granddaughter to the park and she cannot get on the playscape because it is so busy. He asked how much the city should give away without keeping the park for the citizens of Corunna. Councilperson Ockerman further advised the department of public works keep running around taking care of outsiders, and the citizens of Corunna have to pay. He also advised religion should be kept in their churches and the park should be kept as a park. Councilperson Dumond stated he did not feel that council could pick and choose who could use the park. Maybe council should say no to all of them next year. He further stated he did not see where this tent

revival would hurt the city anymore than the other revival did. He also stated did not feel the park suffered the last three years. Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to approve the tent revival contract with the Evangelical Wesleyan Church for the period July 13 to July 23 with the charges specified and authorize the Parks & Recreation Director to sign the contract. Mayor Billis stated there was a motion and support and asked if there was any further discussion. Councilperson Runyan stated he believed it falls back to the mayor when council is in open discussion to ask if there is any more discussion, and if there is no any further discussion then the mayor needs to say that he will entertain a motion. He further stated he did not get a chance to speak again. Mayor Billis stated he did not understand why there was an objection to put the motion on the table to begin with because according to parliamentary procedures that is the process before anybody talks about anything. He advised Councilperson Runyan that he could speak now. Councilperson Runyan asked if the city has facilities on the north side of the river for a tent revival. Ms. Washburn advised there is no problem with the area, but it is not groomed as well. There are bathrooms on the north side. She further advised the minister is aware that there might be some confusion in the park, and he was still willing to proceed. She also advised she wrote the tent revival contract the same way it was given last year to the Church of Jubilee. Mr. Hoskins paid \$200 for seven days so she established the fee at \$300 for ten days, and they would have to pay a \$10.00 fee for their camper. Ms. Washburn stated the city has to be careful about establishing precedence. Mr. Sawyer stated if there is softball league activity going on at the same time of the tent revival there could be parking problems. Councilperson Runyan stated the city owns property from the Mitchell Fields to the river and asked why that area could not be established as a campground. Ms. Washburn advised she had no problem with that area except the area does not have any electricity. Councilperson Mehigh stated the park is really running out of room for families to have a nice picnic. After adding the playscape and campers to the park the only area that is open is the southern area. He further stated someone could come before council tomorrow to ask for permission to use the park for the next two months. He also stated the council has approved a request for seven days and now council has a request for ten days. Ms. Washburn stated camp meetings and tent revivals have been held in the park since the early 1900's so the city has allowed these types of things to happen in the park. She further stated council needed to make some sort of decision perhaps in the form of an ordinance that the city will no longer allow any religious happenings in the park. Councilperson Ockerman disagreed and stated each request could be addressed individually. He further stated he felt the community is being over run.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Hornus, Dumond, Billis.

No: Runyan, Ockerman, Mehigh.

Motion CARRIED

Bayless moved, Hornus seconded to establish a policy for charities, churches, and outside groups who want to use the park, a policy to designate certain areas of the park for different types of events, and a cost of the events policy to make sure the city is covering its costs. Councilperson Mehigh stated he would like to see the electrical costs included as part of the study. Councilperson Runyan suggested setting up a workshop to see what council could come up with.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Dave Harvey stated he had some questions regarding item number two on the agenda. He asked Councilperson Ockerman how long he has been on the city council. Councilperson Ockerman advised almost four years. Mr. Harvey asked Councilperson Bayless how long he has been on the city council. Councilperson Bayless advised four and one-half to five years. Mr. Harvey asked Councilperson Mehigh how long he has been on the city council. Councilperson Mehigh stated he did not think Mr. Harvey's question was relevant. Mr. Harvey advised he would like to know so he could understand how the issue came about. Councilperson Mehigh advised six months. Mr. Harvey asked Councilperson Runyan how long he has been on the city council. Mayor Billis pounded his gavel and stated the council meeting was not an inquiry. Mr. Harvey asked Mayor Billis to allow him to speak. Mayor Billis stated if Mr. Harvey had a statement to make then please do it but asked him to respect everybody. Mr. Harvey stated a lot of people sitting in the audience are volunteers, and he wondered if volunteerism was being pushed out the door. He further stated there are numerous people in the audience who come to the softball commission's Sunday meeting and nothing was ever mentioned about it over the last ten years. He also stated he was concerned why this issue came up all of a sudden. Mr. Harvey advised he feels the volunteers are getting sand kicked in their faces. He further advised his intention was to try to understand why the issue was brought up now. Mr. Harvey stated Mayor Billis broke the tie and asked if the issue would come back to council again. Mayor Billis advised yes. Mr. Harvey asked when he would hear a no or yes instead of a maybe. He stated he has served on the softball commission diligently for years and suggested to council that they keep religion out of it. If anyone told him that he would be picked up and taken to church because that was something that he was not doing then he would be offended. Mr. Harvey stated if he offended any one then he apologizes. Councilperson Ockerman stated he did not want to get into an argument with Mr. Harvey, but he has made some statements that are not true. Councilperson Ockerman further stated he was on the softball commission and was totally against Sunday meetings and he told Mr. Harvey, Ms. Hitchcock and the council that he was against it. Councilperson Ockerman also stated that this issue did not just come up. He did not have enough support from the city council at that time to change the meeting date, and he thought he might have enough support tonight so that is the reason the issue was on the agenda. Councilperson Ockerman advised he was still opposed to anyone meeting on Sunday. Councilperson Mehigh stated he spent 23 years on the planning commission and five years on the ambulance board so he did not want Mr. Harvey to say that he was the only one who has ever volunteered. Mr. Harvey stated if Councilperson Mehigh felt that way then he was sorry. Mr. Harvey further stated he feels the city council is just not welcoming volunteers. Council is making it extremely difficult for people to help and work with the city council. Councilperson Runyan asked why the softball commission has to meet on Sunday. Mr. Harvey advised in order to get a quorum, and the commission felt Sunday was the best time to meet since everyone works. He asked why the commission could not meet on Sunday. Councilperson Runyan stated it appears that the softball commission is singling itself out from all the other commissions, and the commission does not care what the other commissions do. Judie Strauch stated the softball commission has second shift people on the commission. The commission's secretary is a second shift worker, and the commission does not expect him to take time off from work to volunteer. She further stated the softball

commission meet on Sunday three times a year and once on a weekday so she did not understand why council was making a big issue about meeting on Sunday. Mr. Harvey stated the softball commission does not meet on Sunday to aggravate people. The commission meets on Sunday to accommodate people. Councilperson Runyan stated he understood where Mr. Harvey was coming from, but in order to be on the softball commission, a councilperson has to come to a Sunday meeting and it puts the councilperson in a position to either be on the softball commission or get off. Ms. Strauch stated that works both ways. Councilperson Hornus stated if a person is approached about getting on the softball commission, and the person does not want to meet on Sunday then the person does not have to get on the commission.

Gary Schooley stated the mayor did the city good when he cast the deciding vote for the tent revival because if he had been the minister of the church, and the vote had been no, he would have been over to the courthouse. He further stated the softball teams use the vacant field to work out because there are children playing in the area.

Dick Sanderson stated the city has an ordinance about blowing grass into the street and on the sidewalk but nobody is enforcing it. Mayor Billis stated he believed Mr. Sanderson was correct. Mr. Sanderson stated there are houses on Norton Street, W. Williams Street, and W. McNeil Street that have a lot of grass in the street and on the sidewalk. Mr. Sawyer stated it was not that the city is not enforcing the ordinance but there are people who are violating it.

Chris Taute stated he is the secretary of the softball commission and is a second shift worker, and he thanked the city council for voting no on the motion to eliminate Sunday meetings. Mr. Taute further stated he felt he had to apologize to Mr. Loynes for the lack of support because Mr. Loynes does a lot of work in the park. Mr. Taute also stated he cannot see how McCurdy Park can be considered a county park because that park is no more of a county park than any park in the City of Owosso. Mr. Taute advised he lives in the township and apologized for using the city's park. He also apologized for letting his kids use the playscape that is taking up all that space and for roller blading in the roller rink. Mr. Taute further advised the park has always been a city park, and he hoped that everyone from all over the area will continue to come to the park and not just city individuals.

Gene Sanderson suggested putting up two gates in the park and then charge people \$2.00 to get in. He stated these people can help pay for cleaning and maintaining the park, and they can use the park anytime they want to. The residents of the city are the ones who are paying the bills. Councilperson Bayless stated if the city charges people to get into the park then the city will have to give the land back to the McCurdy family. He further stated the city could charge people for parking because the fair did it for years.

ADJOURN: Hornus moved to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:47 p.m.

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DR. JAMES BILLIS, MAYOR

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YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK