

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

Present: Corey, Jessen, Johnson, Mehigh, Ockerman, Runyan, Sanderson.

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Jan Scott; Janet Washburn, Parks and Recreation Director; Chief Scott Johnson, Fire Department; Chief Mark Hetfield, Police Department; Dick Sanderson; Janeene Cenkush; Clark Long; Gregg Brichan; Fred & Betty Bates; Larry LeCureux; Sam Burwell; Judy Horton; Helen Granger, The Independent; Marlene Fick; Don Runyon; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Jeremy Boyd, Treasurer; Rob Kehoe, Building and Zoning Officer; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Gary Granger; Neal Stacy; Tom Wazny, Caledonia Township Supervisor; Bill Lulham, Jr; Bob Striggow; and other concerned citizens.

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

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

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Jessen, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Ockerman moved, Runyan seconded to approve the agenda as presented and to move Item No. 1) City Manager's Report to Item No. 3, add Consider Request From Mayor To Suspend Mayor's Pay Until Released From the State as Item No. 1, and move Item No. 5) Election of Mayor Pro Tem to Item No. 2.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Runyan, Mehigh, Ockerman, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

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

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Jessen, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Mayor Corey asked the city councilpersons to introduce themselves since the city had a relatively new city council. He advised the council format was being changed to allow citizens to participate with the council on issues that are on the agenda.

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Sam Burwell congratulated Mayor Corey on a well-run and clean election campaign. He advised Mayor Corey that he had his full support.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM MAYOR TO SUSPEND MAYOR'S PAY: Mayor Corey advised he was requesting the city council to suspend his pay until he gets a release from the state since he works for the State of Michigan. Mehig moved, Johnson seconded to suspend the mayor's pay pending release from the state.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson, Jessen, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM: Mayor Corey asked council to approve his request to elect Councilperson Ockerman as Mayor Pro Tem. Mehig moved, Runyan seconded to elect Bob Ockerman as Mayor Pro Tem.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehig, Jessen, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Sawyer reviewed his manager's report with council and with those in the audience. He advised he, Chief Hetfield, Ms. Long, and Mr. Crawford attended an emergency threat conference in Lansing in the afternoon, which he thought was beneficial. Mr. Sawyer further advised he would give council a report after he drafted his notes.

CONSIDER VACATING SECTION OF S. MIZNER STREET: Ockerman moved, Jessen seconded to vacate Mizner Street from the vacated Ann Arbor Railroad south to the Grand Trunk Western Railroad and equal distribution of the vacated parcel to the adjacent properties upon written approval of the fire chief. Councilperson Sanderson asked Mr. Stacy if he had the property surveyed. Mr. Stacy advised yes. Councilperson Mehig stated the council represents the people and he had a problem with giving away property without any benefit to them. He further stated the city does not know what is going to happen 50 to 100 years from now. The city might never use the land but this was not something that could be determined at this time. He also stated he would be opposed to closing the street unless there is a real good reason for doing it. Councilperson Ockerman stated he drove down to the area today and he agreed with Councilperson Mehig. Councilperson Ockerman further stated he did not see why the city should give up the property rights for something that might be needed down the road. He did not see where there would be an advantage to the city. Mr. Stacy advised the property would be put on the tax role. He further advised if the street went through that area the people residing along Mizner Street would not have a front yard. Councilperson Ockerman advised there would not be much taxable value on vacant property anyway. He asked if this would give the city rights to the water. Councilperson Mehig advised it could eventually, but he did not know what the long-term use would be. Mr. Stacy advised he was told it would cost \$35,000 to run water to his house. Councilperson

Ockerman stated the city has to be interested in taxes too and vacant property will not make any money. The city council has to be interested in growth, but the city does not have that much property left in the city. Councilperson Sanderson asked Mr. Stacy if he would be satisfied to leave the property the way it is now without building in that area. Mr. Stacy advised yes if council makes it so that he would not have a choice. Mayor Corey stated the planning commission has recommended vacating the street. He asked Jan Scott if she had any additional information. Jan Scott advised Rob Kehoe was also present. She further advised the planning commission looked at the request, and asked Scott Johnson about fire protection and Mr. Crawford about utilities, and they did not have a problem. Ms. Scott stated she believes the Harris' should have one piece of property with a frontage. Rob Kehoe stated the city has at least 15 to 20 streets that do not exist, and the city needs to go in one direction or the other. The city should either get rid of some of the streets that do not have potential or not. Councilperson Runyan stated after looking at the map, the road might curve. Mr. Kehoe advised he was sure the road is not where it should be.

Roll call vote:

Yes: None.

No: Johnson, Sanderson, Ockerman, Mehig, Runyan, Jessen.

Motion DENIED

CONSIDER VACATING SECTION OF S. WOODWORTH STREET: Ockerman moved, Runyan seconded to vacate Woodworth Street from Lyman Street to the Grand Trunk Railroad and equal distribution of the vacated parcel to the adjacent properties upon written approval of the fire chief. Councilperson Ockerman asked if the street was located next to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Councilperson Mehig asked if this was the street that goes right through the parking lot. Councilperson Runyan advised yes. Councilperson Mehig asked what the reason was for closing the street. Councilperson Runyan advised he would have to reread the planning commission minutes. Mayor Corey advised Councilpersons Runyan and Sanderson that they both voted to vacate the street. Councilperson Sanderson stated he did, but after further study he does not want to give up further property. He further stated there could be a possibility that some buildings could be built there. Councilperson Runyan stated he thought the sewer line ran through there, but he checked with Mr. Crawford and found out that the sewer line does not run through that street. Councilperson Ockerman asked what the building inspector's opinion was. Mr. Kehoe advised the street has no value, and he does not see any growth because the street does not go anywhere. Councilperson Ockerman asked if there would be another side of the road that lots could be sold off from if the property was sold. Mr. Kehoe showed council where the property was located on the parcel map. He advised there are six lots on the back side of one parcel and four parcels that are not technically lots so there could be 10 houses built along the railroad tracks. Mayor Corey stated he thought there was some validity to Mr. Kehoe's explanation that the city should at least be consistent at what is done in the city. There have been other alleys and streets vacated for a variety of reasons. Mayor Corey further stated the city was laid out years ago and they might not have known what the intent was. Councilperson Ockerman stated different councils will have different opinions so there would not be the consistency the mayor was asking for.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan.

No: Ockerman, Johnson, Sanderson, Jessen, Mehigh.

Motion DENIED

Ms. Scott asked what the planning commission should do when people come to the planning commission with these requests. Mayor Corey advised the planning commission should continue to do its job and should continue making the best judgments it can. He further advised the people can come to the city council for approval or denial. The planning commission should not take the facts that these requests were denied for specific reasons as a mandate to cease doing the commission's job. Ms. Scott stated that is what the planning commission will do since there might be other requests. Mayor Corey stated that is what the planning commission needs to do.

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF PA SYSTEM: Ockerman moved, Runyan seconded to approve the purchase of the Xtreme Deluxe public address system with two travel cases from Discount Audio for the amount of \$3,250 to be paid for from line item 101-101-977.000. Councilperson Mehigh asked if the city would recoup some of the money by renting the public address system out. Mr. Sawyer advised yes, but the city would need to put a policy in place to control the usage. He further advised he would come back to council with a plan for usage, damage compensation and a fee structure.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Runyan, Mehigh, Ockerman, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

RESOLUTION TO SET WEDDING FEES: Ockerman moved, Johnson seconded to set the fee for a marriage solemnized by the Mayor of the City of Corunna pursuant to the provisions of Public Act 211 of 1972 at \$30.00, which shall be collected by the Mayor at the time of said solemnization and remitted to the city treasurer for deposit into the General Fund of the City of Corunna.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Jessen, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE: Mr. Sawyer reviewed and explained the rules of procedure. He advised there was a verbiage change to lines 319 and 320 on page nine in order to make item "C" clearer. Mayor Corey advised he did not feel a motion should always precede discussion. Mr. Sawyer advised this gives the councilperson the right to be heard once there is a motion and support. Councilperson Ockerman stated he made a request earlier to have discussion before a motion was made. Mr. Sawyer further advised if council wants to have discussion prior to a motion then a request could be made to have discussion before the motion. Mr. Sawyer explained the change he made to item "U" on page 24. Councilperson Ockerman stated he had a serious problem with the way it was written because it violates the city's service agreement. He further stated the

ambulance board raised the fees without coming to the city prior to the raise, the annual audits were not done, and voting rights were given to the operations manager and employee representative. Councilperson Mehigh stated some of those things have been changed. The operations manager and employee representative do not have a vote. Councilperson Johnson advised Councilperson Mehigh that the changes have not been implemented yet because the changes are part of the new by-laws that Supervisor Wazny was taking to an attorney for review. Councilperson Mehigh stated he stood corrected because he was looking at the old structure. He further stated the ambulance service is in violation of the contract the city has with them. Councilperson Mehigh asked Mr. Sawyer if a footnote could be added to that section. Mr. Sawyer advised he would add a notation that the current composition of the board does not comply with either the Ambulance Service Agreement or the Ambulance By-Laws. Councilperson Ockerman stated he would not have a problem with the wording if it states it is per the service agreement the city was suppose to have. Mr. Sawyer advised the contract is different than the by-laws. Mayor Corey stated he did not believe the city council should be condoning something that is not under the service agreement. Mr. Sawyer advised that is why he suggested adding a footnote to that section because the city cannot change the way it reads with the rules of procedure. Councilperson Mehigh stated the ambulance board has got some plans, and hopefully, by the first of the year this situation can be resolved. Councilperson Johnson advised the ambulance board knows they have been in violation of the service agreement, and the violations have been addressed. Councilperson Mehigh advised the changes have to be voted on by the membership, and hopefully, if everyone endorses the changes then this will happen. Mr. Sawyer stated he thought it would be premature for this government body to say what this body wants since the by-law negotiations are still pending. He further stated the rules of procedure can be amended at any time and as soon as the ambulance issue is resolved then council can amend this item. Mehigh moved, Runyan seconded to take a 15-minute recess from 9:15 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Jessen, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Ockerman moved, Sanderson seconded to adopt the Rules of Procedure for the Corunna City Council dated November 19, 2001 as approved copy with line numbers 1-996.

Mayor Corey thanked Mr. Sawyer for all of his work.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Jessen, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS: Mayor Corey stated he tried to distribute the work load evenly between the councilpersons. Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to appoint Bob Ockerman, Gene Sanderson and Larry Runyan to the Operations Committee.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Ockerman, Mehig, Runyan, Jessen.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Ockerman moved, Mehig seconded to appoint Arnie Jessen, Don Mehig and Dawn Johnson to the Planning and Policy Committee.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Jessen, Mehig.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Ockerman moved, Mehig seconded to appoint Bob Ockerman to the Corunna Area Ambulance.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Runyan, Mehig, Ockerman, Sanderson.

No: Johnson.

Motion CARRIED

Ockerman moved, Johnson seconded to appoint Arnie Jessen to the Corunna City Building Commission.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Jessen, Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Mehig moved, Johnson seconded to appoint Bob Ockerman to the Economic Development Fund Board.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehig, Jessen, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Runyan moved, Sanderson seconded to appoint Don Mehig and Bob Ockerman to the Fire Board.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Ockerman, Mehig, Runyan, Jessen.

No: Johnson.

Motion CARRIED

Johnson moved, Runyan seconded to appoint Gene Sanderson to the Forest Management.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Jessen, Mehig.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Ockerman moved, Mehigh seconded to appoint Dawn Johnson to the Library Board.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Runyan, Mehigh, Ockerman, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Ockerman moved, Mehigh seconded to appoint Larry Runyan and Arnie Jessen to the Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency Board.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Jessen, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None

Motion CARRIED

Sanderson moved, Jessen seconded to appoint Dawn Johnson to the Airport Authority and Joe Sawyer as the alternate.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Jessen, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Runyan moved, Sanderson seconded to appoint Joe Sawyer to the Waste Water Treatment Board and Tim Crawford as the alternate.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Jessen, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Runyan moved, Johnson seconded to re-appoint Tanya Forrester as a member-at-large to the Corunna Downtown Development Authority, term to expire December 31, 2005 and to appoint Joe Sawyer as the mayor's designee to the Corunna Downtown Development Authority.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Jessen, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Ockerman stated he wanted the city council to be made aware of the Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency's plans. The board has broken up into committees, and the board will be coming to the city council to ask for millage or money from the general fund and he was adamantly opposed to that.

Councilperson Runyan thanked everyone involved in the Veteran's Day celebration. Councilperson Ockerman gave special thanks to Janet Washburn and her son, Don Washburn, for the event. There was a lot of people who were impressed with the event.

ADJOURN: Ockerman moved, Sanderson seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson, Jessen, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 10:30 p.m.

STEPHEN COREY, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK