

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, July 15, 2002

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

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Janet Washburn, Parks and Recreation Director; Judy Horton; Bill Yocum; Larry LeCureux; Sue Huff, Librarian; Chris Huff; Cathy Cramner; Pam Malaska; Pat Yott; Helen Granger, The Independent; Gary Granger; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Mr. & Mrs. Roger Rathbun; Clark Long; Shirley Sanderson; Jerry Klingler; Steve Daunt; 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 SPECIAL MEETING: Johnson moved, Mehigh seconded to approve the special meeting minutes of Thursday, June 27, 2002 as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 1, 2002 as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Mehigh moved, Jessen seconded to approve the agenda with the deletion of Item No. 3) Consider Grand Stand Roof Bids.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

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

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Steve Daunt introduced himself and advised council he was the Mayor for the City of Perry and also serves on the county 911 board. He further advised the \$2.00 telephone assessment for 911 is up for a four-year renewal on the August 6 primary election. Mr. Daunt stated he was present at the meeting to encourage people to support the renewal

and reported the telephone assessment was not an increase. He further stated 911 was started in 1993 and has been very successful. He also stated all of the 911 operational money comes from the telephone assessment.

Pam Malaska advised she serves as the library board chairperson and was present to talk about the letters and memorandums that council received in their council packets. The tone of the letters is inflammatory and full of mistakes, and she asked the city council to consider her comments regarding the letter dated July 12. She further advised the \$24,412.76 in penal fines was what the library received for the year 2000/2001, but this amount is for five quarters instead of four. She also advised the proposed budget was only based on projections, and the library board took the past four years into account for the budget year that the city is in now. Ms. Malaska stated the library board did not intentionally try to deceive or mislead the city council in any way. She further stated the library was assessed \$5,787 for the streetscape assessment but the assessment is wrong. The library was assessed for part of the property behind the library, which does not belong to the library. Ms. Malaska advised the letter also states about bills being paid by the city. Under past practice, the monthly, regular and yearly bills are paid by the city, but the bills need to be approved by the library board prior to monies being taken from the library fund. The library board wants to make sure the library has enough money to pay its regular bills. She further advised Act 164 of 1877 specifically states that the library board exclusively controls funds. If the city receives a bill from the county, it is brought to the city council for approval before the bill is paid, and the library board is asking for the same thing. Ms. Malaska stated the library board is asking for some kind of itemized bill to be sent to the library board so the bill can be looked at. She asked council to table the library appropriation item until everybody can sit down as a group to discuss this issue because the library board did not know this item was going to be on the agenda until today.

Judy Horton thanked the three councilpersons for their help on resealing the playscape.

Bill Yocum advised he was an advisory member of the library board and stated he would like to support Ms. Malaska's request for tabling the issue until everyone can sit down and talk about some of the issues. He further advised he found the tone of the letters to be disturbing, and he did not think some of the allegations were true. He also advised he thought it would be very constructive for members of the council to sit down with the members of the library board to clear the air. Mr. Yocum stated he knows there have been communication problems in the past, but he was really surprised by the letter and was in a very poor position to comment on this issue in detail.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT/PRE-COUNCIL DISCUSSION: Joe Sawyer advised he had nothing to report on the agenda that was not covered in pre-council.

CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER #203, TWO HARD SURFACE HANDICAP PARKING SPACES, WEST SIDE OF CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE RESTROOMS IN MCCURDY PARK: Mr. Sawyer advised the handicap signs are up and the spaces are striped and painted so a traffic control order is needed to enforce the signs. Councilperson Sanderson suggested putting in a cement abutment to keep people from driving into the

bathrooms. Mr. Sawyer advised that might be a good idea. Johnson moved, Mehigh seconded to approve Traffic Control Order #203, establishing two handicap parking signs on the west side of the Clean Michigan Initiative restrooms in McCurdy Park.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF MARVIN SCHULTZ TO THE CORUNNA BUILDING

AUTHORITY: Runyan moved, Jessen seconded to appoint Marvin Schultz to the Corunna City Building Commission (Building Authority) for a term to commence upon the taking of the oath of office and continuing until December 31, 2002 or until a successor is appointed.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER REDUCTION TO LIBRARY APPROPRIATION TO COVER ADMINISTRATIVE

EXPENSES: Councilperson Johnson stated after the first library board meeting she was not very happy to have been appointed to the library board. The board is not friendly, and they have treated her and have spoken about city hall and the city manager not very well. She further stated she invited Mr. Sawyer to attend the July 2 meeting, and she has never seen someone get so verbally attacked by a board in her life. She also stated she comes out of every meeting thoroughly upset with the way she and Mr. Sawyer are being treated, and the way the board talks about the city hall staff. She has had the library board knock on the table and point at her, and she has had to do the same thing back. Councilperson Johnson advised she has tried to be nice and has tried to help smooth things out, but this is not going to happen. Councilperson Mehigh stated city hall pays other bills through the city process and asked what the administrative costs were. Mr. Sawyer advised it varies from fund to fund, but the cemetery gets charged \$6,000 to \$7,000 per year in administrative fees. He further advised he has recommended that the city council not charge the library an administrative fee. He has recommended reducing the library's appropriation because if the library is charged an administrative fee, the library board will demand proof of numbers and dollar figures. He also advised based on the amount of work that the library continues to give him and his staff and how they treat him and his staff, he may or may not be back to recommend additional reductions, which he has outlined very clearly in his letter.

Councilperson Mehigh stated he has sat on the city council for almost two years and this has been an ongoing problem with the library. Even though the city funds a lot of the library's funding, it is the people's money that the city council handles, and the city should spend the people's money wisely. He further stated one third of the city's population live on a fixed income, and the city's citizens use the library 40 percent of the time. The library board has yet to show a cooperative attitude with the city, which represents the people's money. He also stated if one-half of what he has read is true, then the city council will need to do something about the situation. If it costs the city more for administrative, then this is something that should be paid for because the city hall is under staffed now. Councilperson Runyan asked where the fifth quarter penal fines come in. Mr. Sawyer advised there is no fifth quarter. Councilperson Runyan advised Ms. Malaska has stated there is a fifth quarter. Ms. Malaska advised the library gets four penal checks per fiscal year, but the library has

not received the last penal check. The library gets five checks, but one check gets backed out. Councilperson Runyan asked Ms. Malaska if she was on the advisory board. Ms. Malaska advised she has not been on the advisory board since January and is on the library board. Mr. Sawyer passed out a copy of the revenue and expenditure report to the city council. He advised the revenue and expenditure report is an example of an issue that the city staff has with the librarian on a weekly basis. Time is spent repeating and explaining things that are pretty black and white. He further advised the library has received four penal checks, which total \$24,018.39, and he concurs that the first payment needs to be backed out because the check was for the previous fiscal year. When this is done, the checks received go from four to three, but the fourth check in the amount of \$6,959 is added back in, which brings the total to \$24,412.76 so this amount was correctly stated in his letter. Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION 07-15-02-01
RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2002/2003 BUDGET**

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of Corunna desires to Amend the 2002/2003 Budget to Alter the Original Appropriation and Adjust Departmental Expenditures within the Altered General Fund Appropriation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the budget for the City fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002 after recommendation by the City Manager be amended by the City Council as described as follows:

General Fund Expenditures:

<u>Dept. #</u>	<u>Dept. Name</u>	<u>FROM:</u>	<u>TO:</u>
101	City Council	\$33,106	\$37,106
750	City Services	\$183,843	\$179,843

BE IT, the same is hereby adopted, and the amount therein provided as recommended; appropriations are hereby appropriated according to the departmental totals.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Roger Rathbun stated he has heard both sides of the library issue and he wanted the city council to know that he did not think the council, mayor, city manager, and the clerk is against having a library. It is the furthest thing from the truth. He further stated he did not blame either group. The city has a problem with the way the charter has to be administered. He also stated the city council is responsible for the tax dollars, but the council gives the library money that they have no control over. He asked how the council can be responsible for the taxpayers money when they have no control over the money other than to take away funds. Mr. Rathbun advised he thought it was a good idea to get together. He further advised he thought everyone in the room wants the library. It is time for the nit picking, bitterness and hate to stop, and it is time to move forward. He also advised there are a lot of issues about the library that he could raise because he does not understand. He does not know how many hours people work, but he knows how many hours the library is

open. Mr. Rathbun stated he hopes the library is open for summer hours and will be open during the weekend when school is in session. He further stated it is time to stop pointing fingers. Everyone should get together to solve the problem so there will be trust, faith and decency. Mayor Corey stated Mr. Rathbun and Mr. Yocum have indicated a willingness to sit down and iron things out. Mayor Corey further stated he did not think this is the way for the agencies to behave. There appears to be a lot of animosity going on, and it would be nice to resolve this situation. He further stated he could not speak for the city council but perhaps the city council would be willing to sit down and try to work this situation out to a satisfactory resolution.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Runyan stated he believes in education and that the city should have a library. He pays taxes, but he is on the council to represent the people and to try to spend the tax dollars wisely. He further stated the thing that bothers him is the city taxpayers are paying for three libraries and asked if this was fair to the taxpayers. The city council needs to get together with the library board to work something out.

Councilperson Johnson stated the Airport Board wanted her to come back to the city council to tell the council how wonderful they thought the Fourth of July fireworks were.

Councilperson Sanderson thanked Roger Rathbun for his statement. Councilperson Sanderson stated it boils down to the almighty dollar again and maybe this is what it will take to get the two sides together to talk. He further stated the people who work within the office should be treated with respect. Hopefully, everything will be worked out in order to move forward.

Mayor Corey thanked all of the workers who worked on the Fourth of July. He thought everything went well.

Councilperson Mehigh thanked the mayor for the t-shirts he purchased for the council at his own expense.

Mr. Sawyer asked if the gifting of the roller rink should be done during a council session or at the roller rink with some kind of ribbon cutting. Mayor Corey advised it was a council decision and asked council what they preferred. Councilperson Mehigh advised there is a few people on the council that still work. Mr. Sawyer advised the roller rink was dedicated almost a year ago, but as far as he was concerned, the gifting of the roller rink could be done at a council meeting because Ms. Groll wants to make sure there is a photo taken for the newspaper, and he advised her the city would make sure that would happen.

Councilperson Mehigh stated he read the attorney general's opinion that he thought he received from Councilperson Johnson. According to what he has read, there is no conflict of interest. Councilperson Johnson advised her information did not come from the attorney general. This is the information Mr. Sawyer submitted to council four or five months ago. She further advised her information was the first one in the packet. Councilperson Mehigh stated he just took it for granted that the rest of the information went along with her information. Councilperson Mehigh asked Mr. Sawyer what he has received. Mr. Sawyer advised he has not received anything back from the attorney general, but the information is an attorney general's opinion. He further advised he was doing an unrelated search of

attorney general's opinions and came across the opinion that is in the council packet. The attorney general's website is interesting because sometimes a person will get something that he is not looking for by just typing in a word. He also advised he felt this was a great opinion so he thought he would provide the information to council. The opinion sets off some good standards for what is or is not a breach of duty.

ADJOURN: Jessen moved, Mehig seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:45 p.m.

STEPHEN COREY, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK