

City of Corunna
Special Council Meeting
Monday, July 14, 2003

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

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Bill Striggow; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Janet Washburn, Parks and Recreation Director; Judy Horton; Keith Johnson; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Corey at 6:30 p.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

DISCUSSION OF, AND RELATED ITEMS TO, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW CORUNNA-

CALEDONIA FIRE AGREEMENT: Mayor Corey asked council if they wanted to appoint three members to the fire agreement negotiating committee. Councilperson Wagner advised a three person committee was a good idea and would be more productive. Councilperson Mehigh stated the council should show the public that the city council is united. Mayor Corey agreed. Councilperson Mehigh stated he likes the people that Caledonia Charter Township appointed to their committee. He further stated he felt the mayor should be a member of the committee since the township views him as a neutral party. Councilperson Runyan agreed with Councilperson Mehigh. Mayor Corey stated it would be helpful to have a member of the fire board on the negotiating committee. Sanderson moved, Runyan seconded to nominate and appoint Councilperson Don Mehigh to the fire agreement negotiating committee.

Councilperson Mehigh accepted the nomination.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to nominate and appoint Mayor Steve Corey to the fire agreement negotiating committee. Mayor Corey accepted the nomination.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Jessen moved, Johnson seconded to nominate and appoint Councilperson Dan Wagner to the fire agreement negotiating committee. Councilperson Wagner accepted the nomination.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Keith Johnson stated the city should not jeopardize its fire or ambulance services for anything. He advised he was proud how the city council has handled themselves during the fire agreement negotiations and how the city council has kept out of the cat fighting. Mr. Johnson encouraged the city council to stay out of the catfights and let the negotiating committee do their job. He advised the people who are fighting would pay for their fighting.

Bill Striggow stated he could not believe there are 18 fire agreement issues and feels that Caledonia Charter Township is coming from left field. He further stated the city council is on the right track. Mayor Corey stated there appears to be a clear majority of the township board that wants to get the contract done. He further stated the fire agreement issue has taken a toll on the firemen because the firemen have put a great deal of work into the fire annex.

Councilperson Mehigh stated he wanted to commend Fire Chief Johnson because he attended a fire department employee meeting and Fire Chief Johnson has done an outstanding job telling the firemen to stay out of the politics and to do their job.

Councilperson Johnson advised the firemen did an excellent job containing the fire at Vaanguard. Fire Chief Johnson advised there was a gentleman at the Vaanguard fire who videotaped the fire and this videotape showed every fireman doing their job. The Owosso residents gave food and drinks to the firemen which shows how a community pulls together in a time of need. He further advised he does not want to see any kind of confrontation with other firemen because it puts a bad taste in everybody's mouth and this fire department has been through that before. He also advised he has told his men not to trash another department because his men are trashing its own department. Councilperson Runyan advised the Corunna-Caledonia Fire Department was rated as one of the best volunteer fire departments in the state.

ADJOURN: Runyan moved, Wagner seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:30 p.m.

STEVE COREY, MAYOR

LINDA M. LeCUREUX, CITY CLERK