

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, August 4, 2003

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

Absent: None.

Guests: Tim Crawford, Superintendent of Public Works; Janet Washburn, Parks and Recreation Director; Helen Granger, The Independent; Susan Groll; Larry Alpert; Pat Yott; Shirley Sanderson; Bill Runyan, Jr.; Annette Frosty; Bill Runyan, Sr.; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Senator Valde Garcia; Bob Gilman; Judy Horton; and other concerned citizens.

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

Senator Valde Garcia brought council up-to-date on what he has been working on in Lansing (2003/2004 budget, bad driver legislation, second homestead bill, revenue sharing-three percent cut constitutional). He informed council he would be in the Fourth of July Parade next year. Mayor Corey thanked Senator Garcia for stopping by and advised him that he has an open invitation.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes dated July 21, 2003 as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Runyan moved, Mehigh seconded to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Item No. 6) Consideration of Dump Truck Purchase, Item No. 7) Discussion of Sidewalk Ordinance, and Item No. 8) Discussion of Letter.

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: Susan Groll advised she wanted to be on the next city council agenda.

Mayor Corey advised her she needed to get with the city manager to be put on the council agenda.

Bill Runyan, Sr. passed out several pictures of the ditch located behind his house and Super Cone. He advised he has been fighting with the city for over eight years to get something done with this ditch. He further advised he did not want the ditch there in the first place because it would become an eye sore, but Tom Svrcek did it anyway. He also advised he has been told by the city that the city does not know who owns the property so he got the name of the person who owns the railroad, which he gave to the city manager, but nothing has been done. He went back to the city manager and was told he had to come to the city council. Mayor Corey asked Mr. Runyan if the property behind his house was owned by the railroad and not the city. Mr. Runyan advised yes. Mayor Corey stated he thought the city was doing a title search on the property to find out who the legal owner was. Mr. Runyan stated he has been after the city for eight years to get something done to the property. Mayor Corey stated the city would try to get the property owner to cut the ditch twice a year. Bill Runyan, Jr. asked if he could move his fence back to the ditch. Mayor Corey advised he would need to contact Merilee Lawson or Rob Kehoe.

7:15 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR USE OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND BY THE CITY OF CORUNNA FOR DESIGN ENGINEERING AND SITE PLAN DEVELOPMENT FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT:

Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to leave the regular session and go into a public hearing to consider an application for use of the Economic Development Fund by the City of Corunna for design engineering and site plan development for industrial development.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Corey advised the city needs to develop an economic base by improving the city's industrial and manufacturing district. The economic development money would be used to look at the city's sewer and water capacity. Councilperson Mehigh asked if there was \$250,000 in the Economic Development Fund. Mayor Corey advised he believed that was right. Councilperson Mehigh stated the city council authorized \$125,000 of this money to develop the engineering study. Mayor Corey stated he thought there were some additional assets too. Councilperson Johnson advised she sits on that board and there is just under \$250,000 in the fund. Bob Gilman asked if the water and sewer study would be looking at just Parmenter Road and M-21 or other places. Mayor Corey advised he thought the water and sewer study would primarily be looking at industrial sites on Parmenter Road in order to find out what it will take to put water and sewer down the road. Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to leave the public hearing and return to the regular session.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:24 p.m.

Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the application for the use of Economic Development Funds for design engineering and site plan development for industrial zoned lands in the City of Corunna as recommended by the Economic Development Committee.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS

UNDER PUBLIC ACT 738 OF 2002: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS
UNDER PUBLIC ACT 738 OF 2002

WHEREAS, Electronic payments of public funds are required for some federally mandated transactions of public funds, and electronic payments have become a commonly accepted practice by banks and other financial institutions, and

WHEREAS, Public Act 738 of 2002, effective December 30, 2002, authorizes cities to make electronic transactions involving public funds by electronic payment, debit, or credit transfer processed through an automated clearing house, and

WHEREAS, PA 738 authorizes a city treasurer to enter into an ACH arrangement for a national and governmental organization that has authority to process electronic payments (ACH), including, but not limited to, the national automated clearing house association and the federal reserve system, and

WHEREAS, The City of Corunna Council deems that it is in the best interest of the city to make certain city financial transactions by electronic payments as described in PA 738.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, That the City of Corunna Council authorizes the City to utilize electronic transactions in compliance with the written procedures and internal controls developed and adopted by the Treasurer as the City's ACH policy and presented to the City of Corunna Council on August 4, 2003.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

SATA PRESENTATION – LARRY ALPERT: Larry Alpert advised he was present to learn if there were any concerns regarding the millage proposal. Councilperson Mehigh stated he felt SATA was necessary for the senior citizens and other people, but there were two things that bothered him. The city would be furnishing this service to Caledonia Township so the city would end up subsidizing the township to a degree. He further stated if half of the municipalities vote for the millage and the other half do not, where would the fairness come in. He asked if the municipalities who fund the service would pay for everything while the other municipalities would still be given service. Mr. Alpert advised when the SATA board realized it needed local financial support, some of the board members expressed their concern about how the service would be spread along the area that SATA serves. He further advised he understands that the council is concerned about the citizens who live in Corunna, but the city should be providing transportation that has few limitations where the Corunna residents could travel. If the Corunna residents choose to travel to one of the locations that are not in one of the four municipalities, then the residents should not be denied the ability to get to one of those places. He also advised the SATA board realizes it will have to change the level of service and location of service depending on the circumstance. At the next board meeting, a definitive policy will have to be made to answer the “what if” questions. Councilperson Sanderson asked who would take the hit if the millage fails and the people are without any service. The four cities that did not vote for the millage or SATA because of the way the request was presented. Mr. Alpert stated he does not anticipate any scenario under which SATA would go away, the boundaries might need to be made smaller. He further stated as far as who takes the hit, he would assume it would be the ones who are denied service. Councilperson Sanderson stated he saw a SATA bus out by exit 69 and it only had one person on the bus. Mr. Alpert advised SATA has a contract with Baker College to take students to a drop off spot over that way. Councilperson Runyan stated the riders are set up in zones and asked if there was any way to tell how many people in the Corunna zone are Caledonia Township residents or Corunna residents. Mr. Alpert advised he did not have the answer at his fingertips. Another transportation agency is sending a copy of their software to SATA, which should be in next week, and he hopes this software will be able to tell exactly what zone the riders are located in. Councilperson Johnson asked if a Shiawassee Medical Care Facility resident would be counted as a city resident. Mr. Alpert advised yes since the facility is located in the city limits. Councilperson Johnson asked if the residents of the facility pay for riding or if the facility pays. Mr. Alpert advised most of the time the residents pay for their own trips, but there are some trips that Pleasant View pays for that are required under the Medicaid Act. Councilperson Johnson advised the city residents already pay millage for Pleasant View so the city residents would be paying twice. Mayor Corey advised the city residents pay the same share of county millage but the city residents provide all of the services. Approximately 30 percent of the students in the Corunna School system are from the city limits of Corunna, but the city residents are supporting the entire infrastructure. Councilperson Mehigh stated if a Pleasant View resident maintains a residence in the City of Corunna or elsewhere then that residence should be considered as their residence. Councilperson Sanderson stated the four cities would be paying the millage and the townships would not. Mr. Alpert advised the SATA board has asked the townships to put the millage request on their ballots. Councilperson Sanderson stated if

Corunna turns down the millage and the other cities pass it, then SATA will travel through Corunna to pick up someone in Caledonia Township, but will not stop to pick up someone in Corunna. Mr. Alpert advised he did not think that would happen. Councilperson Sanderson asked if everyone would get raises and fringe benefits if the millage is approved or would the money go into operations. Mr. Alpert advised there would probably be pay adjustments for the employees because the employees have only had one two and one-half percent pay raise in three and one-half years. The millage money will be spent as it is now and the employees should be allowed to stay up with the rate of inflation. He further advised the board does not anticipate adding any benefits. Councilperson Jessen stated there was a gentleman who came to one of the SATA board meetings who explained what the millage passing percentage was. Mr. Alpert advised there were 13 public transit millage elections in 2002 and 12 of the requests were successful. Mayor Corey advised an article in Sunday's paper stated that SATA was designed to be a self-supporting service for the community but due to insurance increases and the number of pickups that is no longer possible. He asked if SATA was designed to be self-supporting. Mr. Alpert advised SATA was formed as an intergovernmental agency by convincing a multitude of agencies to give up their turf. The Council on Aging donated three buses, the hospital donated one bus and the ARC donated a bus they were operating. Mayor Corey asked if SATA was getting any of the transportation budgets from the other agencies. Mr. Alpert advised no. Mayor Corey advised those agencies have a lot of riders and suggested asking the other entities to donate their previous transportation budget, which would boost SATA's income. Mr. Alpert advised some of the other entities pay on a contractual basis. Mayor Corey advised some of these questions were discussed three months ago, but in those three months, the major questions have not been answered. He asked how the questions would be answered in two weeks when the other questions have not been answered in three months. Mr. Alpert advised Mayor Corey he would have to take his word that something will happen at the next board meeting. Mr. Alpert further advised he felt SATA has done a great job in being self-sufficient. Mayor Corey asked what percentage of the new bus garage SATA was paying for. Mr. Alpert advised fifty-fifty. The operational costs would be shared based on fleet size so SATA would only be paying one-third of the operational costs. Councilperson Johnson stated the new building would be built in a township and not in one of the cities being asked to help. Mr. Alpert advised that was correct because there is no place to build a facility in one of the four cities. Councilperson Sanderson asked if there was any way to get the total of Corunna riders within the next two weeks. Mr. Alpert advised the only way to come up with the figures right now would be to manually count the riders.

CONSIDER COUNCIL PARTICIPATION IN MML CONVENTION: Mayor Corey asked if there was any council member who wanted to attend the convention. Councilperson Runyan advised he would like to attend. Mayor Corey advised the budget was cut to \$250. Councilperson Sanderson stated so one person could use the \$250 up. Mayor Corey asked Councilperson Runyan if there were certain sessions he wanted to attend or if he wanted to attend the whole thing. Councilperson Runyan advised he thought one day would cover everything but he needed to talk to the Michigan Municipal League to find out if he needed to attend two days. Mayor Corey stated he wanted to go to the

Mayor's conference in August but he gave it up because of the budget. He does not know how much people will end up going this year. Councilperson Johnson stated she went last year so she does not need to go this year. Councilperson Sanderson stated once the door is open, there would be people spending a week at Shuss Mountain playing golf and a week at Frankenmuth to eat chicken. If Councilperson Runyan uses the \$250, then that will do it for the year. Mayor Corey stated there is money budgeted and if someone wanted to play golf at Shuss Mountain or eat chicken at Frankenmuth, it would have to come to the city council for approval. Mayor Corey stated he did not think council paid for those things in the past two years. Councilperson Sanderson stated he was talking about the police chief, the treasurer, and the clerk. Mayor Corey stated every department was cut to \$250. Councilperson Sanderson stated council would start amending the budget because Councilperson Runyan went and someone else wants to go. Councilperson Runyan stated he has worked five years to accumulate level one and he is entitled to a plaque and that is the reason why he wanted to go. Councilperson Mehigh stated he knows the city has a budget but the budget can be tweaked. If there is a meeting or a conference that will benefit the city, then the council needs to take a look at the situation on an individual basis. He further stated it would be nice to stick with the \$250 budget, but on the other hand, council did discuss the possibility of adjusting the budget if there was an event that would benefit the community. Mayor Corey stated he went to three conferences, but only one of them was overnight. Councilperson Runyan stated he was also trying to get involved with the Michigan Municipal League. Councilperson Johnson stated if there were any classes she wanted to take, she would pay for the classes herself. She further stated bringing up what other department heads do when council was talking about its own convention is not right. Mayor Corey advised Councilperson Runyan to go with the minimum he needs.

CONSIDER POWER SITE LICENSE WITH BLUMERICH COMMUNICATIONS: Tim Crawford advised Blumerich Communications has come to the city because they are looking for a site for their antenna, which runs the SATA communications. Blumerich Communications would like permission to place their antenna on the water tower. He further advised the city would be paid \$150 per month or equivalent product or service. Mayor Corey advised the contract states the city will receive \$150 per month for 60 months and there is a 10 percent increase the next 60 months. He further advised he had some questions before the city enters into the contract. It might be a good idea to table this item for 30 days in order to get some additional information. Councilperson Mehigh asked if the contract could be written that states any additional services provided by that tower has to be renegotiated. Mayor Corey stated he was a little concerned about the wording in the contract and the fact that the contract has not gone to the city attorney for his review. Councilperson Johnson stated she has a problem with Blumerich Communications. This is the same company that lost the paperwork for the fire department license renewal, which cost the city another \$600. Mayor Corey stated the city attorney should review any agreement the city enters in to. Mehigh moved, Johnson seconded to table the site license with Blumerich Communications for further investigation and for review by the city attorney before coming back to council.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDERATION OF DUMP TRUCK PURCHASE: Tim Crawford explained the dump truck bids and advised this was a budgeted item. He further explained the new dump truck would replace the International dump truck, which has been a repair nightmare. When he went out for bids, he had to get separate bids for the chassis and for the dump box. He also explained each bid was very comparable. Johnson moved, Jessen seconded to purchase the chassis from Central Truck Center in the amount of \$46,973 and the dump box, underbody and front plow from Knapheide Truck Equipment in the amount of \$31,902 for a total amount of \$78,875.00 to be spread over a five year period and to be taken out of line item 661-902-977.000. Councilperson Mehigh stated he was concerned about spending another \$1,400 if the city does not have to because council just had a big discussion about allowing people to go to conferences.

Roll call vote:

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

No: Mehigh.

Motion CARRIED

DISCUSSION OF SIDEWALK ORDINANCE: Mayor Corey advised there is a conflict in the sidewalk ordinance regarding who pays for what. The cost of replacing sidewalks has always been 75 percent to the resident and 25 percent to the city. He further advised the notification letters are supposed to be sent out via certified or registered mail, which is very expensive. The ordinance also states a homeowner has 20 days if they want to do their own sidewalk. He also advised there are several changes to the ordinance that need to be done that Mr. Sawyer and Ms. Lawson would like some direction from the city council on. Mayor Sawyer stated council has the option of changing the ordinance so the property owner pays 100 percent of the sidewalk replacement, keep the percentage the same as they are now or go with a 50/50 percentage. Councilperson Mehigh stated the general consensus in the city is the homeowner pays 75 percent and the city pays 25 percent of the sidewalk replacement cost and he thought the city should stick with this percentage. He further stated if someone wants to fix their sidewalk, then 20 days is a short time and suggested changing the time frame to 45 days. Mayor Corey asked if everyone agreed with the 75/25 percent ratio. Councilperson Runyan stated the 100 percent replacement percentage was probably meant for someone who broke the sidewalk. Mayor Corey advised this was another issue that needed to be addressed. If a person or an agent of that person causes the breakage through neglect or negligence, then that person should pay 100 percent, but this needs to be put in a different section. All were in agreement with the 75/25 percent ratio. He further advised the next issue is notification. The council by resolution has to certify the sidewalks that need to be repaired. Mayor Corey stated after the certification, the people should be given a timeframe if they want to replace the sidewalk on their own. People would have 15 days from the date of the notice to notify the city that they want to replace the sidewalk themselves and an additional 45 days to complete the project, but if the sidewalk is not

completed within that timeframe, then the city would do the work and bill the homeowner. Councilperson Wagner stated the break down sounded fair to him. Councilperson Mehig agreed. Mayor Corey stated the other issue to discuss was what to do if someone breaks their sidewalk in the middle of winter. It would be unreasonable to expect someone to repair the sidewalk at that time. He suggested including in the ordinance that from November 15 to March 15 there would not be any demand to repair the sidewalk during that period of time. If the sidewalk is broken in the middle of winter, no one from the city would tell that person they have 60 days to fix it. Councilperson Wagner stated if the sidewalk is broken to the point where the sidewalk would be a hazard, then it should be fixed. Mayor Corey stated if the hazard is that great and the property owner tells the city to go ahead and fix the sidewalk, then the city is obligated to fix it. Councilperson Wagner stated the winters have not always been the best and sometimes the ground is not frozen in December. If the sidewalk heaves five inches in the air, then something will have to be done because this is a situation that should not be left four or five months and he thought something should be put in the ordinance to that aspect. Councilperson Mehig advised the dates Mayor Corey suggested could be put in the ordinance including wording that states if a severe hazard is created then the sidewalk has to be addressed immediately or as soon as possible. Councilperson Sanderson stated the sidewalk could be fixed temporarily. Mayor Corey suggested roping off the area. He stated if the department of public works determines that the sidewalk is a severe hazard, the property owner or the city has to deal with the situation immediately. He further stated if the property owner was responsible for the breakage and the damage was not caused by normal wear and tear, then the sidewalk has to be repaired within a timely manner, but if someone removes the old sidewalk and leaves a hole, then a person would have five days to put in a new sidewalk. Councilperson Mehig stated that was a good idea and should be put in the ordinance. Mayor Corey stated the area should also be marked in some way to prevent people from tripping. He asked if council wanted to send the sidewalk notification by first class mail or leave it as certified/registered mail. Councilpersons Mehig and Wagner suggested changing the notification to first class mail since there have not been any problems. Mayor Corey asked Mr. Crawford if there was anything else in the ordinance that needed to be dealt with. Mr. Crawford advised that was all for right now. Mayor Corey stated Mr. Sawyer and Ms. Lawson could get the information they need to work on the new ordinance from the minutes.

DISCUSSION OF LETTER: Mayor Corey read a letter of resignation from Councilperson Jessen effective August 5, 2003. Councilperson Jessen has purchased a home outside of Ward One. Councilperson Mehig asked Councilperson Jessen if he would continue to keep up the treasurer's report for the fire department. Councilperson Jessen advised no problem. Mayor Corey advised it has been a pleasure to have Councilperson Jessen on the council because he has added a great deal to the council. Jessen moved, Johnson seconded to accept the letter of resignation from Arnie Jessen with regret.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Mayor Corey advised council 60 days to appoint someone so something should be placed in the newspaper. He asked council if they wanted to set a time limit for people to turn in an application. Councilperson Sanderson stated a time limit should be set. Mayor Corey asked Ms. Long to post the vacancy with applications to be in city hall by 4:30 p.m. on September 5 and the vacancy appointment would be on the September 15 agenda.

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Pat Yott advised the Friends of the Library are planning a Library Day on August 23. There are several events planned including a storybook parade. She further advised the children will be encouraged to dress in costumes and to ride their bicycles, and any child, who participates in the parade, will receive an ice cream cone. She also advised there would be an ice cream social and a tour of the new library after the parade. Ms. Yott stated there would be several craft tables set up so the children can make something to take home and Mr. Sawyer was asked to be the Grand Marshall. She further stated anyone who wants to volunteer would be appreciated. Mayor Corey asked where the parade route would be. Ms. Yott advised the parade would start at the Shiawassee Street School and go east on Mack Street one block then south on Brady Street to the parking lot by the courthouse. Mayor Corey thanked everyone involved for putting this event together. Ms. Yott advised she would like a police car and an ambulance with no sirens in the parade. Councilperson Sanderson asked if the city council was going to walk in the parade. Ms. Yott advised she would let the city council decide.

Judy Horton stated she wanted to go back to the sidewalk situation. There is cement poured in different areas of the city and when the cement trucks are cleaned with water, there is cement left in the area where the truck was rinsed and asked if anything could be done about this. Mayor Corey stated he could not answer that question. Councilperson Wagner advised the cement chute has to be cleaned once the cement is poured. Ms. Horton stated then everyone should have a spot to put this cement in.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Mehig stated he and Councilperson Sanderson have volunteered to reseal the downtown benches.

Councilperson Jessen thanked everyone again for their help.

Councilperson Runyan stated he enjoyed working at the dam on Saturday.

Councilperson Wagner stated it was nice to have Councilperson Jessen on the council and he was sorry to see Councilperson Jessen go.

Councilperson Johnson stated she was also sorry to see Councilperson Jessen go and advised council they should go through the fire annex building to see the work that has been done.

Mayor Corey thanked Councilpersons Mehig and Runyan for helping with the river cleanup. There were two trees taken down in the dam area that needed to be removed and asked Councilperson Sanderson to have the Forest Commission consider a tree for the dam area. Mayor Corey advised Councilperson Jessen it had been great working with him. Councilperson Wagner stated the city might want to consider doing something with the stump at the dam area because the tree will grow back.

Councilperson Sanderson stated there were eight or ten kids playing around the dam the other day and asked if rocks could be dumped in the big hole before there is an accident. Mayor Corey advised there is no way to fill in the holes because the rocks would just fall through.

ADJOURN: Mehig moved, Wagner seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 9:20 p.m.

STEVE COREY, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK