

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, April 19, 2004

Present: Corey, Johnson, Lantis, Mehigh, Sanderson, Wagner.

Absent: Runyan (excused).

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Larry Friess; Merilee Lawson, Assessor/Planner; Chief Scott Johnson, Fire Department; Shirley Sanderson; Pat Yott; Judy Horton; Sam Burwell; Don Trapp; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Avery Weaver; Francis Williams; John Elkins; Joe Borgstrom, Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership; 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: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the previous regular meeting minutes dated March 15, 2004 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Lantis, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Wagner moved, Lantis seconded to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Item No. 5A) Consider Re-appointment of Steve Olmsted to the Corunna Downtown Development Authority.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Lantis, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

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

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Lantis, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Larry Friess asked if the sheriff's department house had been rezoned yet. Mayor Corey advised he did not believe there was a rezoning on the house. Mr. Friess advised the house had to be rezoned somewhere. Merilee Lawson asked Mr. Friess if he was referring to the parking situation that the city was addressing. Mr. Friess advised yes. Ms. Lawson stated the property does not require rezoning. The city ordinance has a provision in it that allows the planning commission to allow special parking in a lot in a residential district that is adjacent to a business. She further stated the planning commission can create a parking lot at that location without requiring

rezoning. Mr. Friess stated he thought everything had to come to the city council. Ms. Lawson advised that is one provision in the city ordinance that clearly states that the planning commission has the ability to grant parking in all vacant lots next to a business in a residential district. The planning commission has given the county permission to go ahead with their plans, but the county has to come to the commission with a site plan. Mr. Friess asked when the county would take another chunk of property from Corunna. Ms. Lawson advised the county has been very open in wanting to work with the city. Mr. Friess advised the county should be because the city gives them anything they want. Ms. Lawson stated there have been some good meetings with the county and everything should work out in the end. Mr. Friess stated he read in the paper that the county wants to build a road next to the Griffin property so the city will end up giving the county some land there too. Ms. Lawson advised she had not heard anything about that and nothing had been addressed on that issue.

Sam Burwell, 314 W. Mack Street, introduced himself and advised he was a candidate for the Shiawassee County Drain Commissioner. He stated he wanted to drop off some contact cards with the city and if anyone were interested, he would leave the cards with the city clerk.

PRESENTATION-SATA, DON TRAPP: Don Trapp thanked the city council for the opportunity to speak and advised he was accompanied by two of the city's residents Francis Williams and John Elkins. Mr. Trapp expressed his appreciation to the present and past council for making the decision to join the other cities and the RESD in forming SATA three and one-half years ago. He advised SATA has operated very successfully in providing a needed service throughout the service area and in Corunna as well and employs about 25 individuals and most of them are part-time. The majority of the ridership within the Corunna area are elderly and disabled. He further advised SATA will finish the current budget year with a surplus but will be facing a \$77,000 deficit next year. He also advised the SATA board has decided to approach each of the governmental entities within the service area and ask for assistance in offsetting the deficit. Mr. Trapp explained the SATA board originally looked at asking each governmental unit to place a millage question on the ballot to support SATA, but there were concerns expressed that there were other governments within the service area that were not being asked for support. The board has decided to ask each of the governmental units including the townships to pay a percentage of the deficit based on their ridership. Corunna has a 16.5 percent ridership so the SATA board would be asking the city to consider providing that percentage of the deficit. He also explained the SATA board is asking for a commitment on the part of the city council by September 1 on whether or not the city will participate in offsetting the deficit. Mr. Trapp advised he recognizes that these are difficult times for governmental units and there are other issues that are before council that have long-term implications, but this is a needed service and instead of cutting back services that people are dependent upon, the SATA board has decided to ask for assistance. He further advised questions were asked if SATA was transporting students and if the ridership represented Pleasant View Medical Care Facility. There are only three riders in Corunna that are school related and approximately one-third of the Corunna riders come from the Pleasant View Medical Care Facility. He also advised he knows there is some feeling

that the residents at Pleasant View are not really Corunna residents and there appears to be issues related to this. Mr. Trapp explained John Elkins has been a life long resident of Corunna and requires transportation and the same goes for Francis Williams. Mr. Trapp asked council to allow Mr. Elkins and Ms. Williams to comment in support of the service so council knows how these residents use this service. John Elkins stated this transportation is a wonderful thing for him because it has gotten him out of the house instead of just sitting and watching four walls everyday. He is glad that he has this transportation because it has really helped him. Francis Williams stated she would be in her house surrounded by walls and her life would be cut down to nothing. She cannot drive anymore and without this service, she would not only be cut off from doctors but shopping, her business friends, the hospital, and the people she keeps in contact with now. She further stated she has a lovely family but they are busy and asking them to take her someplace on a regular basis gets tiresome after a while. This service gives her a little independence and a little pride and she does not know what she would do without it. She also stated there are others that are worse off than she is that use this service and these people could not live without the service either. Mr. Trapp stated the SATA board asked Mr. Elkins and Ms. Williams to come to the meeting and share their experiences because they are Corunna citizens. He further stated people have asked how SATA can join with the RESD in building a bus facility at the same time it is seeking a millage and he would like to address that issue. Each entity would have had to build its own facility but by merging the two entities together, one facility is being built to serve both entities, which will reduce the costs for all of the taxpayers throughout the county. Mr. Trapp pointed out if Corunna says no in helping SATA, transportation will not be eliminated in Corunna but services will be cut back in the communities that choose not to share the costs. Mr. Trapp thanked the city council for their past support and encouraged council to give SATA's request some consideration between now and September 1. Councilperson Sanderson asked if any of the 25 employees receive benefits such as paid vacation and insurance. Mr. Trapp advised the employees receive some vacation time but he could not state how much because the amount of time is based on the number of hours worked. There are three people who were employed full-time with the other agencies when everyone merged together that continue to be full-time and receive insurance benefits but the remaining employees do not. Councilperson Sanderson stated the City of Corunna already pays two mills for the Pleasant View hospital and asked who pays the dollar for those people to get on the bus to go to the doctor. Mr. Trapp advised he could not answer that question directly but it would be his guess that the people themselves pay. Councilperson Sanderson asked what percentage is needed to pass the millage in each community. Mr. Trapp advised he has been told 90 percent of transportation millage requests pass. Councilperson Sanderson stated there are differences between city busses and SATA busses. Mr. Trapp advised each bus system operates under different funding structures. Councilperson Sanderson asked if the SATA type of transportation would be 90 percent. Mr. Trapp advised again he has been told that 90 percent of transportation millage requests pass. Councilperson Sanderson stated transportation millage and city bus service might be two different things. Mr. Trapp stated both of these entities have millages in most cases. Councilperson Sanderson advised Mr. Trapp that he read a statement in the Argus Press on the fifth of this month that if Owosso decides not to vote for the millage or turns down the millage, Owosso

would still have service. He asked if Corunna would still have service if the millage is turned down. Mr. Trapp stated service to Corunna would not be eliminated but there would be service reductions made in the communities that choose not to support SATA. Councilperson Sanderson stated he does not want to come off as being the bad guy and have the older people use him as an example of being tough on them, but when SATA goes to Durand and picks up one person in the big bus, the person is only charged \$1.00 just like the person in Corunna is charged. A lot of fuel and wages is being used to pick up that one person but SATA is only asking Durand for \$1,700. Mr. Trapp advised the amount of support is being based on the ridership and he believed the fare is twice as much to go to Durand than it is to go to Corunna. Councilperson Mehig stated the Pleasant View resident's residency remains where they lived originally. He further stated Pleasant View used to have their own bus with a lift and they would transport people to and from appointments and asked if Pleasant View still does this. Mr. Trapp advised he did not believe anything has changed. Councilperson Mehig asked if the only people SATA would transport would be the people that are mobile and wanted to go to Meijers or to their own doctor without using the Pleasant View vehicle. Mr. Trapp advised he did not believe SATA was transporting Pleasant View residents at the pleasure of the Pleasant View administrators. Councilperson Johnson advised Pleasant View has a van but the driver is not equipped to handle emergencies so the transport falls back on the local ambulance service to do the transfers. She has seen SATA there a few times but the local ambulance service is taking the blunt of the transports. Councilperson Mehig stated Pleasant View used to send a second person on the bus that was a medical specialist but apparently Pleasant View is using the ambulance service for transportation. Councilperson Johnson advised yes but a lot of the times it was not necessary to have the ambulance service do that. Mayor Corey asked if one-third of the ridership in the Corunna area was from Pleasant View. Councilperson Johnson asked if the ridership were residents or the people that work there. Mr. Trapp advised yes and includes the workers. Mayor Corey asked what SATA's current annual budget was. Mr. Trapp advised about \$800,000. Mayor Corey thanked Mr. Trapp for his presentation and Mr. Elkins and Ms. Williams for their comments.

CONSIDER PROPOSAL FOR BROKERAGE AGREEMENT ON THE STRAWSINE

INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX: Mr. Sawyer advised this item was tabled at the last meeting to see if anymore applications or proposals would come in because the people did not have enough time to respond to his request. Mayor Corey stated it looks like the city has a plan to sell the building as soon as the city can but it would be at least a couple of years before the city will get an industrial development, which is the city's first choice. The city has done a remarkable job in leasing the building and asked whether or not the city wants to jump into a contract with a local realtor and suggested waiting. He further stated he spoke to Joe Borgstrom and asked if there were more global type realtors from larger areas that were focusing on bringing some industry to this area and Mr. Borgstrom indicated no. The Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership is also trying to market the building and they have more contacts than local realtors do. Mayor Corey also stated he has nothing against local realtors but he wanted to offer this alternative instead of doing something with the contract tonight. Councilperson Mehig stated the council needs to take the pressure off Mr. Sawyer and Ms. Lawson, who are doing a lot

of the legwork. They have a big enough job in trying to run the city and he would like to know how Mr. Sawyer and Ms. Lawson felt. Ms. Lawson advised she would go along with whatever Mr. Sawyer wants to do because whatever he does she does. Mayor Corey agreed because he did not believe the council should be putting this kind of pressure on Mr. Sawyer or Ms. Lawson. Mayor Corey stated he did not think council should be asking Mr. Sawyer or Ms. Lawson at every council meeting if the city has a buyer yet because they have other things going on. Mr. Sawyer stated if the city has a brokerage agreement, the city would lose six to seven percent of the sale price. He further stated he personally believes the city's best chance of selling the building will come from the Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership and if there is a buyer, the Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership would be the best avenue. The city paid a brokerage fee on the last lease because the realtor brought the person to the city so if a realtor brings the city a buyer or a tenant, the realtor is going to want a commission for bringing the tenant to the city, which the city will have to deal with. Councilperson Lantis stated she did not see the harm in putting a price on the building and letting people know the city wants to sell the building as opposed to holding onto the building for a couple of years and doing nothing with it. She further stated she did not think there was anything wrong with putting a price on the building so if the possibility of selling the building does present itself to the city, the city will be able to act upon it. Mayor Corey stated he did not believe that was the issue. The issue is whether to sign exclusively with a realty agency. Mr. Sawyer advised he agreed 100 percent with Councilperson Lantis that the city needs to establish a price, but the city needs to have an appraisal done first. Mayor Corey asked what an appraisal would cost. Mr. Sawyer advised approximately \$4,500. Mayor Corey stated the city might be able to come up with a price that is reasonable with Mr. Sawyer's experience in rental property and Ms. Lawson's ability as an assessor. Councilperson Sanderson asked Mr. Sawyer if the realtors would come to him if they had anyone interested in the building. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Councilperson Mehig stated if he understood what was said tonight, the city council probably should not do anything. Mayor Corey stated he did not feel the city is at a point where a contract should be signed. Mr. Sawyer stated the city council needs to come up with an asking price. He asked council if they were comfortable with him and Ms. Lawson making a recommendation on a number to bring back to the council. Councilperson Mehig advised yes. Joe Borgstrom advised the Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership was currently marketing the Strawsine Industrial Complex on its website. When someone calls regarding property, this building is always in the packet that is handed out. Mr. Sawyer stated he would like to sell the building tomorrow because it would be nice to have one less thing that city hall would have to deal with. The best bet in selling the building will come through the Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership. Mr. Sawyer advised he would run some numbers to bring to council by the next council meeting.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION #04-19-04-01 APPROVING BALLOT PROPOSAL FOR
SPECIAL MILLAGE FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY DISTRICT LIBRARY:

Lantis moved, Johnson seconded to approve the following resolution approving the ballot proposal for special millage for the Community District Library and copies of the resolution were provided to the audience and members of the press:

RESOLUTION NO. 04-19-04-01

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE BALLOT PROPOSAL FOR SPECIAL MILLAGE FOR
FUNDING OF CITY PAYMENT TOWARD COSTS OF ESTABLISHMENT AND
OPERATION OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT LIBRARY TO SERVE THE CITY AND
OTHER PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES; AND TO DETERMINE THE DATE OF
A SPECIAL CITY ELECTION FOR SUCH PURPOSE**

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Lantis and seconded by Member Johnson.

WHEREAS, the District Library Establishment Act authorizes participating municipalities to enter into an agreement for the establishment and operation of a district library;

WHEREAS, the City and other participating municipalities have entered into a District Library Agreement for the Community District Library, for the providing of library services to the City and other participating municipalities;

WHEREAS, the District Library Agreement provides that each participating municipality shall financially support the district library by funds obtained from the levy and collection of a .5 mill tax for district library purposes, if approved by the electorate of the participating municipality;

WHEREAS, the District Library Agreement provides that the district library shall terminate unless the electors of the participating municipalities approve the above-described special millage for district library purposes by November 30, 2004;

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to hold a special election prior to November 30, 2004, and to submit to the City electors a ballot proposal to authorize a .5 mill special millage for the funding of the City contribution toward the cost of establishment and operation of the Community District Library;

WHEREAS, the General Property Tax Act, Act 206 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1893, as amended, authorizes the City Council to request approval to increase the tax rate limitation as previously approved, so as to provide for a millage levy for lawful City purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Election Law, Act 116 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1954, as amended, authorizes the City Council to call a special election for the purpose of submitting a ballot proposal to the City electors.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The question whether to levy a tax in the amount of .5 mill for the establishment, operation and other financial support of the Community District Library shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the City at a special City election coinciding with the State primary election to be held on Tuesday, August 3, 2004, pursuant to the provisions of the General Property Tax Act and the Michigan Election Law.
2. The ballot proposal to be submitted to the electors at the special election shall be in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, and in such form, the ballot proposal is hereby certified to the County Clerk.
3. The last day of registration for the August 3, 2004, special election shall be Tuesday, July 6, 2004. Pursuant to Section 498(1) of the Michigan Election Law, the City Clerk is hereby directed to be at the clerk's office located at the City Hall, 402 N. Shiawassee Street, in the City, on Tuesday, July 6, 2004, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., to receive applications for voter registration.
4. The City Clerk is hereby directed to provide for publication twice of the Notice of Last Day of Registration, which is hereby approved in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit B, with the first publication not less than 10 days before the last day of registration, and in addition, to provide for publication twice of the Notice of Election, which is hereby approved in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit C, with the first such publication not less than 10 days before the day of such election. The publication of such notices shall be made in the Argus Press, which is hereby determined to be a newspaper of general circulation in the City reaching the largest number of persons to whom such notices are addressed.
5. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to follow all procedures required by the Michigan Election Law for the special election.
6. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to make the necessary arrangements to deliver a certified copy of this resolution to the Shiawassee County Clerk as soon as possible, but in no event later than May 25, 2004, and to proceed with such other measures which are necessary or useful in scheduling the special election.

7. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to file, within five days after the election, a certified copy of the official declaration of the election results with the County Treasurer.
8. All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith shall be and the same are hereby rescinded.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

EXHIBIT A

CITY OF CORUNNA

COUNTY OF SHIAWASSEE, MICHIGAN

PROPOSAL NO. 1

**DISTRICT LIBRARY MILLAGE PROPOSITION
0.5 MILL FOR FUNDING OF CITY CONTRIBUTION TO
COMMUNITY DISTRICT LIBRARY, FOR PROVIDING OF
PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES IN CITY**

Shall a 0.5 mill (\$0.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value) tax be assessed and levied on taxable property within the City in the years 2004-2007, both inclusive, to provide funds for the City contribution for the establishment, operation and financial support of the Community District Library, for public library services within the City? It is estimated that a levy of 0.5 mill would provide revenue of \$27,278 in the first calendar year. The revenue from this millage levy will be disbursed to the City of Corunna, for disbursal to the Community District Library.

Yes

No

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Lantis, Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

PUBLIC REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE CORUNNA SEAT ON THE

COMMUNITY DISTRICT LIBRARY: Mr. Sawyer advised since there were no press at the meeting, he would create a memo listing the vacancies and fax the list to the newspapers tomorrow. Councilperson Mehigh asked if one of the present library board members would be eligible to fill this position if the district library goes through. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Councilperson Sanderson asked if the city would only have one member on the Community District Library Board. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Mayor Corey stated Councilpersons Runyan and Lantis could make a joint recommendation to the council. Mr. Sawyer advised it would be nice to have a mini committee review the applications and talk to the applicants. Mayor Corey asked Councilperson Lantis if she

would be willing to review the applications. Councilperson Lantis advised yes. Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to appoint a committee of Councilpersons Lantis and Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan to review the applications for the city's district library member and make a recommendation to council.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner, Mehig, Lantis.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM CORUNNA PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO USE THE CITY HALL AND FOUR PRIVACY BOOTHS FOR A REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION BEING HELD ON JUNE 14, 2004: Mehig moved, Lantis seconded to approve the use of city hall and four privacy booths for a regular school board election on June 14, 2004.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Lantis, Mehig.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER NO. 209, 15 MINUTE PARKING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF WEST MACK STREET BETWEEN SHIAWASSEE STREET AND THE ALLEY: Wagner moved, Sanderson seconded to approve Traffic Control Order No. 209, establishing 15 minute parking on the south side of West Mack Street between Shiawassee Street and the Alley. Councilperson Sanderson asked if the police department would enforce this if the council goes to the trouble of doing this. Mr. Sawyer advised yes.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Lantis, Mehig, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER REAPPOINTMENT OF STEPHANIE SAMEK TO THE FOREST MANAGEMENT COMMISSION: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the re-appointment of Stephanie Samek to the Corunna Forest Management Commission to serve at the pleasure of the council for a term to begin upon the taking of the oath of office and continuing until December 31, 2006.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Lantis, Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER REAPPOINTMENT OF STEVE OLMSTED TO THE CORUNNA DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the re-appointment of Steve Olmsted to the Corunna Downtown Development Authority to serve at the pleasure of the council for a term to begin upon the taking of the oath of office and continuing until December 31, 2007.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Lantis, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER REQUEST OF AVERY WEAVER FOR USE OF CITY PARKING LOT: Mayor

Corey stated he constructed a letter for Mr. Weaver but it was the council's decision if council wanted to respond in another way. Councilperson Mehigh stated he would like to hear from Mr. Weaver to find out what his plans are. Avery Weaver stated he has a motor home that is being used as a mobile office during his campaign for state representative and he wanted to let all of the government units throughout the district know that he would be in the various public parking areas in the City of Corunna for short periods of time. He further stated he plans of using the parking lot for a couple of hours so people can come to the mobile office. There will be someone in the motor home to talk to about his campaign and to talk about his position on different issues. Councilperson Mehigh asked Mr. Sawyer if the ordinance requirements would be met. Mr. Sawyer advised parking a motor home while handing out campaign literature and having someone sit in the motor home in case somebody comes up would not be qualified as an office. He further advised the city does not have any parking lot restrictions but this might be something that the city might have to be careful with down the road so the use of the parking lot does not impede parking or cause complaints. If the city gets any complaints, the city might have to look at putting some restrictions on the parking lot. He also advised Mr. Kehoe will probably need to review the described usage a little bit more since a thorough review was not done. There were some concerns if the usage was going to be for a long-term mobile office, which the city would not allow. Councilperson Mehigh asked if the city would be all right on legal grounds. Mr. Sawyer advised there was nothing as far as legal grounds that would prohibit this kind of usage but the potential issue is whether there is a zoning issue. He asked Ms. Lawson if there would be a zoning issue based on the description she just heard. Ms. Lawson advised the ordinance states anything that advertises a candidate has to be 500 feet away from a polling place on Election Day but the state statute states 100 feet. Mr. Sawyer advised state law really controls campaign activity and the city has virtually no say in the matter. The two issues the city has to deal with are parking regulations, which the city does not have so people can do what they want with the parking lot because there are no regulations, restrictions or signage, but based on the description he heard tonight, he did not see a zoning issue. Councilperson Sanderson asked if it would be better to use Brady's parking lot since this is a supermarket and would be more visible. Mr. Weaver advised the motor home would be moved around from area to area and would never be in a parking lot for a long period of time. Councilperson Sanderson asked if this would open the door for every Tom, Dick or Harry that has got something to sell or wants to campaign and what the city would do if the Klu Klux Klan decides they want to use the parking lot. Mr. Sawyer advised the city could not create a separate parking restriction ordinance for the Klu Klux Klan any more that the city could for a campaign, but if the city wants to say no recreational vehicles in the parking lot then the city could do that. Councilperson Sanderson asked if it appears to the people that the city is endorsing Mr. Weaver and advised he has gotten to know Mr. Weaver over the past two years and he

has done an outstanding job, but once the city council opens the door, it will be hard to close. Mr. Weaver stated the intent of sending the letter to the city council was not to ask for an endorsement although he would like to have that but the intent was to let the city know upfront what he was planning to do since his motor home is a little larger than a normal van is. He further stated he has checked the ordinances throughout the county and he can park his vehicle in any public parking area unless there are restrictions, but he wanted to let the city council know upfront what is happening. He has received a variety of responses back and most of them have been positive. Mehigh moved, Johnson seconded to approve the request from Avery Weaver to use the city parking lot and to send the mayor's letter to Mr. Weaver. Mayor Corey asked Councilperson Mehigh if he wanted him to send his letter to Mr. Weaver. Councilperson Mehigh advised he believed that was the intent. Ms. Lawson stated she did not believe the city could stop Mr. Weaver from doing what he is going to do since there is nothing in place to stop him and she did not think a motion or letter was needed. Councilperson Mehigh withdrew his motion. Councilperson Johnson stated it was very nice of Mr. Weaver to ask the council as he did in Owosso and she withdrew her support. Mr. Sawyer stated he did not see anything wrong with how the letter was written. Mayor Corey stated he took it upon himself to write a response instead of constructing something tonight so he will sign and give the letter to Mr. Weaver. Councilperson Sanderson asked the mayor why he responded to Mr. Weaver's letter without coming to the council first if the letter was addressed to the city council. Mayor Corey advised he did not respond to Mr. Weaver's letter. He wrote a draft letter, which was before council right now. Councilperson Sanderson advised the letter has been out since Friday. Mayor Corey advised the letter has not been sent yet. Councilperson Sanderson stated the letter was sent to the council. Mayor Corey stated the letter was put in the council packets for discussion. Councilperson Sanderson stated Mr. Weaver's letter was addressed to the city council members and not the mayor and council should have been the one to write the letter. Mayor Corey stated he wrote the letter for the council and advised he would withdraw his letter so council can respond to Mr. Weaver in anyway they wish. Councilperson Johnson stated there are two items on the table and suggested making a motion in order to decide which version to use. Mayor Corey advised there is no motion on the floor. Councilperson Mehigh advised a motion was not needed because Mr. Weaver has the right to park there without a motion. Mayor Corey advised there has been discussion that Mr. Weaver has the right to park his motor home because the city does not have prohibiting this type of parking and council has moved on.

PRESENTATION-2004/2005 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION: Mr. Sawyer reviewed the proposed 2004/2005 budget recommendations. He advised a lot of the department and fund numbers have been changed to comply with the GASB34 accounting rules. Budget requests came in at \$420,000 above revenues so he had a lot of work to do on his recommended column and at this point, he has a balanced budget for council but the bad news is he has recommended drawing \$120,000 from the city's fund balance. He also advised he is projecting a two-percent reduction in revenues after the \$120,000 is taken out of the fund balance but the actual revenue reduction is close to 12-percent for this years budget. Mr. Sawyer explained the city has a \$100,000 problem. Last year, professional development was cut and now the city has MIOSA fines because the city is

not doing proper training and the city cannot afford do this anymore. He further explained the revenue trends are not going to turn around anytime soon in the city or in the State of Michigan. He also explained the city cannot spend the next five years not allowing anybody to do their job, and if the city has to get rid of somebody, then the city will have to get rid of somebody and that is going to be the first exercise in the first budget work session. Mr. Sawyer stated the city has made some progress in trying to curb expenses such as requiring the department heads and new employees to pay insurance co-pays. The city council will have to decide if it wants to keep Ms. Lawson's position, go to a part-time police chief and eliminate that position, combine the clerk and treasurer, eliminate police officers thereby eliminating 24/7 police coverage, and eliminate part-time employees. He further stated if the city council does not want to pay for a city manager, council could go to the voters to change the city charter, but this will cost the city a lot of money.

CONSIDER BUDGET WORKSHOP DATES: Budget workshop dates were set for April 26 at 6:30 p.m., April 29 at 6:30 p.m., May 6 at 6:30 p.m. and May 12 at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Judy Horton thanked everyone for their help at the Easter activities. It was a tremendous success and the pancake breakfast went over very well. She advised it was a fun day for everybody.

Scott Johnson stated he went to the fire annex building this afternoon and there was a bronze pewter colored pickup truck that blocked the doors to get into the fire station. Since he needed to get into his office and the parking lot was full, he parked in front of the truck for about 10 or 15 minutes. He further stated a gentleman spoke to him in the library and was quite irate with him about the situation because he had blocked the gentleman in. He explained to the gentleman that he needed to get into his office and the gentleman's pickup was parked there. Mr. Johnson advised two or three signs might need to be posted that states fire parking only because people are just parking everywhere on the east side of the library. Mayor Corey stated an active fire truck is parked in that building so something needs to be done to keep that area clear. Mr. Sawyer advised he would get some signage to keep people from parking near the doors and the rest of the parking lot will be marked customer parking only. The library staff and fire staff can park across the street and walk because the accessible parking goes to the customers. Mr. Johnson stated people will then park in front of the bay doors. Mayor Corey suggested painting yellow stripes on each side of the doors all the way to the street and mark the cement as a fire lane. He stated the city needs to make sure that people are not parking in front of the fire doors.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Mehig advised the fire board is looking very closely at upgrading the ladder truck because the fire board does not feel the existing truck will pass inspection in another year or so. There is a used ladder truck available for around \$64,000.

Councilperson Lantis advised the bridge arm was broken again last week. Mayor Corey advised the bridge arm was okay Saturday but it was broken on Sunday. He does not know how the two-by-four is being broken without shearing the pin because he thought the shear pin was supposed to come off. Councilperson Mehig stated he thought kids are breaking the arm. Councilperson Johnson advised a police vehicle hit the arm the last time. Mayor Corey asked if there was an emergency. Councilperson Johnson advised no. Mayor Corey advised he thought the bridge was going to be used for emergencies. Mr. Sawyer advised not for law enforcement.

Councilperson Johnson stated she attended the D.A.R.E. graduation last Wednesday night. There were 155 graduates this year and the essays were the most outstanding essays she has ever heard from a bunch of fifth graders. She further stated the state D.A.R.E. president spoke briefly as did Larry Julian. She also stated the Corunna V.F.W. Auxiliary has given \$5,000 or more to the D.A.R.E. program.

Councilperson Sanderson stated he and Councilperson Mehig stopped at the new library today and the facility is beautiful. Councilperson Sanderson further stated a decorated sign advertising the library would be nice. Mr. Sawyer advised he met with the district library people and looked at different signage options.

Mayor Corey thanked Councilperson Runyan for filling in for him and heard that he did a great job. Mayor Corey advised the Easter activities were great and he thought Janeene Cenkush and Shauna Bayless did a great job of organizing the event. There were a lot of people at the pancake breakfast and when he left, 125 people had been served. Ms. Horton advised the pancake breakfast grossed over \$1,000. Mayor Corey advised the helicopter drop was quite a draw and the paper stated there were approximately 2,500 to 3,000 people in the park that day. He further advised the high school Odyssey of the Mind students took the state championship and are headed to the world championships and the runner-up group are also headed to the world championships. There is a group of students from the middle school that also took the state championship and will be going to the world championships. Mayor Corey asked council to let Ms. Lawson know about how many members would be attending the Downtown Development Authority meeting. Mayor Corey stated Sam Burwell was in the office today and advised the speed sign by Councilperson Sanderson's house needed to be recalibrated because it was off by four miles per hour. Mayor Corey further stated he checked out the sign and agreed that the sign was off by three or four miles per hour and asked someone to check the calibration.

ADJOURN: Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Lantis, Mehig.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:48 p.m.

STEVE COREY, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK